

FASHION EXHIBITION

10.12.2025 – 10.01.2026



REmade
in EU

28 VISIONS OF
SUSTAINABLE FASHION

Europa Experience
Multimedia Space
14/16A Jasna Street
Warsaw

SUSTAINABLE FASHION AND EUROPEAN LEGISLATION



28 visions of sustainable fashion

This exhibition showcases 28 fashion designers from across the European Union and Ukraine who design their pieces using upcycling or ethical and sustainable practices. It also invites visitors to discover the actions being taken at European and French level to limit the negative environmental and social impacts of certain practices in the textile industry – one of the most polluting industries in the world.

We aim to show that, in every country, creative forces are rethinking fashion and proving that a responsible approach can give rise to pieces that are as desirable as they are diverse : everyday outfits, evening dresses and haute couture creations. The selection on display illustrates the diversity of styles and expertise, echoing the European motto: 'United in diversity'.

Upcycling is not a new invention: our grandmothers already practised it at a time when raw materials were scarce and precious. Today, it is being revived in a modern form, driven by the realization that we are producing and throwing away more and more new clothes.



Europa Experience is a free, interactive space dedicated to Europe in the heart of Warsaw. It is an innovative venue that allows visitors to embark on an immersive, fun, and educational European adventure.

Supported by the European institutions and located at Jasna 14/16A, Europa Experience Warsaw presents a permanent interactive exhibition that is free to access and open to the public every day except Sunday.

This space on two floors takes the public on a unique experience. Through a multimedia journey, augmented reality installations, and a 360° cinema, visitors travel through the European Union, discover its successes and challenges, experience the daily lives of other European citizens, and immerse themselves in the making of European politics.

All content is available in the 24 official languages of the European Union and is accessible to visitors with reduced mobility and hearing impairments. A device for blind or visually impaired visitors is also available.

HOW EUROPE IS TAKING ACTION AGAINST TEXTILE WASTE

On average, each European generates 12 kg of clothing and footwear waste per year. Across the European Union, this represents 5.2 million tonnes out of a total of 12.6 million tonnes of textile waste generated annually. The impact on our environment is considerable: manufacturing a single cotton T-shirt requires 2,700 litres of fresh water, equivalent to one person's drinking water needs for 2.5 years. Yet less than 1% of textiles are recycled worldwide.

To tackle this problem, in September 2025 the Members of the European Parliament adopted new anti-waste rules, revising a 2008 European directive on waste management in the European Union. At the initiative of the Members of the European Parliament, it now includes a sector that was not previously covered: the textile industry.

According to the 'polluter-pays' principle, producers in the sector will have to ensure the collection, sorting and recycling of end-of-life clothing and bear the cost. Online platforms and companies from third countries selling their products in the European Union will be subject to the same obligations, while micro-enterprises will be given an extra year to comply with the new rules.

It will be up to Member States to implement the new producer responsibility schemes. The lifespan of products will be taken into account when determining the financial compensation companies must pay – a way of targeting fast fashion and ultra-fast fashion practices.

European Union countries will have 20 months after the new directive comes into force to transpose the rules into their national legislation.

At the same time, European Union Member States have already been required since 1 January 2025 to organise the systematic collection of textile waste, an obligation that relies on the creation of selective collection points in cities.



WHAT OTHER EUROPEAN LAWS PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FASHION ?

While the Waste Framework Directive is emblematic, other recent European laws have major implications for the sustainability of the textile sector :

The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

This regulation, which came into force in July 2024, establishes a framework to ensure the sustainability, reparability and recyclability of products. Products subject to eco-design requirements will need to have an online passport and be uniquely identified. The destruction of unsold clothing, clothing accessories and footwear will be banned by 2026, and other categories could be added in the future.

The Unfair Commercial Practices Directive

In 2024, the European Parliament adopted new rules to better protect consumers from misleading commercial practices and combat greenwashing. From 2026 onwards, only sustainability claims based on rigorous certification will be permitted.

The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

Adopted in April 2024, the Due Diligence Directive requires large companies, under penalty and sanctions, to prevent and remedy both human rights violations and environmental damage throughout their value chain, anywhere in the world, including among their suppliers, subcontractors and subsidiaries. Its application has recently been postponed until 2028 for large companies that employ more than 5,000 people and have a turnover of more than €1.5 billion.

Towards a tax on small parcels ?

