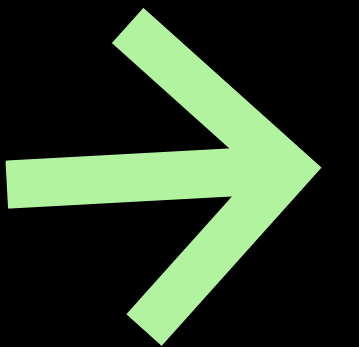
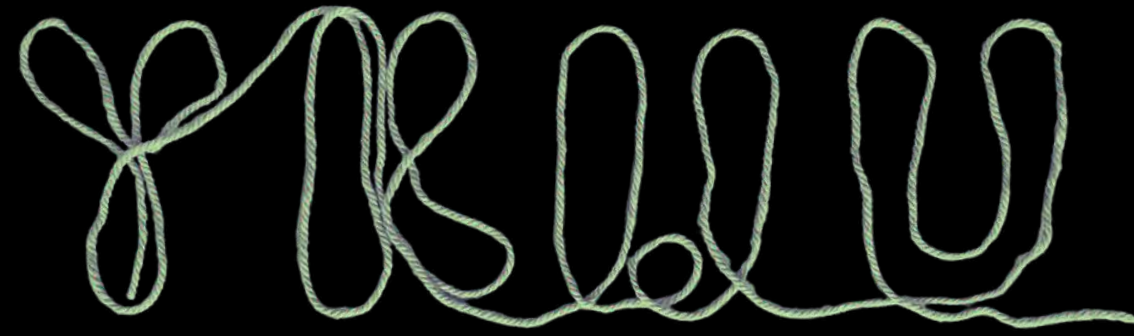




COLÈCH'



APPLICATION INFORMATION PACK

ABOUT US

COLÉCHI IS A RESEARCH AGENCY AND COLLECTIVE HUMANISING FASHION.

Colèchi provides a new voice in fashion, operating as a collaborative think tank through a community of independent creatives. Using action research, Colèchi offers insights into real innovation for organisations and brands in the fashion industry. Through their Clean Fashion Manifesto, Colèchi employs creative methods such as print, workshops, and activations to promote sustainable practice.

AGREENCULTURE

AGREENCULTURE by Colèchi, explores the relationship between fashion and farming with contributions from growers, makers, designers and more to provoke new thinking and collaboration on how the clothing industry can work with nature. Presented to the industry as a print journal recognised by British Vogue, Monocle and Elle UK's Green List 2024.

YKWU (YOU can KNIT WITH US)

YKWU (You can Knit With Us) is Colèchi's very own knitting club that launched at the Tate Britain in January 2022 and has since travelled across London communities. We started YKWU as a way to encourage people to take part in the art of producing fashion through knitting; and to change the idea of who can knit.

THE PROJECT

With the support of Westfield and Foundation for Future London, Colèchi is launching YKWU EAST - a design collective and 6 week programme for young emerging knitwear designers. The first cohort will develop their practice with curated workshops, talks and seminars by industry professionals. Up to 15 candidates will be selected. The programme is a opportunity to grow your knitwear practice and learn about ethical and local supply chains. Candidates will have the exciting opportunity to produce a collection from concept to finish; connect with the different sections of the knitwear supply chain, from suppliers to manufacturers and designers. With the chance to showcase their creations at Colèchi's annual Clean Fashion Summit at Somerset House on 14th November 2024.

This project is an extension to our monthly knitting club which takes place in collaboration with The Lab E20, Stratford on the last Sunday of the month. With learning tools developed from AGREENCULTURE.



THE PROGRAMME

YKWU East starts on 23rd September and runs for 6 weeks. The programme is hybrid with practical days to work on the collection alongside online talks and site visits.

Each participant gets the chance to work on a product with a UK farm to understand circular and onshore production.

WEEK 1 | FARMING: SOURCING FIBRES

Fibre Farming, Regenerative Agriculture and Sourcing

WEEK 2 | MAKING & MATERIALS

Wool Processing, Craft, Machinery and Innovation
How to start and scale a knitwear brand in the UK

WEEK 3 | DESIGN

Designing for the Circular Economy

WEEK 4 | DIGITAL

CAD design and existing virtually and on Web3

WEEK 5 | COMMUNICATION

Building a Brand: Ecommerce, Marketing and Business skills

WEEK 6 | THE COLLECTIVE & BEYOND

Understanding job opportunities and the future of a Collective

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The first of its kind, YKWU East combines both theoretical and practical skills required to succeed in the knitwear industry. This programme has a unique focus on knitwear in the UK and successful candidates will learn:

How to start and scale a knitwear brand

Pathways into local production

Real life experiences and case studies from successful designers in the UK

Business knowledge from managing orders to creating a brand

Meeting other like minded people that love knitting and knitwear

Connecting with industry professionals across the knitwear supply chain



‘Without a rapid transition to preferred fibers and raw materials, including significantly reducing the industry’s reliance on virgin fossil-based synthetics, we will not meet our 45% GHG emissions reduction target for raw material production by 2030’

Textiles Exchange, Materials Market Report 2023



WHO CAN APPLY?

Age 18-30 living in London

Connected to East London. (live, work, study or grew up in East London)

A knitter, crocheter or designer

Interested in selling knitwear or starting your own brand

Interested in sustainable fashion and lifestyle



WHAT DO YOU GET?

New connections in fashion knitwear

Knowledge of circular design, fibre sourcing, branding and the knitwear industry

Completing part of a collection in collaboration with the cohort

An opportunity to display your work after the programme at the Clean Fashion Summit in Somerset House



WHAT WE WANT FROM YOU?

You do not need to have a successful brand or have thousands of pounds in sales to apply. Every month, we connect with people with a genuine interest in knitting and fashion through the YKWU knitting club, and we are looking to support a group of people that can show this through their application. If you have a portfolio or images of items you have made, share that with us. This programme wants to support people that want to develop their understanding of knitting in the UK and growing their practice whilst meeting like minded individuals.

We have developed the programme so that you can watch the online courses around your schedule and access our studio to work on your practice alongside other members of the cohort for accountability.

TO APPLY APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- Age 18 - 30 living in London with a connection to East London
- Able to knit either by hand or machine
- Interested in sustainability, climate change, ethical production, how garments are made, farming, textiles, fashion supply chains and the fashion industry.
- Looking to develop entrepreneurial and business skills
- Can commit at least 3 hours a week to the programme from September 2024 - November 2024

KEY DATES & NEXT STEPS

6TH AUG 2024	Applications open
5TH SEP 2024	Applications close
12TH SEP 2024	Shortlist informed
26TH SEP 2024	Programme starts

Email info@colechi.com if you need support with your application.

