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Ideas of Exchange

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This lack of a need for a verbal language became clear when collaborating with the Indian makers. We understood each other through a common approach to making textiles, our methods relied on the way we held a fabric, assessed it through touch, just watching one another work. It seemed that what had previously been missing was the lack of understanding of the approach to making, the order that techniques might be placed in, this was only fully understood by the manufacturers when we were able to demonstrate our approach.

We observed several methods of production whilst in India. The area around Delhi being mainly large-scale factory based production, concerned with machine manufacturing on Industrial sewing machines.

Slide 4 Man at sewing machine in Delhi factory.

The fabrics I developed for my initial collection used machine embroidery. We were lent an industrial machine to use in the office in Delhi; sampling on this machine helped me to understand some of the restrictions of working on this type of equipment. Later I shared Machine techniques such as Bobbin Relief and Italian Quilting with some of the makers. Our approach to constructing stitch mirrored one another's, but in this factory all dyeing of grounds took place before stitch was applied. This was due to the large scale set up of the factory where there was a certain procedure to follow, this didn't allow for flexibility in the stages of production. Thus not facilitating the chance things that can happen when two