

Feeney Fellowship - Final Report

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The Feeney Fellowship has given me the invaluable support I needed to explore some ideas within making that I would otherwise not have had. It has provided grounding from which I can explore new avenues in my practice.

There were primary aspects of my practice that I was keen to develop within the Fellowship including moulding and casting and developing approaches and knowledge in relation to sensorial food making.

Successes:



Tasting Shape event images

I collaborated with designer Adam Carthy in an exploration of the impact of materials on flavour and sensuality. We presented '*Tasting Shape*' at Birmingham Design Festival, 2019. This interactive event invited audiences to use their tongues, lips and mouths to lick, suck and caress – exploring the pleasures of taste and texture combined. Using a series of six textured 'plates' we began to explore the symbiotic relation of food and object, and how this affects our sensory perception. Next steps will not only consider surface and taste, but open up wider concerns around ergonomics, gesture and embodiment.



Prep (L) and Tasting Shape Menu (R)

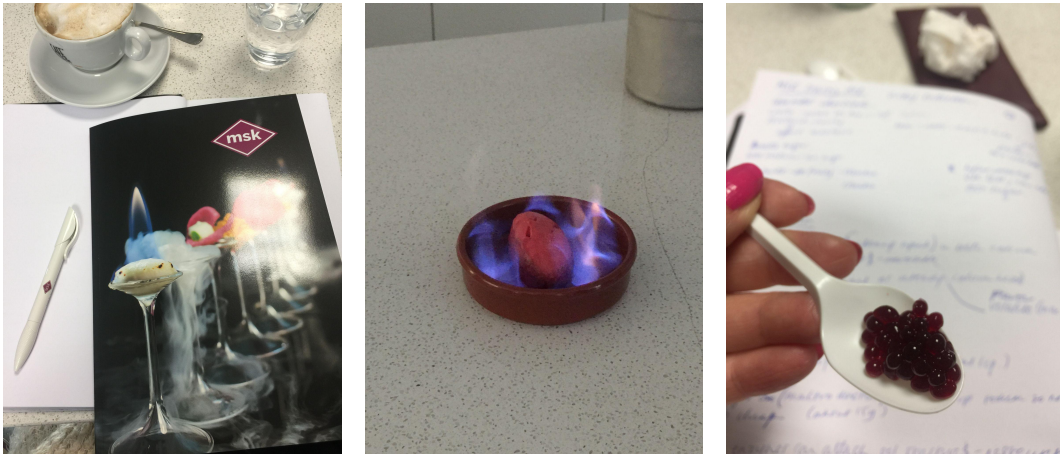


Fire clay tests

I spent some time with artist Suzi Osbourne talking about the properties of clay and the potential of ceramics to create sensual tablewares. We tested out a few ideas which were successful, however progress was interrupted due to my illness/Covid lockdowns but I have the materials to pick up this research with her at a convenient time.



Surface/texture in clay



Research images

I attended a Molecular Gastronomy Course with MSK, which gave an overview into the tools and ingredients of molecular cooking, some of which I have since used in project development. The award afforded me the opportunity to buy a kit, and a few pieces of equipment that I can use with food preparation in the studio, as well as some moulds that I will continue to subvert and use with slip casting.



Chocolate surfaces

Challenges:

Unfortunately my Fellowship was interrupted by a 5 month illness immediately followed by Covid 19 . Access to my studio was limited, my physical ability to work was hindered and my capacity to work within lockdown and preceding months was impeded. However, what I managed to achieve was still significant given these constraints and has given me insight and direction into my next steps.

I was not able to accomplish everything to the standard and rigour that I wanted to within the timeframe but I believe that the investment from Feeney has afforded me the opportunity to continue these lines of enquiry. I have the contacts, materials and equipment for my next steps, which is a welcome light at the end of a series of societal, and personal, challenges.