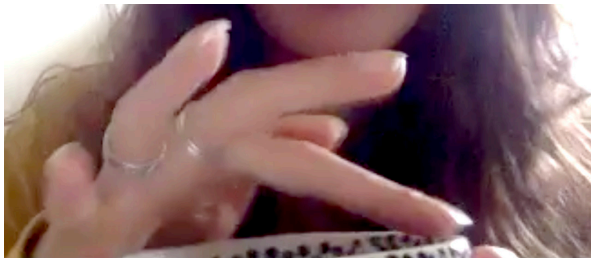
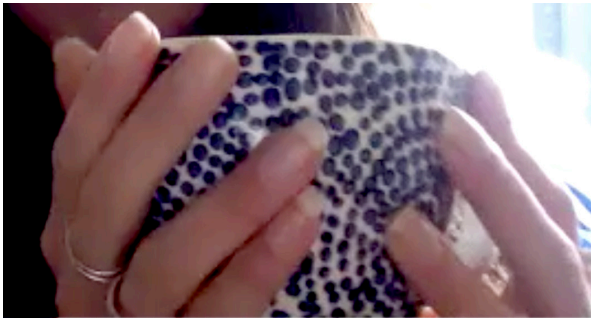
I know what I like

Lovely mug Ugly mug





Favourite mug

It's very definitely handmade and it's all kind of wobbly.

The rim is not even. It just feels very handmade I think it's just the handmade feel of it. You probably cant see on the video but its very - wobbly?

So it's probably more the feel and the shape of it than the colours or the pattern or anything.

It feels very (I mean obviously all mugs are smooth) - but if feels smoother! It's probably good quality because its been handmade. Not just factory - churned out.

It looks very hand painted. I'm not a big fan of blue at all, but I just really like this mug.

I don't even like - well, I say I don't like the pattern , I do like the pattern, (but) it's not like : "Oh wow! I love that pattern!"

It's just I really like the - if you look at the paint work it's very clearly hand done. The colours are uneven. It doesn't feel as thought its been made in a factory and there are thousands of them,.

Is that the one you go for first thing in the morning?

Well I always chop and change depending on what I am drinking as well.

Because - (this) is quite wide - I like my drinks to be quite hot, so if I was going to have a herbal tea where there is nothing that cools it down, I will use this one.

But if it was a coffee or something, I would go for a thinner one. But that's more practical than about what it looks like. But yes, this I would definitely pick this. over another.

But I think that this is also my mother-in-law's favourite cup so she gets there first ! It's her house, so she gets it.

Is it important to you ? - does it make a difference?

Yes definitely. I hate it if If I go to someone's house and they make me a tea in a cup that I dont like, it definitely makes a difference. I am quite fussy- I am quite particular about what I like so.

Depending on whose house I am at, obviously . But if it was someone I'm close to, and they're about to get a cup out of the cupboard that I don't like , I say :" Can I have that one? It looks nicer" .

When I am at someone else's house and I am making tea or coffee for them, I will ask them which mug they want it in. Because they might have a favourite in their own home. But they quite often look at me a bit wierdly !

It definitely makes a difference, I think, to how your drink goes.

If you like the shape and feel, what colour would it be?

So if I could have like this shape and feel (home mug) - yellow is my favourite colour. So probably yellow. I don't know if it would be just plain yellow. Maybe it'd be yellow with a little picture of a sun or something on it. Yes, simple.

(The travel mug would be) a nicer colour with maybe a picture on it, or just something on it to make it a bit more interesting. It has to have the insulating and the lid. So it was the practical versus the aesthetic but I had to go with the practical in the end.

I have been looking at cream ones, actually. I quite like camping mugs - that look like they are painted. I was looking at cream ones of those, but they dont hold the heat. But none of those were insulated. I would have liked the paint job on one of those.

We have a house elsewhere and it's rented out

So all of our stuff is locked away in the loft there. Sowe have very minimal amount of things

When I was choosing - (because we wanted to get travel mugs that were insulated) it took me long time to choose the right one. I didn't want to get it wrong, because it was my only mug for a really long time. My boyfriend was just like: " Just get that one - it doesn't matter!" and I was-: "Nope it's got to be the right one".

It had to be insulated and have a lid, but they all just look the same, and I wanted to be able to enjoy drinking out of it. So it just looks like an insulated mug but it's just got a nice round shape, whereas normally they are just straight and boring.

I could never find the perfect one, ...I wanted two different mugs basically - and I couldn't find <u>the one</u>. It is just boring and silver, but at least it's a nice shape.

If you have a favourite mug in storage - can you describe it?

When I was thinking this morning about favourite mugs and things --- I thought if I was in my house, what would be my favourite mug? And it was yellow actually! And it was a nice kind of shiny- and this kind of yellow- mustardy.

It had flecks of different maybe creams and oranges in there. That was that was a really good mug – I really like that one.

It was just it's just a nice colour, a nice shape and it's a nice size.

On your travels - were there any particular objects, you took that weren't 'practical'?

