

# GRAPHIC DESIGN

## Week 13 Options

# Patterns / Mark Making

## Stephen Smith, Visual Artist (Neasden Control Centre)

**Aim:** To study the artist's style and technique to help you further explore the use of surface pattern, mark making and mixed media.

**Deadline:** One week homework

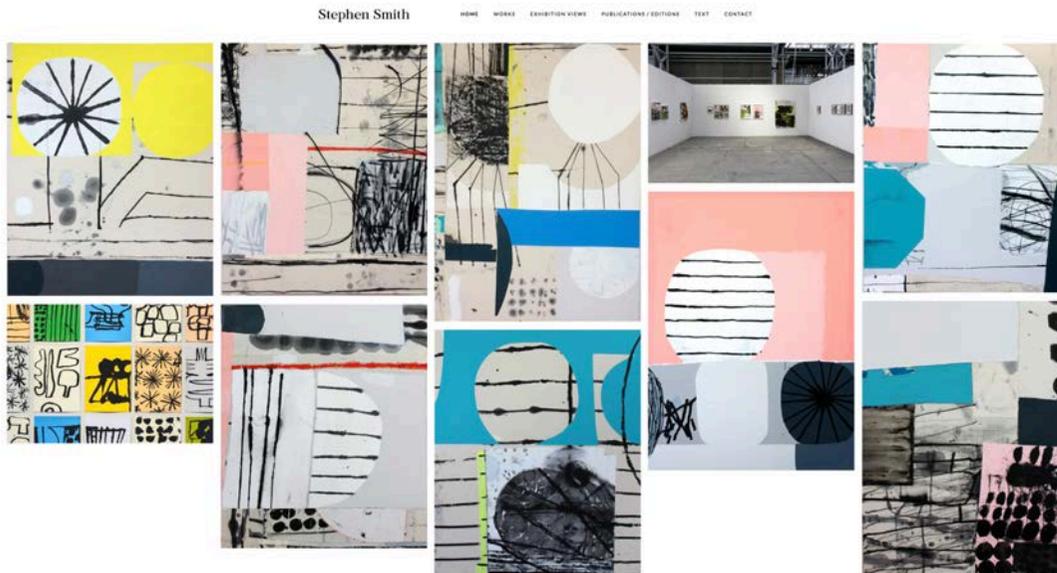
**Task:** You are to produce an imaginative two A4 sides looking at the work of Stephen Smith (Neasden Control Centre).

**Week 13:** As discussed in previous lessons, the next homework project will provide you with the opportunity to explore a style/movement, which you have successfully explored previously on the course, therefore completing another homework project in a similar style will play to each of your individual strengths.

Stephen Smith is a UK based artist that makes work that draws on a process of construction and deconstruction, consisting of surface pattern, mark making and texture.

<http://stephen--smith.com/> | <https://www.neasdencontrolcentre.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/neasdencontrolcentre/> | <https://www.instagram.com/ccstudio/>



Stephen Smith makes work drawn from conspiracy theory, bit-rot, black holes, psycho-geographic post-traumatic landscapes. Stephen works predominately with painting, drawing, print and installation. He uses a process of formal abstraction to deconstruct and reconstruct the form and language of the work. Through this themes, forms and motifs are built up and re-worked over time, with each iteration new works are formed in which the dialogue is in a state of flux.

**Stephen Smith (Neasden Control Centre) is an illustrator / graphic artist. His work is known for its multi-disciplined process led hand drawn style within graphic compositions.**

Clients commission Stephen on a range of projects including: editorial illustration, illustrated maps, hand drawn lettering & advertising. His output also includes site specific installation for interiors such as hotels, offices & institutions, motion graphics / animation / music videos, surface pattern design & illustrated packaging. He has exhibited his work internationally. Get in touch if you have an idea you would like to discuss further by emailing: [info@neasdencontrolcentre.com](mailto:info@neasdencontrolcentre.com)

**Represented by:**

Snyder New York (USA / Canada)

A-Gent (Japan)

**Motif:**

Dictionary

motif

**motif**

/məʊˈtiːf/

*noun*

1. a decorative image or design, especially a repeated one forming a pattern.  
"the colourful hand-painted motifs which adorn narrowboats"  
*synonyms:* design, pattern, decoration, figure, shape, logo, monogram, device, emblem, ornament  
"a black chenille sweater with a colourful tulip motif"
2. a dominant or recurring idea in an artistic work.  
"superstition is a recurring motif in the book"  
*synonyms:* theme, idea, concept, subject, topic, leitmotif, element, motive, trope  
"the room is one of the recurring motifs in Pinter's work"

