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**Moving the Bust Dart: Fashion  
Designer, Sylvia Ayton's Relationship  
with Pattern Cutting**

Sylvia Ayton:.. Photographed at Wallis c. 1990.  
Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



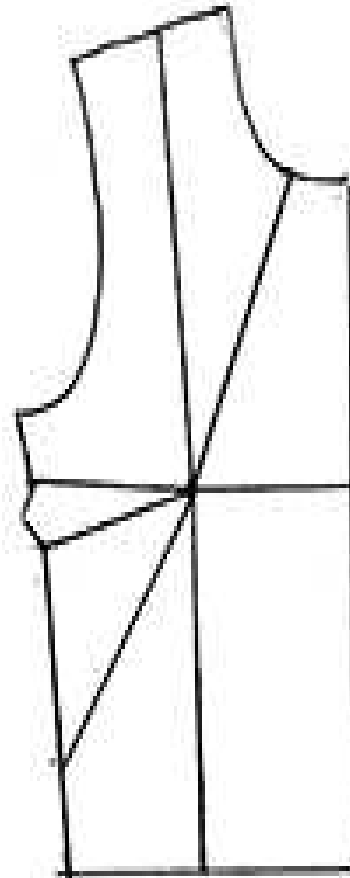
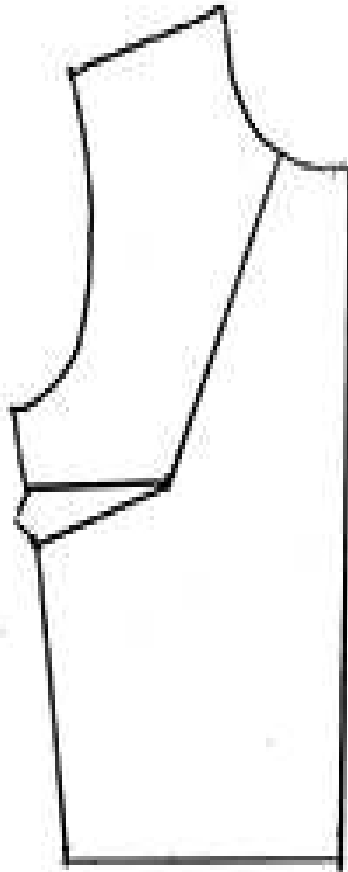
Sylvia Ayton c.1986 with her pattern cutter fitting a coat toile. Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



# Research Aims

- Document the fashion designer, Sylvia Ayton's relationship with pattern cutting using her archive as primary source material.
- Consider Ayton's experience of pattern cutting as a designer for different markets and assess the merits of these different roles in a creative and skills based context.
- Appraise the thinking, practices and paradigms of pattern cutting during a fashion designer's career and its value within today's global fashion industry.

The bust dart. Drawing and photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



Pattern for a doll's dress by Sylvia Ayton. Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



Sylvia Ayton design for a printed wool mohair coat suitable for evening or theatre wear c. 1960.  
Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.