There were definitely things that I packed that I don't need. When I was choosing my clothes - there's one dress. I don't need a dress. There's s probably not that many opportunities to wear a dress, but I just love it. It's a tie dye dress. I've had it for years and years and years, and it's really comfortable and just easy to chuck on.

Everything else me my boyfriend took was stuff that we can both wear. We are quite similar heights and shapes, so we quite often shared clothes anyway before we went traveling. If we take things that fit both of us then that's great. I (thought) I'm just gonna sneak this one dress, even though that's completely not practical, -he's never gonna wear my dress. I probably won't even wear it that often, but I need to have it with me. Cycling shorts are really boring. That's probably the main thing I packed- more cycling shorts than anything else. I don't like them, so I think it's quite important for me to have something that actually expresses me and how I feel. That's a really important part. That's what everybody sees every day, judges you on that and it portrays your personality in some ways, doesn isn't it? Both me and my my partner have quite a unique fashion sense. Instead of just wearing something like cycling shorts and cycling vests (we're not going to go 'full lycra') we wear really wacky shirts - just to retain a sense of uniqueness –

I've been in hospital before, and had people bring in clothes for me to wear. - and I think that's not what I would put to together. t like really makes a difference to how you feel. Like at a time when you want to feel really comfortable and, like the last thing you want to be thinking about is your outfit because you're in hospital and you're not feeling well. But you can't help but think about it, because it's just not comfortable to you?

It's not about making fashion a statement or something (it's) feeling comfortable and not having to think about it, because it's just something that you're happy and comfortable in.

Colour

The likes and dislikes

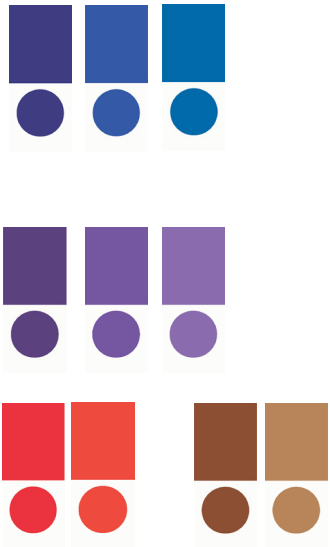
Only in the last few years I've realised definitely yellow is my favourite colour. When you're young you just try and fit in loads dont you? You kind of think: if everyone likes it, I like it. Then you get older and think, actually I don't want to fit in. I'm going to express what I actually like. So then I told everyone my favourite was green for a long time. Which I do actually really like: green.

You kind of grow more confident in your likes and dislikes. Over the last 10 years I've definitely got more and more 'out there' with my fashion choices - as you grow in confidence and you wear what you like and you stop caring what other people think. But certainly when I was a teenager I wouldn't have.

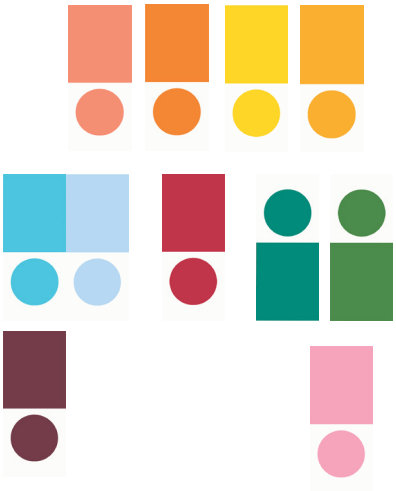
Now I wear all kinds of bright colours, clashing colours. I think when you are growing up - that's the last thing you want isnt it? - To be noticed and to be the one that everyone's talking about or whatever. And it starts to matter less and less to everyone. People stop talking about you as well because its not important to them either.

And I don't know how that will change over like the next 20 or 30 years, and if you stop wanting to be noticed more as - the older you get or not, we'll see…!

