

The logo for Leeds Arts University is a white, irregular pentagonal shape with a textured, stone-like appearance. It is centered in the upper half of the slide. The text inside the logo is in a dark purple, serif font, arranged in four lines: "LEEDS", "ARTS", "UNIVERSITY", and "1846". The background of the slide is a dark purple with several large, overlapping geometric shapes in lighter shades of purple and magenta, creating a layered, abstract effect.

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Why Do Mature Students Matter in Art, Craft and Design?

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Why do mature students study Art, Craft and Design HE later in life?

(Broadhead and Gregson 2018; Broadhead 2017, Broadhead 2019)

Family expectations

Perceived precariousness of creative careers

Unable to imagine possible future self as artist, designer or craftsperson

Growing frustration and regret at not following aspiration to work in the arts

Being strategic in gaining creative knowledge and skills

Role models for family

Gaining a portfolio of different skills, qualifications, informal and formal learning, at different levels



How do some mature students experience HE?

Diminishing numbers of mature students in higher education

Lack of part-time opportunities to study art, craft and design in post compulsory education

National Student Survey numbers suggest that mature students are less satisfied with their HE experience

Marginal group within the student population

Different cultural references, expectations and social capital

Addressed in ways not appropriate for adults

Factors contribute to a sense of not belonging



Inclusive pedagogies and student support mechanisms

Promoting and valuing intergenerational learning

Drawing upon students' wisdom and experience

Questioning and debate as positive not a threat to lecturer's role

Cross institutional strategies to support the students life cycle

The mature student's network



Celebrating strengths and capacities in and out of education

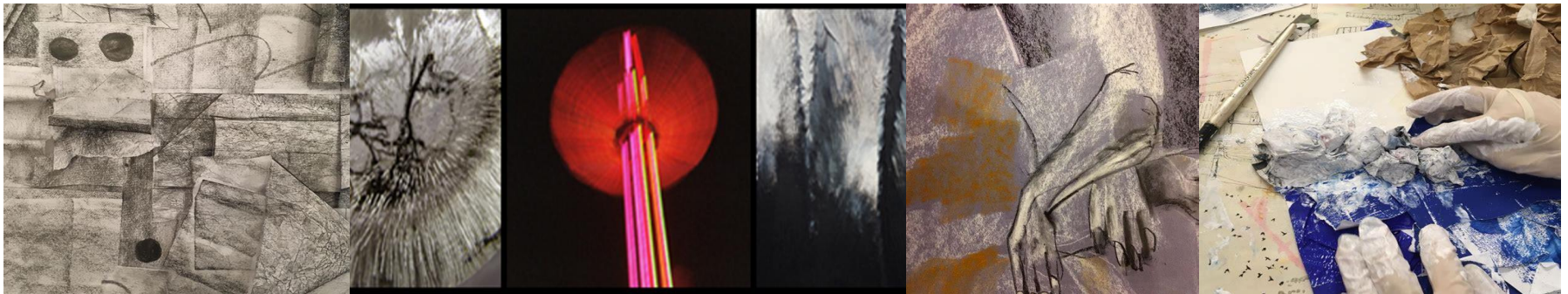
Organisational skills, resilience, resolve, wisdom,
'phronesis', strategic and being open to opportunities

Intergenerational friendships in the studio in and out of education

Mature students leading collectives, exhibiting groups,
services for local communities

Giving back to the local arts communities

Examples: Jake from 'Ilkley Art School' and Connie from 'The Arts Collective'



Why Do Mature Students matter in Art, Craft and Design?

All students matter

Enrich the learning experience for everyone

Effective Intergenerational learning

Contribution to increasing social mobility

Engaging with a large sphere of influence
(families and communities)



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Thank You
Any questions?

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