



Hello, I'm **India Copley** Textile designer and maker

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MY JOB DESCRIPTION

I'm a textile designer and maker, thoughtfully creating forms and textured surfaces that blur the boundaries between art and craft. I use drawing, painting and collaging as vital tools within my practice in order to develop the playful and experimental textile pieces.

10 TIPS ON HOW TO FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS

1. There may never be a perfect time to make a start, just try to find a good enough time!
2. Allow your work to be flexible. You don't have to do only one thing forever, so take the pressure off and enjoy it as a journey.
3. There may be times that you learn more about what you don't want to do, than what you do want to do – both are very important experiences for moving forward.
4. Be resourceful with the tools and connections you have: talk to as many people as possible, seek out opportunities and apply for support. There might be someone out there that can help you to take the next step.
5. It's easy when starting out to be reactive and naturally want to say yes to everything that comes your way, but don't be afraid to be proactive in sculpting your own experiences and remember to put your ideas and needs first.
6. Be realistic and honest with yourself. If you're always striving to achieve too much you are mostly going to end up feeling disappointed. A lecturer once told me that when being creative, things will usually take three times longer than you anticipate – I've since found this to be true!
7. Try to seek inspiration in physical spaces as well as online: in-person experiences tend to be much richer.
8. Talk to, or gain experiences from, businesses you aspire to be like. For me, this was freelancing for hands-on makers, which taught me invaluable skills and ideas to apply to my own practice.
9. Aim to find a designated space to work. Having a creative practice can be so personal that it's healthy to set some physical boundaries.
10. Be kind. It's not a competition, so try not to compare yourself to others: there's only one of you and that's what makes what you do special. I have found that you can gain a lot of support from being supportive of others.