Mingyu LIU

CMF Designer | Textile Designer | Material Researcher
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Profile | CMF designer specialising in material and tactile research, graduating from the Royal College of Art with an MA in Textiles in 2026. My practice starts from the physical sample rather than the screen: I develop colour, surface finish and texture through hands-on experimentation, then translate the result into specifications a manufacturer can work with, drawing on a two-year physical library of translucent and bio-based samples.

Skills |

CMF Colour, surface finish and texture development, grounded in hands-on material research and tactile evaluation. Specifications written for production.

Specialism Bio-based and translucent materials, including light-transmission behaviour and dual-state colour. Knit, dye and mixed media.

Tools Pantone · NCS · Adobe Illustrator · Photoshop · Keyshot · Rhino

Languages Mandarin (native) · English (IELTS 6.5)

Education |

Royal College of Art, London, UK *Sep 2025 – Aug 2026*
MA Textiles · Knit, Dye and Biomaterial Design
• Specialised in CMF, developing colour and surface through material experimentation rather than digital rendering

Donghua University, Shanghai, China *Sep 2021 – Jun 2025*
BA Fashion and Accessory Design (Fashion Innovation) · Sino-British joint programme with ECA · Average 85.8%
• Exchange semester at Nottingham Trent University, UK (Jan – May 2024): Fashion Knitwear and Knitted Textiles

Projects |

Touch the Light · bio-based CMF for transport interiors *Apr – Jul 2026*
Royal College of Art × PriestmanGoode · "Design for Life" CMF for transportation
• Developed a bio-based frosted translucent material delivering the light-and-privacy performance of frosted glass in a soft, body-safe form, for waiting areas, lounges and children's treatment rooms
• Established the core CMF argument that frosted is an optical property, not a material one: diffusion can be carried by a soft gel surface rather than glass
• Formulated a gelatin and agar composite across a two-year sample library, building colour physically through translucent layering and a glue-free interlock system that lets users overlay modules to mix colour; presented to the PriestmanGoode design team

Glaucoma Eye Drop Range · CMF and service redesign *2026*
Royal College of Art · collaboration with a service design colleague
• Redesigned the CMF system for three prescription eye drops from one manufacturer that patients with impaired vision routinely confuse; verified all three already comply with the AAO cap colour-coding standard, reframing the problem as industry-standard design that still fails its users
• Built a multi-channel redundancy strategy across colour, graphics, tactile cues and cap opening mechanism, treating the highest-risk product as a separate tier rather than applying uniform differentiation

Freedom to... , unisex collection for Burberry *Sep – Dec 2023*
Donghua University × Burberry · industry collaboration
• Led colour and material research for a unisex collection of trench coat, skirt, shoes and accessories, building a palette from the light and weather of both cities and assessing outerwear fabrics for hand feel, weight and weather performance
• Ran user and competitor research on the dual-city consumer, translating findings into wearing occasions and the collection's commercial positioning

Experience |

Curator Assistant, JUN BY YANG JUN, Shanghai *Jul – Sep 2024*
• Researched competitors and market trends, proposing specific changes to strengthen the brand's online positioning and identifying creators for collaboration

Showroom & Curator Assistant, Cyberyoung, Shanghai *Oct 2023*
• Managed garment handling and on-site preparation for runway shows, working directly with finished pieces across multiple collections

Design Intern, Tmall Innovation Center (TMIC), Alibaba Group *Jul 2021*
• Researched emerging consumer aesthetics and produced a market research report analysing user profiles and commercial opportunity

Additional | Short design programmes at Central Saint Martins, UAL (2023), Rhode Island School of Design (2021)