In February 2025, the European Commission proposed imposing a €2 charge on each small parcel entering Europe in order to limit the influx of products purchased on e-commerce platforms outside the European Union, such as Temu or Shein, which may pose compliance issues and escape customs duties. As part of ongoing negotiations, the European Parliament is calling for guarantees that the proposed charges will not penalise European consumers.



Table of contents



01	GERMANY	Talbot Runhof X Bellevue Couture
02	AUSTRIA	Marlen Sabetzer
03	BELGIUM	Julie Menuge
04	BULGARIA	Nikolay Bozhilov
05	CYPRUS	Michalis Pantelidis
06	CROATIA	Helen Kelen
07	DENMARK	Katrine Ravndal
08	SPAIN	Maurice Martínez
09	ESTONIA	Reet Aus
10	FINLAND	Sofia Ilmonen
11	FRANCE	Elena Feit
12	GREECE	Unsung Weavers
13	HUNGARY	Sara Balint
14	IRELAND	Aisling Duffy



15	ITALY	Marco Rambaldi
16	LATVIA	Zaiga Brutāne
17	LITHUANIA	Reda Paula
18	LUXEMBOURG	Devi Clothing
19	MALTA	Luke Azzopardi
20	NETHERLANDS	Ronald van der Kemp
21	POLAND	Jackob Buczynski
22	PORTUGAL	Béhen
23	CZECHIA	La femme Mimi
24	ROMANIA	Alexandra Șipa
25	SLOVAKIA	Mata Durikovic
26	SLOVENIA	Zala Hrastar
27	SWEDEN	Bea Szenfeld
28	UKRAINE	Ksenia Schnaider



Ahead of the European elections on June 9 2024, Talbot Runhof and Bellevue Couture are making a bold and elegant statement: using fashion to remind us that every vote strengthens our democracy. Europe unites – and this spirit is reflected in the collaboration between Talbot Runhof and the Munich-based upcycling studio Bellevue Couture. For the European Parliament Liaison Office in Munich, the Europe dress is clear proof of the powerful link between creativity and democracy. With their masterpiece, Talbot Runhof and Bellevue Couture are making a bold statement for democracy and a strong Europe.



Germany TALBOT RUNHOF X BELLEVUE COUTURE

01

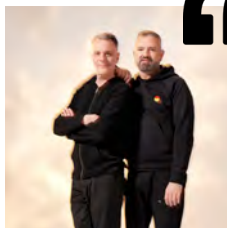
Bellevue Couture handcrafted the elaborate patchwork for this stunning Europe dress – a one-of-a-kind creation made from colorful leftover fabrics from **Talbot Runhof**.

The design incorporates fragments of European flags from Talbot Runhof's production, along with the bold message : «Vote». Now more than ever, the European Union matters. Now more than ever, every single vote counts !

About the collaboration between Talbot Runhof and Bellevue Couture: it all began with a visit to the Bellevue di Monaco refugee project on Munich's Müllerstraße. In late summer 2019, Johnny Talbot and Adrian Runhof had the opportunity to visit the on-site sewing workshop – a community space initiated by Munich costume designer Kissi Baumann, who teams up with Angelina Adwoa Boadu. The aim: to provide a creative meeting point where participants could bring their own ideas to life using sewing machines.



Europe unites.»





The Denim Dress is made of approximately 8-10 pair of jeans, using mostly the pocket-parts. All the pockets are intended usable, «facing up», which is sometimes not thought of when upcycling garments. The fabric pieces are left with their function and character, overlapping on the edges next to each other and sewn together. Additional lining was used to make the skirt smoother on the inside and some handstitched details were added to enhance the «blue jeans character».

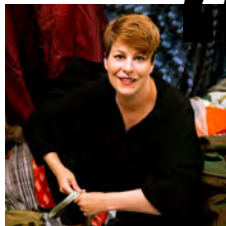


Austria MARLEN SABETZER

02

The label «MarS» goes back to 2010, when **Marlen Sabetzer** started creating bags out of lanyards. The fashion label started with upcycling products and the designer continued to create unique garments, always mixing upcycling elements in her design. Products by MarS are colourful, sparkly or structured. The designer works with all kinds of fabrics and lately began to implement artistic touches and crafts, like knotting, embroidery and painting in the garments. MarS showcased collections at the Vienna Fashion Week twice so far and was part of a collective charity show with upcycling garments in 2024. Marlen Sabetzer won the first official call for designers for the «Couture Salon», dressing ballet dancers for the Viennese Opera Ball. The designer grew up in southern Austria, was first taught how to sew by her mother and started making her own dresses at age 16. She studied Theatre and Filmstudies at the University of Vienna adding her fashion education after her graduation.