Dislikes



Likes



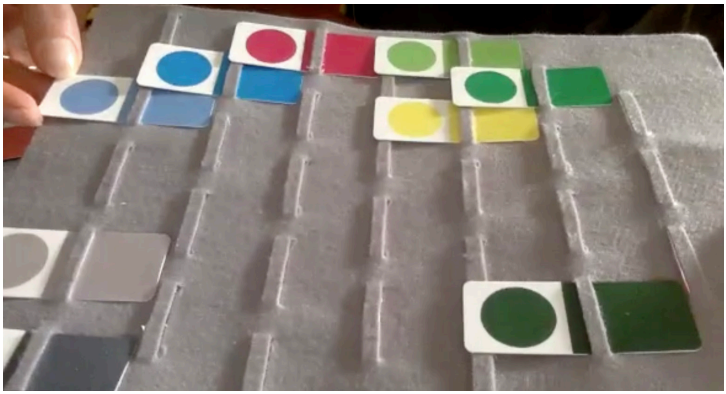
Colour - likes and dislikes

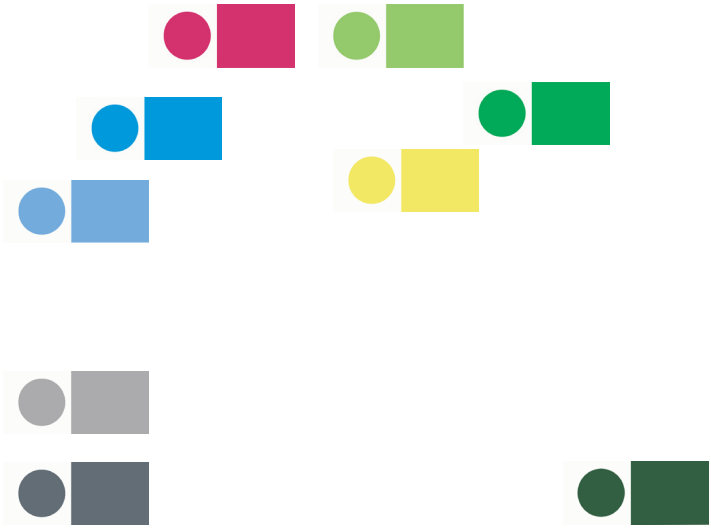
It's like a constant representation of you isn't it? I think it's really important to so many people. Because it doesn't matter what space you've got, you always have to dress. You could always make some kind of -- (whether you've got no money or you know, only three outfits,) statement with those three outfits or whatever.

Whereas - definitely with a house, you might be doing that, with a partner or with a housemate or whatever. (Then) you wouldn't necessarily make those decisions completely on your own.

(When you leave home) obviously then you have got your own money so you can buy what you want to buy and express your preferences fully for the first time. I think, maybe - I had a little bit (of choice) at home, - if I really liked something - but still within - a range.

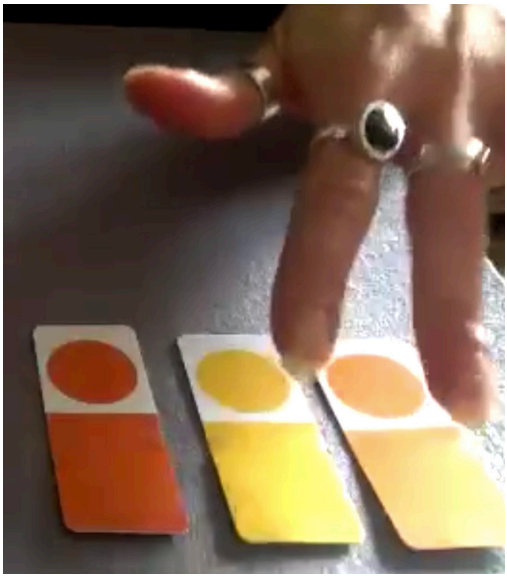
Whereas when you leave it's completely up to you, then isn't it? Also it takes years to really work out what you like. For me anyway, after all those years where you are trying to fit in - it takes time to work out what you truly like.. I think now (I'm 29) , I know what I like, but it took a little while.

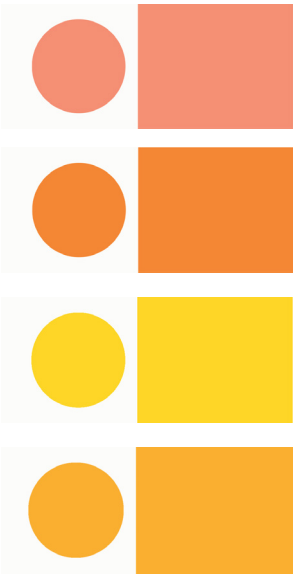




The ones I've got left I don't like, I don't hate.

I don't particularly dislike or like them.

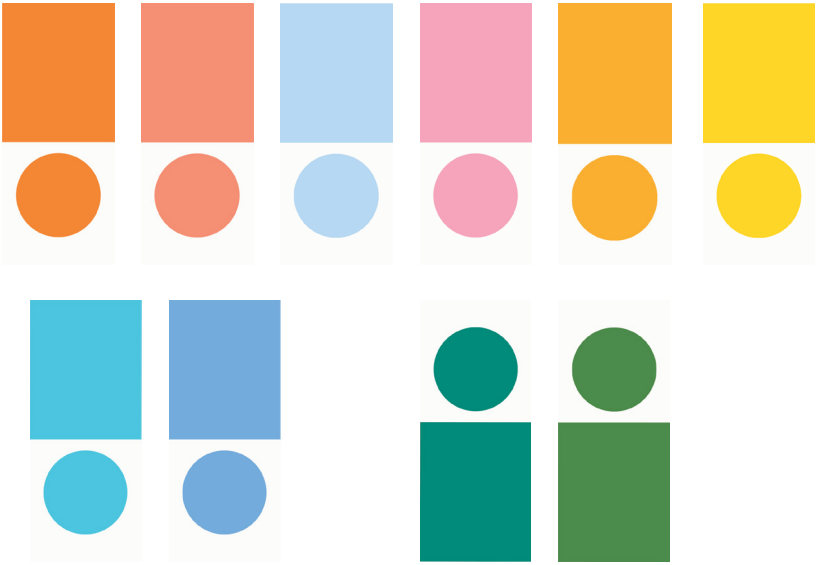




These are definitely my favourites

I chose them right away. I like orange and yellow. I prefer that kind of in-between: the orangey-yellowy. These are definitely my favourites. I'd wear all of those (and the greens). Obviously they are quite bright but I would decorate little bits of the house with those colours and have - a yellow sofa or something.