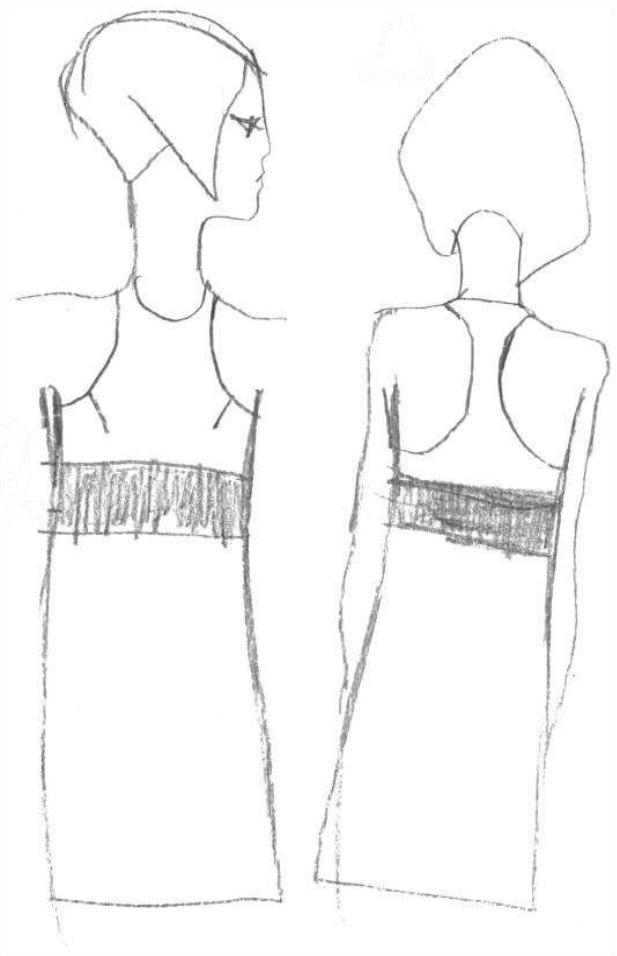




Sylvia Ayton design for a sleeveless wool crepe dress c. 1964. Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



Sylvia Ayton mid-1960s dress and pattern with bust darts. Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



Sylvia Ayton dress with Zandra Rhodes print c.1968.  
Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



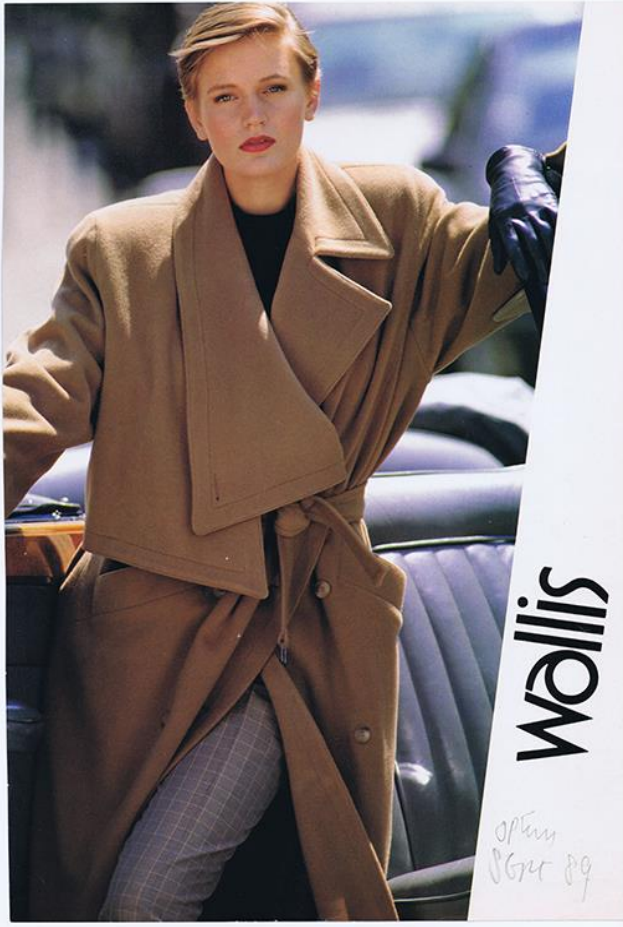
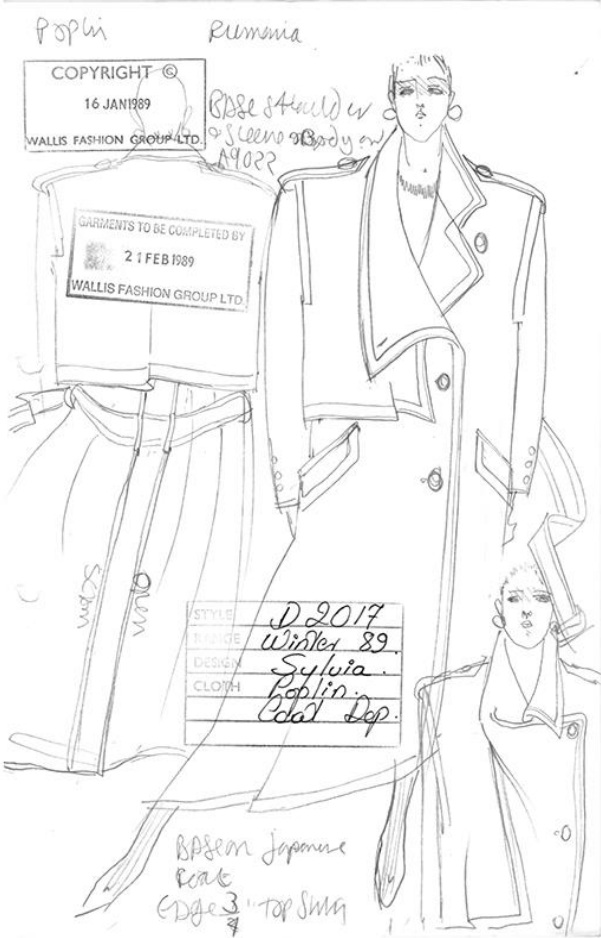
Sylvia Ayton designs from the mid 1960s. Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