The designer's motto in terms of sustainability is: there is no «bad» fabric and a products sustainability is never defined solely by the material but rather by a combination of factors such as production, water usage, transport etc. Higher quality clothing and longer usage of garments are essential. The key to sustainability according to Marlen Sabetzer is reduction and limitation of garment production. She sews every garment herself or produces in a local workshop in Vienna.



I think of the European Union as a family.»

«This garment is a piece of wearable art. It is the result of a textile experiment consisting of diamond shapes buttoned together and entirely detachable. It is a collection of golden fragments that I have gathered and collected over the years in the city of Brussels. Vintage floral fabrics, gold lamé weave encrusted with paisley patterns, double-layered handmade tie-dye cotton voile, pieces of restored curtains, and printed wax cotton. Each piece is surrounded by vintage buttons and ribbon fasteners made one by one in the same gold bias binding. They provide both the material and the structure for an infinite number of possible shapes.»





Belgium JULIE MENUGE

03

Based in Brussels, **Julie Menuge** embroidered for Haute Couture, designed costumes for the entertainment world, and exhibited in museums before launching her artisanal and upcycled fashion brand. Her unique pieces are rich in fabrics that she has been collecting all her life. Julie cultivates the art of assembling fabrics.



I see Europe as a patchwork of different neighboring countries in which people and goods circulate.»

«The outfit combines two garments. The first is created using a zero-waste pattern-making technique. It is based on a square form that can be transformed into different shapes, producing sculptural elements. It can be worn in multiple ways, giving the wearer the ability to transform their look — which reflects an important part of my design philosophy. The material is a blended wool with a protective layer. The second garment is a handmade slim fit dress created through a self-developed technique of hand-knitting and it's made with USB and charging cables. This method highlights sustainability by reusing available resources and emphasizes craftsmanship through the fully handmade process.»



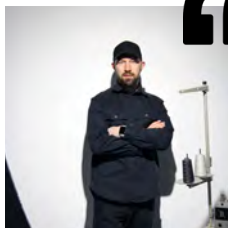


Bulgaria NIKOLAY BOZHILOV

04

Nikolay Bozhilov is a Bulgarian fashion designer whose work merges sculptural functionality with a balance between nature and technology. PhD graduate of the National Academy of Arts in Sofia and co-founder of the creative space CONETS, he has received international recognition, including the Triumph Inspiration Award in London, the "Golden Needle" prize, the OFFFASHION Prize in Poland, the Big See Award, and the Kyoto Design Award. His sustainable collections have been showcased at major fashion weeks and design events across Europe.

Crédits photos : Nikolay Bozhilov



“

For me, the European Union is a leading force in shaping a sustainable and technological future.»

«The Red Forest caftan is a collage of wastelands in Nicosia, Cyprus, highlighting the idea of value: if we can turn trash into colorful, joyful scarves, perhaps we can do the same with our "inner trash." I work with recycled polyester from the Netherlands and silk ethically produced in Soufli, Greece, supporting local communities while minimizing environmental impact.»





Cyprus MICHALIS PANTELIDIS

05

Michalis Pantelidis is a Greek-Cypriot fashion designer and fashion textiles lecturer at a college in Cyprus, with experience in couture in Amsterdam, embroideries in Italy, and retail in Paris. His work explores the intersection of art, heritage, and sustainability through contemporary fashion.

Through his campaigns, he educates clients to wear his scarves all year round, in multiple ways, and attach personal stories to them—encouraging respect, care, and preventing them from being discarded. His work carries a message about consumer responsibility—when we throw things away, there is no “away”.



The European Union represents collaboration, cultural exchange, and shared values.»

The Voltage dress is crafted in neon yellow and black leftover fabrics, primarily stretch cotton with elastane and mixed textile blends. Each piece was cut according to a pre-drawn pattern and assembled on an overlock machine. The contrasting seams are sewn on the outside rather than the conventional inside, emphasising the construction as a design element. Using a collage-like technique, the individual fragments are merged into a cohesive garment. The dress easily adapts to different body shapes and is designed for the dance floor.





Croatia HELEN KELEN

06

Helen Kelen is a fashion designer focused on creating ready-to-wear unisex garments that blend elements of protection, fetish aesthetics, and cyber-inspired silhouettes. Her work is grounded in sustainability through the use of upcycling—transforming second-hand clothing and leftover materials into new, experimental forms. Each piece explores identity, transformation, and challenges fast fashion norms.



For me, the European Union enables cultural exchange that enriches our practices and our futures.»



