

Discarded clothing becomes new colour: Colour Lab returns to Waltham Forest for London Design Festival 2026

Colour of Saying presents Colour Lab: from waste to value — a three-day exhibition, open studio and workshop programme at Switchboard Studios, showing pigments milled from post-consumer textile waste. Developed in research partnership with Chroma Waste Lab (RMIT University and Deakin University, Australia). 17–19 September 2026. Exhibition free.

Colour is everywhere in design, yet we rarely see where it comes from — the materials, water, labour and land behind every pigment. From 17 to 19 September 2026, Switchboard Studios in Waltham Forest hosts dyed textile experiments and ink trials made with cotton pigments milled from post-consumer textile waste — an approach that asks less of the planet at both ends: nothing extracted upstream, nothing discarded downstream. Visitors encounter waste not as the end of a material's life, but as the beginning of its next one.

Now in its third year, Colour Lab presents its first edition developed with Chroma Waste Lab, the Australian research partnership founded by Dr Tonya Meyrick (RMIT University) and Jacinta Kay (Deakin University). The Lab treats colour as design's most invisible supply chain, working alongside the scientists who engineer pigment from textile waste to ask what that transformed colour means as material, as history, and as cultural act.

Where Colour Lab 2025 traced a nature-to-studio journey, the 2026 programme moves from origins to futures. The exhibition presents both the science and the design applications side by side — what the pigment actually looks like, and how designers and makers could put it to work. It is gathered around one question:

“What is the value in waste colour, and who in our community holds the knowledge to unlock it?”

Laura Perryman, founder of Colour of Saying and author of *The Colour Bible*, who hosts Colour Lab and leads the workshops, said: *“I’ve spent years making colour from plants and from place. Seeing pigment drawn out of discarded cotton is truly transformative and asks us to revalue and learn about colour yet again. The workshops are where that gets tested — you learn what a material can do by placing it in people’s hands.”*

Dr Tonya Meyrick, co-founder of Chroma Waste Lab, added: *“We’re thrilled to be collaborating with Laura at Colour of Saying in 2026 for LDF. We’re bringing our experimental process and emerging outcomes of applying post-consumer textile waste as a colour to Switchboard Studios — the dyeing experiments, the ink trials, and the near-misses along the way. Most people never see colour being made, and this work is incredibly persuasive as material evidence.”*

The programme — Thursday 17 – Saturday 19 September

Thursday 17 September — Origins. An opening evening for the design innovation community: exhibition preview, panel discussion and welcome drinks. Doors 6.30pm, panel 7.00–7.45pm, close 9.00pm. Free, booking required.

Friday 18 September — Material Encounters. Open studio, plus free drop-in swatching sessions for the public and student groups at 1.00pm, 3.00pm and 5.00pm. Open 12.00pm–6.00pm.

Saturday 19 September — Future Palettes. Circular economies and environmentally conscious design, through two timed ticketed workshops. Open 12.00pm–6.00pm.

Throughout, the exhibition remains free and open: material evidence of what colour can look like when it's made differently.

Saturday workshops — booking essential, limited spaces

- **CMF Future Palettes with Laura Perryman** A hands-on workshop building future colour palettes from waste-derived pigments and CMF samples. 12.30pm–2.30pm, £50.
- **A Year in Colour: Autumn Natural Colour** A seasonal foraging and natural-colour session at a local flower farm, led by Laura Perryman with Amber Fry of Amber's Alchemy. 4.00pm–7.00pm, £65.

Visitor information

Colour Lab: from waste to value

17–19 September 2026 — Switchboard Studios, Uplands Business Park, London E17 5QJ (Blackhorse Creates, formerly the William Morris Design Line)

Exhibition and Friday swatching sessions free. Saturday workshops £50 and £65. Book: CMF Future Palettes

tickettailor.com/events/lauraperrymancolourofsaying/2338437 | A Year in Colour

tickettailor.com/events/lauraperrymancolourofsaying/2159672

Fully accessible, ground floor. Part of the London Design Festival 2026 Partner Programme (12–20 September 2026).

Notes to editors

About Colour of Saying

Colour of Saying is a London-based colour and CMF studio founded by Laura Perryman MA (RCA) — colour designer, forecaster and author of The Colour Bible. The studio works internationally across colour strategy, trend forecasting and material research, from brand and product palettes to natural dyes and pigments made from what already exists. Through consultancy, teaching and hands-on workshops, Colour of Saying champions the intentional use of colour for human and ecological good.

About Chroma Waste Lab

Chroma Waste Lab approaches colour as design's most invisible supply chain: a site for critical inquiry into colour's origins, costs and possible futures. Situated at the intersection of design, ethics and circular systems, it reconsiders colour not as surface decoration but as a proposition about the worlds we choose to make. Founded by Dr Tonya Meyrick (RMIT University) and Jacinta Kay (Deakin University), Australia.

Images



Colour Lab: From Waste to Value

Organised by

Dr Tonya Meyrick, RMIT University
Jacinta Kay, Deakin University
Laura Perryman, Colour of Saying



London Design Festival Colour of Saying x Chroma Waste Lab, Colour Lab: From Waste to Value (Flier). Photography by Laura Perryman

Additional high-resolution images available on request.

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#LDF26 #ColourLab2026 #Colourof Saying #ChromaWasteLab

#RMIT #CODE #Deakin #Co:Made

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