

Reflection midterm assessment

In this midterm reflection I will reflect on 2 things:

- My internship goals;
- My assessment criteria.

My internship goals.

When starting this internship, I set myself 5 goals that I wanted to achieve. During the midterm assessment I would like to reflect on those goals. I want to see how far I have gotten in reaching these goals or what I need to adjust/change to reach them. Hereby my written reflection on that:

- 1. By the end of the month August, I would like to understand the way of working at De Waag. I want to understand the machines, the organizational culture and know my coworkers' names and projects they are working on.*

So far, I understand the way of working at De Waag. De Waag has a very informal working structure where creatives, researchers and other visionaries come together to create knowledge and community through technology. While there are many different projects going on, I feel there is one leading thread through the whole organization that tries to keep them together: De Waag Breed. This is a monthly Monday morning meeting where all employees of De Waag come together to discuss the upcoming month of De Waag.

A project that is happening that is particularly interesting to me is the local color project. In this project, the Textile Lab (one floor above the Fablab) works on natural dyeing fabrics. I can use their wastewater to create biomaterials and experiment with coloration.

Another project that is happening that is particularly interesting to me is the hacked biomaterial printer. This printer has been hacked in the past year. I am now taking it over to create biomaterial prints with it.

Both these projects show the high emphasis on collaborative culture within the organization. One employee brings their knowledge to the table, then the next colleague continues with new knowledge. This way projects can flourish.

So far, I also understand all the machines. I have made a documentation for all the machines on my GitHub repository with steps on how to work with them. However, there are still things that I can learn even more, such as working with soft electronics.

- 2. By the end of the month September, I would like to have a clear understanding of my concept and which materials I could design for the creation of this concept. In order to achieve this, I will do research one day a week on my concept starting from August.*

I have a clear understanding of my concept. I wrote a research paper, and I did elaborate research on protest and peaceful protests. I know where civil disobedience comes from and how it has been used in history. Furthermore, I have done interviews with XR rebels, and I join the protests of XR once every two weeks to stay in contact with the target group.

- 3. By the end of October, I would like to be able to make chips to add to garments to create colors based on the heart rate of the wearer. In order to achieve this, I will work one day a week from September onwards on the chip machines and develop several chips to get an understanding of how they work.*

This is something I have not been able to achieve so far. My research on biomaterials has taken up more effort and this has been the reason why this goal has been taken out of the picture for a while. I am slowly working towards making chips, but since this goal is not the key of my concept, I want to keep this optional.

- 4. By the end of January, I would like to have researched around 30 biomaterials and fabricated materials (or a combination of them) and have those materials digitalized in an archive. In the months November, December and January I will work 2 days a week on developing and researching these materials.*

This goal I am still working on but is going according to plan. I have documented much research on my materials already. The materials that I have made have been tested on a variety of outcomes to make sure I would be able to integrate them into a garment. Furthermore, I have tested them on coloration and I am working currently on a 3D printer to print the finishings for my garments.

- 5. By the end of January, I would like to have a full digital document (via a website) that shows my work. In order to create this, I will work half a day each week during my whole internship period to upload and visualize my process.*

This goal is also still manageable. So far, I am thinking of leaving the biomaterial research phase by the end of Dec. By the beginning of January, I will have to start digitalizing and testing them.

Assessment criteria:

Now that I have reflected on my goals I also quickly want to reflect on the assessment criteria. I want to see how my internship and my work here connects to those criteria.

RESEARCH

1. *Has broad knowledge of and insight into the role that the internship position has.*
2. *Has broad knowledge of and insight into the internship company and how it is connected to the fashion industry.*

I see the role of my internship position and understand the machines and my job during the open day. However, I can also see that my intern colleague has much more understanding of engineering than I have. Mainly because he is studying engineering (and I study fashion). Having written this, I also see that the Fablab is a very engineering focused place. However, this does not mean that there is no room for other disciplines such as fashion. Many of the methods and products used or created through engineering, are also used or can be used in fashion. With this I mean the 3D printers, the lasercutters, the Modela machine, but also the methods of working, such as the technical drawings, the precise measurements and the usage of prototyping (toiling).

However, I do not have extensive knowledge on the machines and I see that my position as fashion designer lacks some of the knowledge. Therefore the combination of 2 interns where one has a more technical background is really helping me understanding much of the basic knowledge sooner.

DECISION MAKING

1. *Is able to develop complex, innovative and strategic solutions that align with a complex context.*
2. *Makes choices based on relevant data and considers social, professional and ethical aspects.*

I have made many choices based on the data that I have created in my research. I am testing all the biomaterials I create and choose how to work further on them based on the tests that I do with them. Furthermore, I ask input from teachers and other creatives that have more knowledge on the project. They give me good hand-on tips that I can then further implement in my work. One of those examples is having a sit down with Sam Edens to see how I can further improve my biomaterials. She helped me by stirring me more into the direction of the wool hairs and how to use their properties even more in the material.

Furthermore, I think I have been able to show innovative solutions that align with complex content. I show first of collaboration in all my work where I want to give and receive information from colleagues, teachers, and people around me to bring a solution to one of the most complex problems that I have throughout my project: letting the biomaterials work as fabrics. By doing this I need to make sure that the materials stay biodegradable but also keep the strongness that regular cotton and polyester have as well.

ACTUALISATION:

- 1. Demonstrates a professional approach from a fashion perspective.*
- 2. Takes action in an innovative, responsible and creative matter.*
- 3. The product/the service has been executed at a professional level, both on the content and form*
- 4. Is able to translate a persuasive and personal vision into a product/service for the fashion industry.*

I am translating a very persuasive and personal vision into a product for the fashion industry. I think there is a market for biodegradable materials in the fashion industry and I think there are more consumers than many people within the industry now think that are interested in these materials/garments. I also think the reasoning behind my project is original and personal. It shows how I want to take responsibility for a toxic, polluting, and highly unsustainable industry that I will be working in after AMFI. It is an industry that I would like to see change radically and I think I show this by creating this project.

PRESENTATION:

- 1. Communicative persuasively, authentically and at a professional level, with consideration for the complex context.*

By creating the Github repository I hope to work within the DNA of De Waag. The way of setting up the repository shows, hopefully, an organized and authentic manner. Using the XR coloration to show what I am working on each week. However, the whole presentation of my project is still under construction, as it is sometimes difficult to see how I need to present something that I haven't done yet.

REFLECTION:

- 1. Develops in learning goals/competencies through reflection on own work and actions.*
- 2. Is open to feedback/feedforward reflects and act, accordingly, takes responsibility for own conduct.*

I reflect on the research that I do and make choices based on these reflections. However, there is not a weekly written reflection on my process documentation.

ORGANIZATION:

1. Takes responsibility for their own work and the study process.
2. Demonstrates a sustainable and ethical attitude during the internship work activities.
3. Takes responsibility for self-development and results of own work. Enters into active collaboration within/outside of the company to achieve learning and project goals.

I am showing an active collaboration between De Waag, AMFI and myself by combining the internship with my graduation project. In doing this I take responsibility in the work that I make by constantly updating my graduation teachers in this. I openly communicate to De Waag every time I have to leave to give my AMFI teachers updates and I communicate the presentations of the concept check, interim check and the red/green light check to both parties. On top of that I communicate all the work that I do through my Github repository, and I keep this up to date so that anyone can always see what I am working on.