Yellow is like definitely my favourite colour. So if I'm watching TV and I see a yellow sofa or something - I think ooh, that looks good. Or a yellow wall or anything like that. It's like your brain goes: 'Ooh you like yellow - look at that!'



I think I definitely associate colour with the weather

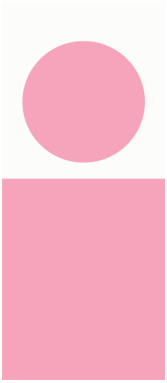
So all my favourite colours probably are around summer. Because I like summer the most. So I like yellows and oranges and greens and that's all summery colours.

I think it just makes life easier when you're warm. When it's summer you don't have to think about how many layers you need to put on. You never have to think about the uncomfortableness of being too cold or having to - put on loads of layers and take them back off again.

When you're outside you just know you can wear shorts and a T-shirt You can be outside for longer and the days are longer and there's just so many things about summer that I love.

In the winter .. if you're working you go to work in the dark and then you go home in the dark. You don't get to spend any time outside because if you wants to go for a walk it's in the dark - spending a whole life inside, and I would much rather be outside.

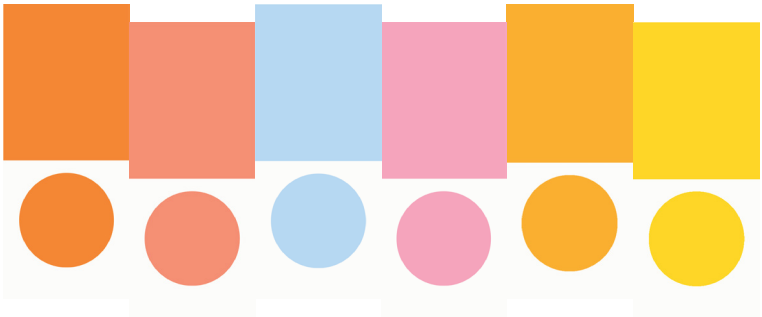
I grew up in a house less than five minutes walk from beach. I was so lucky so, I spent a lot of time outside.



I don’t very often wear pink, but I do quite like it as a colour

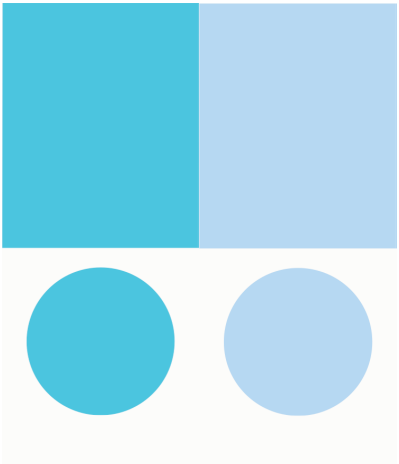
I don’t really know what I would do with it, to be honest.

I wouldn’t want it on my walls - I wouldn’t really wear it (but) I don’t dislike it at all.



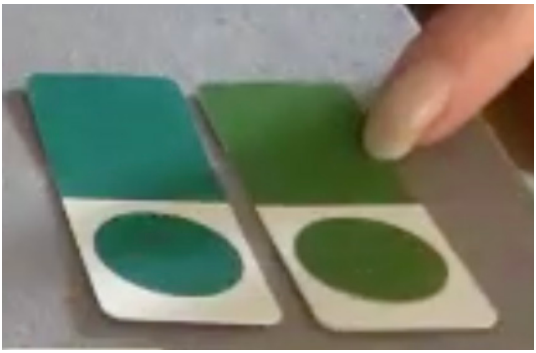
So - yes - definitely all the oranges and yellows are my favourites. But then I really like pink in with them, I wouldn't call pink my favourite colour but I like that selection. I like pinks and oranges together. I think that's like a really nice combination.

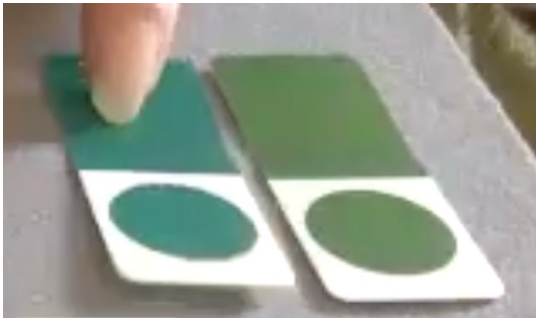
And then I like all of those - pastelly colours together, I think they're really nice.

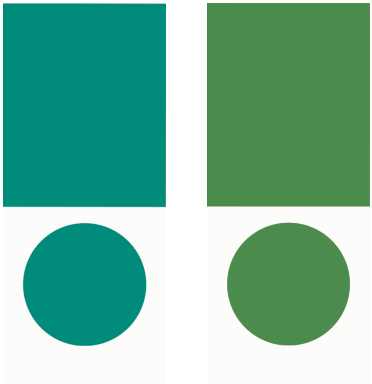


I wouldn’t really wear blue, but I quite like those colours.