### Task A – Research <http://stephen-smith.com/contact/>

Write 250 words (size 10pt) of biographical information on Stephen Smith and your analysis/thoughts on his style and techniques used. Include small thumbnail images of his designs. Present on tracing paper flap. Visit 'Guide to writing about designs' <https://online.godalming.ac.uk/mod/resource/view.php?id=70171>

### Task B – Side 1 – Create copies

You are to create 1 A4 side of copies of Stephen Smith designs, using a mixed media approach. Consider using typography in some of your designs. Experiment using layering, collage, blocking areas with colour, paint, spray paint, patterns and mark making etc. Materials and equipment available in art and design departments.

For reference images, visit the following sites to see Stephen Smith designs:

Commercial Illustration/Graphic Design <https://www.neasdencontrolcentre.com/>

Visual Art <https://www.instagram.com/neasdencontrolcentre/>

Examples of Task A (research) and Task B (copies using a mixed media approach):



Below are instructions on how to structure your analysis.

### Analysis Tips

- Analyse the characteristics of the shapes and colours, for example; the bold, striking, dynamic...
- Discuss the moods and emotions this evokes...
- Ask yourself how you feel about the work, and what do you think the artist wants you to think/feel?
- Include quotes from the artist.

### Phrases starting points

- I think the artist evokes a sense/ of... (*energy/space*) through the use of (*bright/rhythmic/colours/shapes*).
- *For me, the key to this work is the....*
- *The use of strong bold colours of the shapes emphasises the...*

### Task C – Side 2 – Create your own versions

Fill 1 A4 side - you are to create a series of your own versions inspired by the work of Stephen Smith.

For your own versions, create some of your designs using the following:

- Off-screen using a mixed media approach;
- Digitally using Adobe software;
- Combination of both off-screen and digital techniques - scanning off-screen elements and enhancing digitally.
- Experiment using layering, collage, blocking areas with colour, paint, spray paint, patterns and mark making etc.
- Materials and equipment available in art and design departments.

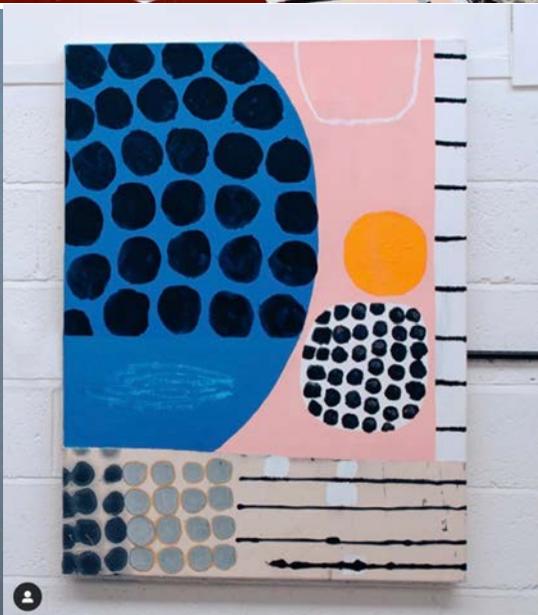
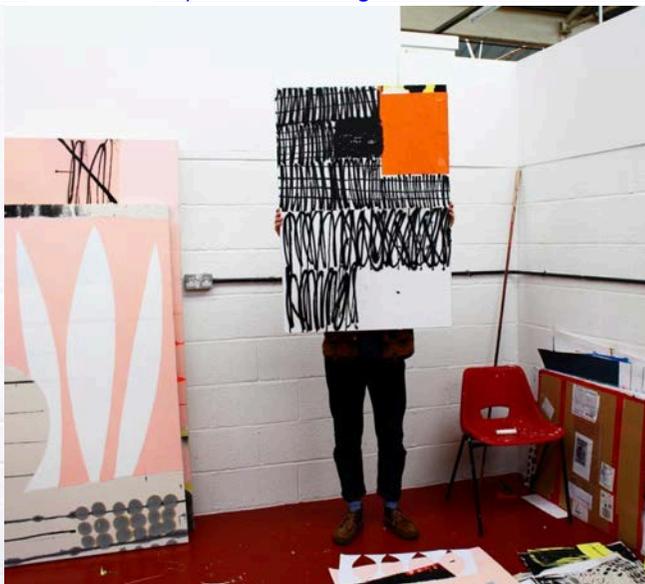
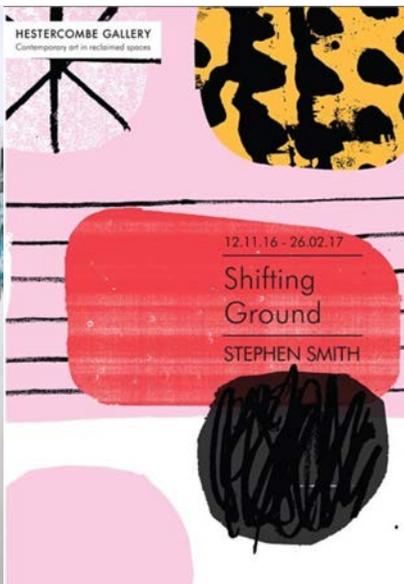
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Range of examples of Task C (see right)

