

# EMILY LACOMBA

Textile Innovation Designer

## Academic Experience

### Transdisciplinary Textile Initiative Workshop

4/2025 - Present

- Prototype tactical apparel and gear using Bemis' EverFit™ Sewfree® adhesives through AFFOA's Transdisciplinary Workshop, targeting commercial and Department of Defense applications.
- Apply material innovation to solve performance challenges in tactical gear, leveraging athlete insights and use-case testing to guide adhesive integration.

### Performance Knitting Independent Study

3/2025 - Present

- Execute a 10-week independent performance knitting study focused on ventilation, insulation, lockout, stretch, and 3D support zones for athletic apparel.
- Design, fabricate, and lab-test functional knit swatches weekly, translating athlete needs into material strategies through structured experimentation and technical analysis.

### Textile Sustainability Research Assistant

1/2025 - Present

- Work under Director of Sports Product Design at University of Oregon in research focused on sustainable textiles, recycling methodologies, and their broader impact.
- Responsibilities include attending meetings, document findings, organizing ideas effectively, and performing comparative analyses of textile waste mitigation strategies.

### Responsive Materiality, Thesis Development

9/2022 - 6/2023

- Created a collection of knitted materials capable of detecting environmental/biometric changes and responding interactively through vibrations, LEDs, and sound.
- Demonstrated effectiveness of wearable technology in responding to real-time stimuli, highlighting future applications in medical, sports, and safety fields.

### Footwear Materials Design

1/2023 - 6/2023

- Engineered knitted footwear materials for three climbing shoes tailored for extreme outdoor conditions.
- Collaborated cross-functionally with footwear, color, 3D print, and fibers teams, focusing on sustainability and circular design principles for lasting impact.

### Advanced Knitwear for Fashion

1/2023 - 4/2023

- Completed intensive course on flatbed industrial knitting machines and design-a-knit software.
- Translated concepts, color, and mood boards into an eight-look collection of fully-fashioned and cut-and-sewn knitwear garments for A/W 24-25.

## Contact

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[Portfolio](#)

## Education

### Masters of Science

Sports Product Design

University of Oregon

Sep. 2024-Present

### Bachelor of Fine Arts

Fibers

Savannah College of Art and Design

*summa cum laude*

2021-2023

## Awards

### FIT Sport Design Awards

Material design for three winning prototypes

2023

### International Design Awards

Bronze in Accessory Design

2023

### Global Footwear Awards

Sock Development for

Footwear Design of the Year

2023

### Barbara L. Kuhlman Foundation

Fiber Arts Scholarship

2021-2022 & 2022-2023

### International Design Awards

Honorable Mentions in Garment

Concepts, Textile Design, & Sleepwear

2022

### SCAD Foundations Honors Show

Second Place in Life Drawing

2021

## Skills

### Core Competencies

Verbal and written Communication	Problem-solving
Color Theory	Trend Forecasting
Fashion Design	Sustainability
	Material Expertise

### Software

Photoshop	Procreate
InDesign	CLO-3D
Illustrator	Arduino
Keynote	Rhinoceros 3D

### Technical

Flatbed Knitting	Dyes/Finishes
Harness Weaving	Print/Graphics
Industrial Sewing	Laser Cutting
Screen Printing	3D Printing