But again I probably wouldn’t put them on my walls or anything.





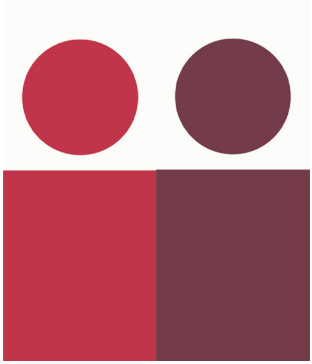


I also like greens

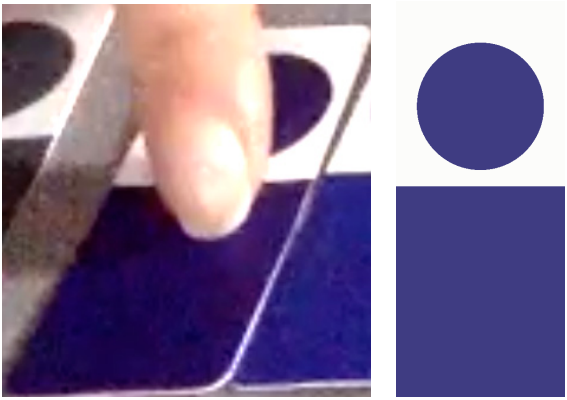
But I'm a bit more particular about greens and what I do like and what I dont like. I really like this kind of .. I don't know what to call it? Like a forest green and that more- turquoisey one.

I would wear greens. I like to wear it because of - the connotations of nature that I like. It also probably does make a difference, what goes with my skin tone and what doesn't. Greens go quite well with my skin tones, so that probably helps. And then it's like the double whammy of of liking it because it suits me, and also because it reminds me of nature.

And maybe a really pale green is (missing)



I am going to put these up here together - but also because I like them a bit less

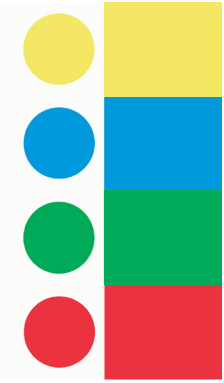


I would always say that navy blue is my worst colour

And then the rest I probably equally dislike I think. I did have a navy blue school uniform, so maybe it is being forced to wear a colour I didn't like for six years or whatever.

I had navy blue - that colour - at secondary school and primary school was that colour (red). So maybe it has got something to do with it. I think it's something to do with being told you have to wear it.

If I wore yellow everyday out of choice I'm still going to like yellow at the end of it, but if someone forced me to wear yellow every day my whole school life probably yellow wouldn't be my favourite colour anymore.



I don’t like that bright red

I don’t like that bright red. I think it’s a bit girish, a bit like - ‘Eaargh!’ - in your face, if you see what I mean?

When I look at these - if you put them all together, they’re basic, like these ones - basically kind of primary colours..

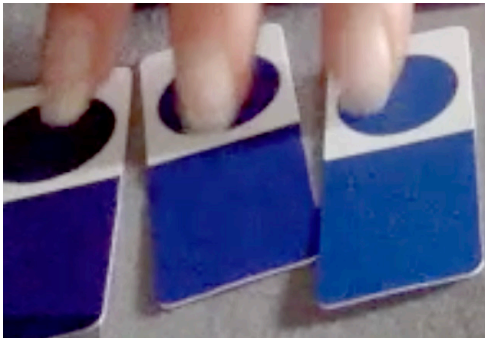
High School books and the stickers that you get - different colours for different subjects....I think it was those four. They were the main books .. Red for Maths, Green for Science ...I got on quite well at school and had good friends and stuff, so I probably enjoyed school more than most people!

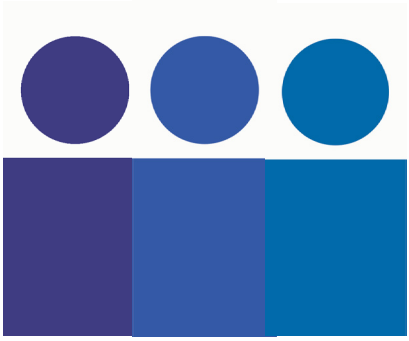
Maybe they’re the colours I learnt first and maybe I’m actually just bored of them? You see them everywhere and they’re not very exciting to me.

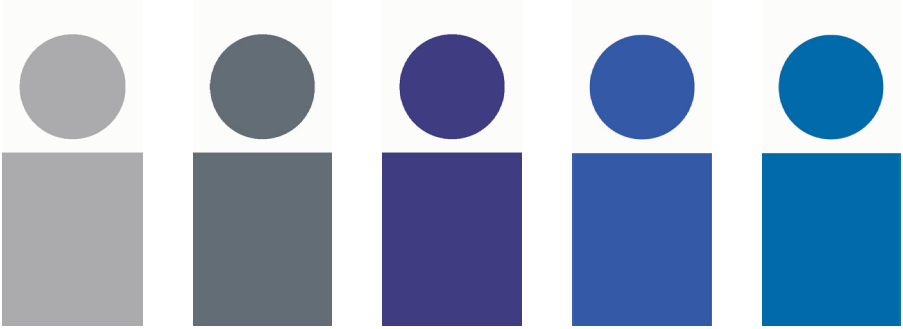
Although I love yellow I hate this kind of yellow