Coat design for interview with Jeffrey Wallis 1969.  
Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



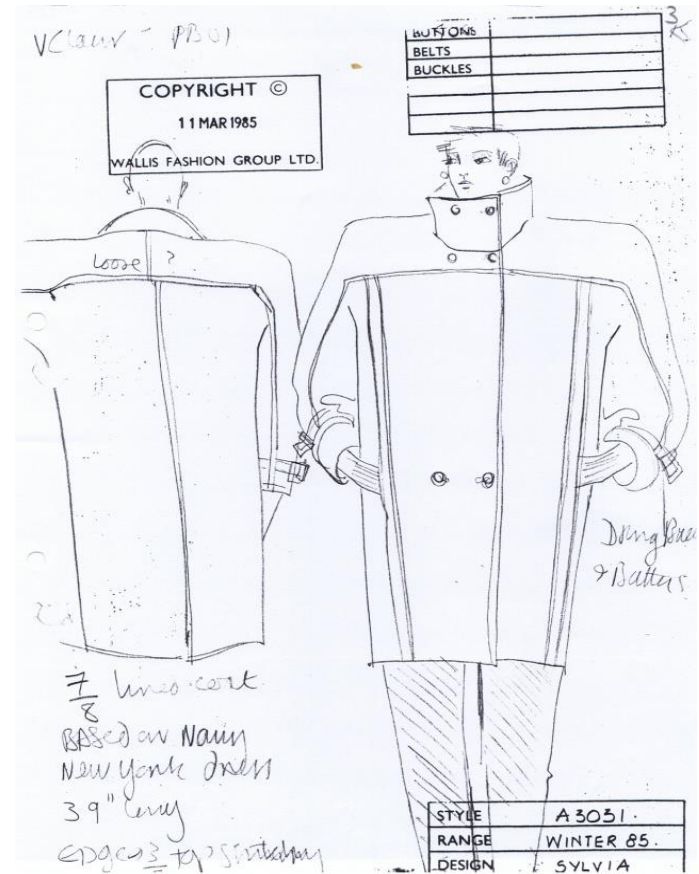
Sylvia Ayton design drawing with high illustrative content and the finished coat c.1989. Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton and Wallis.



Wide shoulder coat design by Sylvia Ayton for Wallis, 1987. *Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton and Wallis.*



# T shape sample and coat design 1985. Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton and Wallis.





Experiments with circular shapes. Photograph courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



From voluminous cutting to restrained minimalism.  
Photographs courtesy of Sylvia Ayton.



# Key Skills for a Pattern Cutting Journey

- The ability to draw as a vital aspect of both design and pattern cutting - **DRAWING**
- Pattern making is a continuation of the drawing skill – seeing the drawing come to life - **CREATIVITY**
- The design sketch needs to be readable enough to for the pattern cutter, the machinist and the factory to produce the garment – **TECHNICAL SKILLS**
- Respect and admiration for the role of the pattern cutter - **RESPECT**
- The creative approach being a merger of design and pattern cutting skills – to be seen as one holistic set of skills – **MERGING OF SKILLS**
- Excellent communication with the pattern cutter to ensure the finished garment looks like the design. - **COMMUNICATION**
- Communication and commitment to deadlines - **DEADLINES**
- Commitment to work – **WORK-ETHIC**

# Key Words

- Drawing
- Creativity
- Technical Skills
- Respect
- Merging of Skills
- Communication
- Deadlines
- Work Ethic

Thank You