

# Karen Suskin

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## Work experience:

- 2017 Worked on Magazine Commercials in Greens (landscaping and florals)
- 2017 Textile artist, Dye and Breakdown working in Film
- 2016 Design lecturer at Inscape, Cape Town Campus
- 2016 Conference participant: Transforming Moments: Dissonance, Liminality and Action as Learning Experiences, Kent University, UK.
- 2014 – 2015 Completed a Masters Degree: A Goethean Perspective on Design Education: Beyond knowledge to understanding.
- The study explores appropriate responses to some of the challenges inherent to life today, and how a holistic design education can bring about a new reality. The approach to design learning advocated here acknowledges the present reality of fragmentation and reductionism as the fundamental and pervasive mode of understanding our world and ourselves, and seeks to develop instead a design approach grounded in inclusion, context and connectedness.
- 2012 – 2013 Cross-Pollination series of design Modules offered:
- Original thinking/biography Workshops presented in Cape Town.  
At Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)
- Visited and participated in various workshops and activities at :  
Brookes University (United Kingdom)  
The Rietveld Academy (Holland)  
School of Form – Poland as part of my Masters research.
- 2011 - 2012 Design lecturer at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)  
Teaching Baccalareus Technologiae (BTech Fourth year) – degree in Surface and Fashion Design
- 2009 - 2010 Design lecturer at CPUT teaching across disciplines:  
Surface, Graphic, Industrial and Fashion Design.
- 2000 - 2008 Lecturer in Surface and Fashion Design -  
BTech level degree students, CPUT

- 2000 – 2005      Lecturer in Textile and Fashion Design CPUT  
 Launched my own fashion ranges:  
 “Wrapped Clothing” and “Karen Suskin” which included a line of accessories
- External moderator for Elizabeth Gallaway Academy of Fashion
- Lecturer in Textiles at Elizabeth Gallaway Academy of Fashion, and guest lecturer at various other Design schools such as Boston House, School of Interiors and CPUT Interior Design department
- 1985 – 1988      Lecturer at Paarl College, teaching textiles

## Exhibitions and Projects

- 2017              Range of garments for Cape Town well known fashion boutique
- 2017              Mentor for the Swiss and Danish students of the Kaos Pilot Outpost, Cape Town 2017.
- 2014 - 2016      Various project participation in support of the CCDI (Cape Craft Design Initiative – now named the CDI)
- 2013              Design project for Selfridges London Department Stores in collaboration with Freya Sewell
- 2012              Exhibitor at “Natural Palette” – an interior installation at The FreeWorld Design Centre
- 2012              Exhibitor at the international Design Indaba Expo
- 1985 – 2013      Residential Interior designer
- 2011              Presented the Cross-Pollination learning modules at the international Design Indaba
- 2012              Offered a series of “Cross-Pollination” learning modules with methods anchored in analytical and intuitive ways of knowing.
- “The Designer as Mediator between Culture and Nature” – a workshop for professional designer’s and students to explore creative ways in which to build imaginative and perceptive capacity to “read” the human and ecological situation. This could build capacity for designing for the human condition with consciousness, whereby the designer may adopt the role of mediator between nature and culture.
- “New ways of seeing” – A Goethean observation process for biodynamic farmers at their annual general meeting. The workshop offers ways in which the participant can probe composite knowledge and gain profound understanding through a practice-based observation of the living phenomenon
- “Meeting Change” – Explores educational methods for personal and institutional change. Meeting change is aimed at interdisciplinary design educators to meet as a community of reflective practitioners, to share collective wisdom, and to explore emerging opportunities in the field of design education through participation in creative, integrated and reflective processes.

"Into the Wild" – a series of processes designed to encourage spontaneous thinking, drawn from nature's connective patterns. The participants delve into a multitude of design principles and logics, which underpin consistent and coherent (living) ways of organizing for socio-ecological action