A pale lemon - no, I dont hate it – that's a bit dramatic! It's just my worst kind of yellow. Like a pale lemon yellow – but it's just my worst kind of yellow. I almost see it as a bit brash- its too primary a colour. Too much of a primary yellow –

Whereas that deep yellow I love





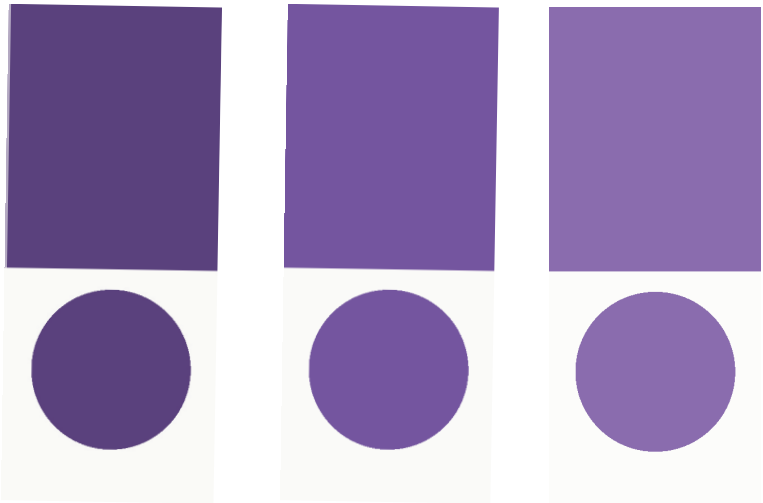


I really don’t like any dark blues

Brown and dark blue are like winter and I hate the winter. I like to get away from the cold. - anywhere cold or really, really, rainy - but more the cold because I dont really mind rain when its hot. Those are more more like dark and cold to me.

More so for the blues - just like cold, dark and I guess that the greys would go there with them like the weather.

That’s like a winter kind of sky.

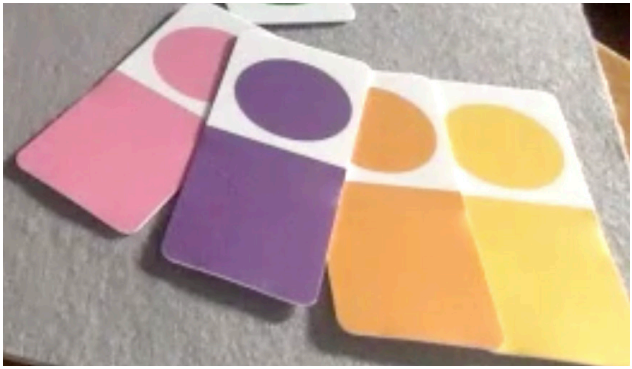


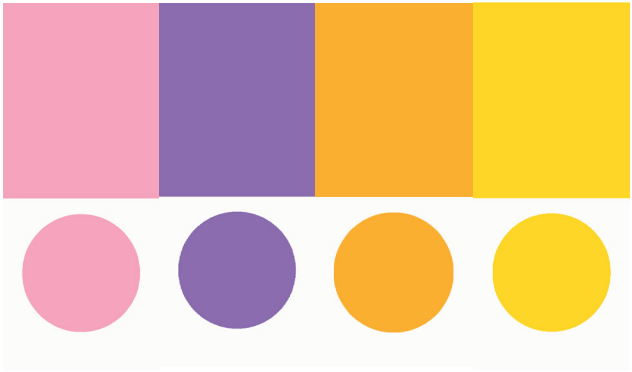
The purples

When I was a child, I always used to say it was my favourite colour. I don't think I ever really liked it I think everyone said it was their favourite colour so I just copied them. But now, I have got much more sure of myself and actually I really don't like purple at all, I just said it. I think it's probably from that I've gone from one extreme to the other. (purple to yellow)

I had a purple bedroom and all sorts. All false! I realise that now - but I am sure I used to think I liked it, but I don't think I ever really did.

I had a blue bedroom as well and I didn't like my blue bedroom definitely. But again, I think that was one of those colours that everyone liked, so I thought I should like it, but actually I really, really don't. Probably at the time I even less liked the blue one - but the purple one - I had convinced myself I liked purple.





Sometimes purple is lovely.. when you get it with orange.