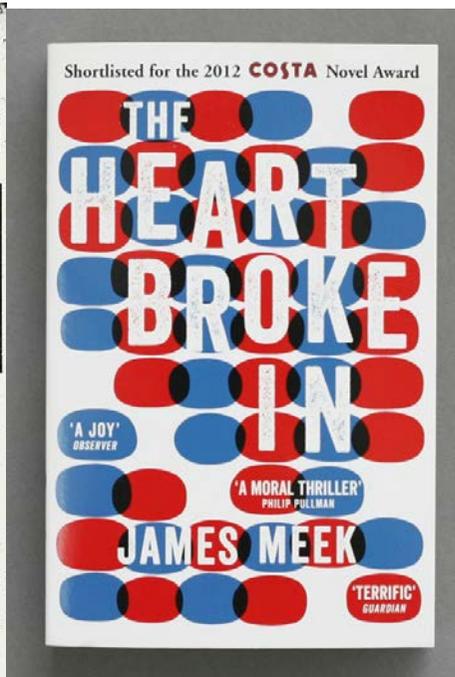
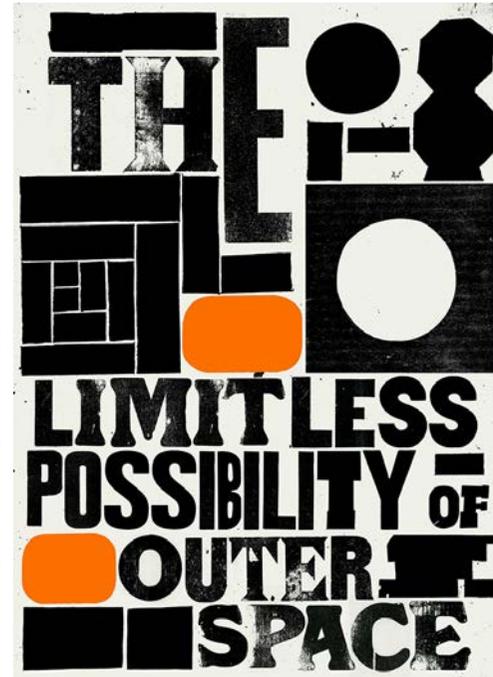
(Examples of Stephen Smith designs on the following pages)



Examples of Stephen Smith designs. Visit links to see more: Commercial <https://www.neasdencontrolcentre.com/> Visual Art <https://www.instagram.com/neasdencontrolcentre/>



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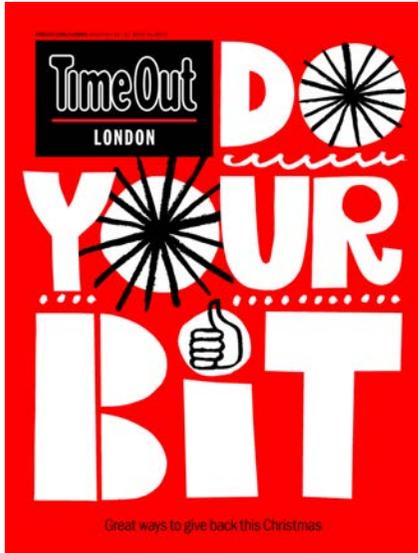
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**START  
ME UP!**



Examples of Stephen Smith designs. Visit links to see more: Commercial <https://www.neasdencontrolcentre.com/> Visual Art <https://www.instagram.com/neasdencontrolcentre/>



ELEMENT SKATBOARDS



WIND WATER FIRE

BARTH

MADE TO ENDURE



ROLL ON ROLLY OFF



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