- 2009 Initiated the Cross-Pollination learning journey: a series of holistic design modules
- 2010 Exhibitor of craft and designer garments at Blossom Gallery, Kalk Bay
- 2010 – 2013 Biography and Original thinking workshops for all design disciplines at CPUT
- 2010 Spier Contemporary art exhibition –
- large felted shroud questioning how conscious we are as mediators between our thoughts and deeds
- 2009 Exhibitor at the Department of Arts and Culture
- Nguni cow inspired full-length felt coat exploring the role of the cow in agriculture and questioning seed harvest and propagation
- 2008 Semi-Finalist in the Spier Contemporary exhibition –
- Mixed media using paint and plant substances on canvas exploring: The Nature of Tangible Substance
- 2007 First National Bank Craft Award –
- A 'Lobola' felt coat inspired by indigenous transactions of cows in exchange for marriage – "bride wealth". The work was purchased for the FNB private collection
- 2005 Workshop and Group Exhibition – hosted by international felt maker Heidi Grebb from Finland and the National Craft Council in Johannesburg
- 2004 Produced and directed a short film
- Curated and participated in a group design show with Lisa Firer, Heath Nash and Haldane Martin
- 2003 Initiated Studio Tinkertailor – a collaborative work and exhibition space
- 2000 Exhibition of Oil Paintings and Photographs at the McGregor Art Gallery
- 1986 -1988 Started a textile printing studio on Wapping Warf, London
- Exhibition of Fine Art Textiles at Di Rialto Gallery, Hout Street Gallery in Paarl in 1986
- 1985 Exhibition of Fine Art Textiles at the In-Fin-Art Gallery in Cape Town
- 1980 – 1982 Studied Graphic Fine Art at Pretoria Technikon

## conferences, workshops

- 2017 International Post Medical Training – conference participant with doctors, therapists, farmers and educators from the continent of Africa working for change.
- 2015 Visited various universities and met with prominent leaders in Sustainable design at The London School of Fashion, Goldsmiths and Central Saint Martins, UK.
- Social and environmental learning experience for CPUT design students (Industrial, Graphic and Surface Designers) and colleagues on a bus from Cape Town to Namibia engaging with two communities en-route, gathering research on climate change.
- Attended the Participatory Design Conference (Windhoek): C-Clima Futures: Designerly strategies for scaling up climate change approaches in both the global south and the global north.
- Attended Nordes Conference 2015, Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design, Stockholm Sweden - presented our collaborated effort on overcoming climate change with BTech, Masters and Phd students from CPUT Design and Informatics students
- 2014 “Resilience” Workshop with Ezio Manzini
- 2013 Earth Forum at the Social Sculpture Research Unit Oxford Brookes University, UK
- 2013 Mentor for Shift, Cape Town for the Fresh Talent Sustainable Design Competition, Sweden
- 2012 TEDx TableMountain presenter – into the Wild: Integrating Design and Life to appreciate just who we are and consider exactly how we fit on Earth.
- 2012 Ecology and sustainability workshop: Towards a Living Thinking with Craig and Henrike Holdrege from the Nature Institute, Upstate New York
- 2011 Design Network Africa (DNA) - facilitated workshop with designers from 15 African countries. An initiative of Trevyn McGowan of Source, and the Danish Centre for Cultural Development
- 2011-2013 Voluntary support for the World Design Capital 2014
- 2011-2013 Community of Practice groups
- AGOG – A Goethean Observation Group guided by Social Development practitioners – Allan Kaplan and Sue Davidoff
  - UCOP – A Theory U group developing a Regional hub for social development, based on the practice and theory of Otto Scharmer
- 2011 Co-ordinator of the Robben Island school (South Africa) in collaboration with Alanus University (Germany) project. Process art facilitator, working with groups of school children

- 2010 – 2011 Member of CoPART – Climate Justice Fluency Project, artists working for Climate Change
- 2010 Tipping Point Conference presented by the British Council –
- An interaction between Artists and Scientists around Climate Change and its consequences for Africa
- 2007 – 2009 Self-development and leadership course with the Kaospilot programme from Denmark
- 2009 Course in Goethe's colour theory
- 2007 Presented a co-authored paper at the DEFSA International Design education conference – Flux: Design Education in a Changing World. Pedagogical approaches to learning and curriculum development in Design for inclusion and self-realisation of learners.
- 2009 Three week module – Observation, Inspiration and Intervention –
- A Goethean study for social development practitioners, by Allan Kaplan and Sue Davidoff
- 2005 – 2009 Studied Eurythmy, the social art of movement, part time
- 2000 Presentation on Natural Building and Green Interiors –
- Environmental Conference organized by the Sustainability Institute at the Spier Estate, Stellenbosch
- 1993 – 1995 Attended courses at the Centre for Creative Education in Cape Town
- 1993 Co-initiated the Sophia Family Centre at the Constantia Waldorf School, supporting parents and families with babies and young children

### Interests and Publications:

Please refer to my website: [www.karensuskin.co.za](http://www.karensuskin.co.za)