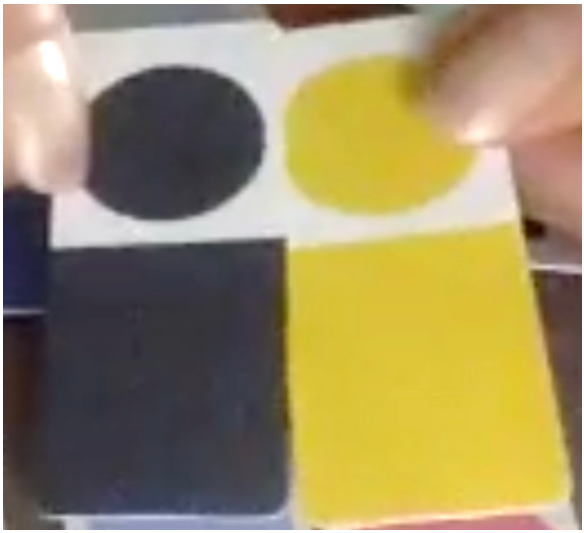
If you get a sunset like those four colours there.. That's an amazing combination when it all comes together in the sunset.

But on it's own, I don't like it.

I was going to a wedding a few years ago. It was on a beach in Greece, and I really wanted a yellow dress. I could not find a yellow dress any where. So it must have been- not on trend at that moment. I just had it in my head: it's a beach wedding in Greece : I want a yellow dress. I was shopping for ages. Weeks and weeks and weeks, and months and months. I was like, I need to find the perfect dress, and I couldn't find it anywhere. I thought I'll just have to wear a different one, that's fine, but I wasn't that happy. Then the day before we went, I just went to a secondhand shop and found one. I was so pleased! I couldnt find one anywhere - it's definitely like if you've got something in your head that you want and it's not on trend at that moment, it's impossible.

I do wonder how much of (what we like) is affected by - fashion trends - Is that why my favourite colour changes over the years and in five years, if you asked again would it be completely different because fashion and trends are completely different.

Or when you see someone else with it, - (and think) that's I want, but you can never find it.



I think – the greys - probably if they're combined or something to liven it up. If you put a grey with a yellow - like that - I think that's really nice.

Pattern

I don’t massively like checks. I like different kind of clashing patterns, sometimes as well.., I was looking at a painting I did earlier, (left) a heart shape with loads of different clashing patterns and clashing colours all together (in) different sections . My least favourite section is the red checkerboard section, I don’t really like the pattern or the colour. My favourites are the bottom yellow mandala section and the green vine section.

My favourite is to use acrylics but I do use watercolours quite a lot because when I was travelling in India once I was taking these photos and they were just rubbish and I was like - it's not showing what I'm actually seeing? - I just started painting instead. (It) just feels like I'm capturing what I'm seeing a bit better. It's not to show anybody really but just for me personally.

I can look back and go : - I remember that, because it has a bit more feeling than just a photo that doesn't really show what you're seeing. Whenever I go to a gallery - I love looking through the sketchbooks, the initial ideas, - kind of transitional - its not the finished product - you can see the process.

Personal Space

The perfect spot

It's interesting because when we use our tent, generally we don't go on a campsite, We do wild camping. So obviously there's quite a lot of thought that goes into where we do pitch our tent. We don't want to be discovered by some random walker - that's going to tell us to move on. But also, I want to you know, sleep somewhere nice? I want to make the most of my camping experience.

We were hiking the coast path this summer in Cornwall. My boy-friend, (who is very different to me), would just be like:" Let's go here?" And I'm like : No, this is not the perfect spot! I want to have a nice view. Hopefully somewhere I could watch the sunset. Some-where I'd feel quite secure. So it wouldn't be somewhere, you know, really exposed or where I thought someone was going to walk up on us, or something.

So we found a spot one night, - It was all - open fields everywhere, Buut then there was just this tiny little patch - four trees with a per-fect tent spot in the middle. - It was like 'Ah..': so we're not exposed anymore, we're - in a nice spot now. So yes, it's quite interesting when you think of it in terms of camping because. - you obviously start to look for the same sorts of things, - The same in different spots. So I think it's a bit about security and it's a bit about you.

You have a tiny space

You start to get into kind of routines and things - I wouldn't want my stuff to be particularly messy because obviously, you have tiny space..

So I make sure I have my bag at my feet, so that that's there for easy access if I need it, but then I've got all my space then for sleeping. - I've got a little pocket next to my head, so that I can put the things I need easy access to in there.

So I try and make it comfortable but also - kind of cosy. But you don't have much stuff to make it cosy. It's not like you're putting up fairy lights or anything! So I guess it's just about the positioning and like making sure you've got a comfortable pillow..

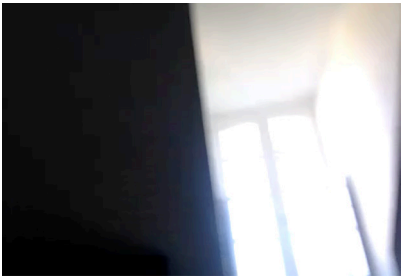
We've got a tiny little travel pillow each. They fold up really small -then you can open them out. They're surprisingly good. -. I've always had two pillows It took a few months to train myself to sleep with one pillow. I usually put a jumper underneath because - it's a tiny little thing - but it's comfy now. I'm used to it.

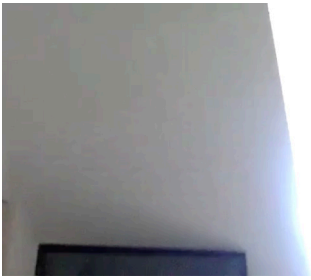
When you have only a very small number of posessions, it's about making those ones work for you.

I recently bought a new sleeping bag, because I just felt like my sleeping bag was not cosy. If this is going to be my bed for so long, then I want to feel that I want to get into it at the end of the day. Whereas the sleeping bag I had before was fine, but I just didn't feel cosy in it - I didn't feel like I was excited to get in it. Whereas I bought this new sleeping bag and I love it. I can't wait to get in it!

It's orange. I do like orange. But the main draw was the material. It's like not sleeping bag material inside because I always find - that's a bit like scratching on your nails and- you can hear it all the time. It's got that on the outside, because obviously that has a job that it does, but the inside, is like a kind of cotton and it's really comfortable and cosy. I can't wait to get in it!

When I was first buying one, I though I'll just buy the most practical - You know: it folds up small, does the job. Whereas, when I used it a lot - I was like: it's missing something. It might be practical, yes, but it's missing the cosy feeling.





Where are you now?

Northen France. Brittany - west coast - about 4 kilometres (from the sea). My parents. Obviously I don't live here and I never have, but there's definitely bits of the house I like more than others. - You go somewhere and - quite quickly you discover your favourite places and your favourite parts - .

So I really like this room that I'm in – because I really like this kind of stone wall - Also I'm on the top floor. All of the ceilings are - curved ? So it's really cosy up here. I quite like that. Downstairs (because it's a three floor house) the first two floors have got really high ceilings . I know that's really desirable, but actually I don't like it so much because I quite like to feel cosy. I quite like these rooms, where you can't stand up in the whole place and.- it's like coming back to my home!

But also I really like the window. They have these palm trees in the garden and you're at the height of the palm tree and it's lovely – a nice view from here

Makes you feel like you're somewhere tropical even when it's winter.

There are certain windows yiou can look out and see a tiny bit (of sea)

When I was thinking about spaces- I thinking about how it is all about the light in that room that I like, - and that does depend on the season. So if it's winter quite like a room where you can feel cosy. It might have a really nice lamp in the corner or something and you can kind of maybe still look out the window to see the cold weather, but be warm inside?

In summer, - it has to be - my favourite place would be maybe a room with a big patio door, so you are open to the outside, or something. So even the space is dependent on the season as well.

When I was thinking about my favourite part of this house, it's definitely actually the garden. But it's a bit too cold for me to sit out - the garden is lovely, yes.

They have four different doors out to the garden and the kitchen goes out onto the patio. It's like a big wide garden and there's lots of space and lots of different corners of the garden as well, which is quite nice. Different areas you can go to.

I think when you're looking at camping and things you have to really quickly make a judgment about a space - Turn up and think by the practicalities. Also when you are doing the cycling, you have to be cycling along and also on the lookout for the perfect space to camp. So it's like you have to teach yourself to make really sudden quick judgments about every place - So I imagine I do it automatically, without actually thinking about it anymore. I come into this garden and think - oh I love this space, without really necessarily knowing why? I am just doing it in my head automatically.

- Sometimes we will be out on a walk and and I think – oh this would be a great camping spot! Obviously that's not what most people are thinking. But it's just that my brains automatically doing that, - even though I'm not camping that day.!

Whenever I'm out on you know either hiking or cycling and I have got everything I need on me, that's when I feel the most free definitely.

Certainly - this last few months, this last year of Covid - not knowing when you can go somewhere.. .Definitely there's been quite a few occasions, where we have been trapped somewhere we didn't intend to stay. And the fact that I use the word 'trapped' ! - because actually we were staying in beautiful places! But it felt very trapped and like we were constrained somewhere we didn't necessarily want to be, because we want to be on the move.

So my boyfriend thinks about these kinds of things a lot and his theory is that everyone needs something new and interesting to keep their mind happy. A lot of people buy into capitalism and that's their 'new and interesting'. They are getting their new gadgets, new toys. -That is their way of keeping their life interesting, whereas ours is just to see a new place each day. And that you know there's no judgment either way - that's just the way we - choose to live our life and other people do.. (their way) . It's the same - underlying theory: it's just new things, keep us interested and motivated.

There's definitely something about newness that whatever it is that humans just innately want isn't there?

Also at different points in your life, I think you know. We've talked about you know what if ? How long will this Covid go on for? .. We don't know - What if we can't do our cycle trip? Wht if it just keeps getting postponed and postponed. What's next? We will have to really think about that. Right now that feels like really - *0000h*!

But there will come a point in my life, where I really want to feel settled and have a home, I'm sure. - When I'm feeling much more stable - But right now that's not what I want at all. So definitely I think there are different phases in your life as well.

When we were cycling and in a random forest and they suddenly announced a lockdown and we were like – oh god what are we going to do? It's those moments when we were like - if only we had a base, this would be easier. But it's definitely very fleeting . It's kind of like a panic response. It's like almost like: Oh well, if we just had you know somewhere more stable, this would be easier. But- actually it's not what we want, on a day to day.

It has been quite good with Covid - having had to stop and stay in place longer. (It was) kind of making us realise how much we really do want to be out moving, and travelling.