The outfit is an upcycled bridal set made from old bedspreads from Denmark. The skirt and top is made from a lace bedspread and features an adjustable back on the top as well as an adjustable waistband on the skirt, making the set fit from size 34-40.

The coat is made from a bedspread with roses and has drawstrings on the sleeves and in the waist to change both the size and appearance.

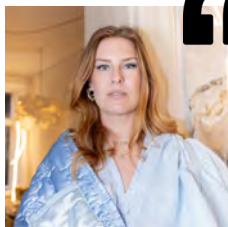


Denmark KATRINE RAVNDAL

07

In 2022, **Katrine Ravndal** quit her job as COO and began sewing as a way to cope with stress, discovering both calm and creativity in the process. In 2023, she founded Over Skyerne (English: Above the Clouds), a brand specialising in adjustable occasion wear made exclusively from secondhand materials such as bedspreads, curtains, and tablecloths. She also offers workshops and video patterns to inspire others to sew sustainably using reclaimed fabrics.

Crédits photos : Josephine Celine



For me, the EU represents being part of something greater than ourselves.»

Every detail seen in this dress created by MauMar Couture comes from one of those special occasions attended by the designer or by his friends and people in his circle. Together, they have taken on the task of collecting these details and then turning them into fantastical and dazzling dresses. Recycling can be fun and inspiring. The exposed look is paired with a headpiece made in collaboration with designer Piluka Suárez.





Spain MAURICE MARTÍNEZ

08

With each design, **Maurice** tells a story. His creations encourage the imagination to run wild, so that each design evokes very different emotions in each viewer.

Even as a child in the Dominican Republic, Maurice Martínez came into contact with fabrics, needles, and thread in his uncle's tailor shop.

His brand, MauMar Couture, has been intensively involved in recycling and upcycling since its inception. Unconventional materials and a different perspective on ideas and concepts result in unique couture, often one-of-a-kind pieces that invite you to dream.

The Left Over concept is one of the ways his fashion deals with sustainability. Decorative materials from various events such as weddings or birthdays that are no longer needed (leftovers) end up in a unique piece of clothing.

The idea of using materials that others no longer want and would otherwise be discarded ends up at MauMar Couture's sewing machine. The result is not seasonal collections, but „favorite pieces“ that are meant to accompany the wearer forever.



“Europe means harmony between cultures. Europe is freedom, freedom to be, to create, and to share.”



The arrow motif up-shirt is a timeless classic from Reet Aus. UPMADÉ® certified. It was made using leftover materials, meets international labour standards, and avoids restricted hazardous chemicals.

Material: 100% upcycled fabric.

Fabric composition: 90% cotton, 10% polyester.

Each garment saves on average 75% water, and 88% energy and emits 80% less CO₂.

Factory: Mirafo, Poland



Estonia
REET AUS

09

Reet Aus is a PhD-qualified fashion designer and environmental activist, a natural rebel who founded REET AUS COLLECTION®. She is a pioneer in the field of industrial upcycling for fashion and has developed the UPMade certification to share her knowledge with brands and factories.



To me, the European Union is essential because it enables me to collaborate with like-minded individuals across Europe to advance sustainable fashion.»



This dress is handcrafted using a modular, transformable technique, consisting of ten individual modules that can be combined in multiple ways to create different silhouettes.

The main material is silk organza, pleated by l'Atelier Lognon, while the loop tape forms the structural framework. 3D-printed components - including unique two-headed buttons, cord locks, and decorative pearls - are integrated to enable adjustability and adaptability, serving both as functional seam structures and as beautiful design details.



Finland SOFIA ILMONEN


10

Sofia Ilmonen is a Finnish fashion designer whose work explores modular transformable design as a pathway to more sustainable fashion. Her garments are built from squareshaped modules, joined with a unique fastening system that allows endless reassembly without sewing. This approach extends garment lifespans, reduces waste, and makes the pieces sizeless and adaptable for different bodies and occasions. Her work has been showcased internationally, earning recognition such as the Mercedes-Benz Sustainability Prize at the Festival de Hyères and visibility across leading global platforms.

Sustainability is at the heart of Sofia's design process. By creating garments that can be continuously reassembled, she challenges the short lifespan of fashion and offers an inclusive, circular alternative where creativity and responsibility meet.



Europe provides a platform where design can drive change, shaping a more responsible and connected future.»



The cape:
Made from the most exquisite
Haute-Couture tweed dead
stocks, the long cape in
patchwork is a statement
piece that shows that
upcycling can be desirable
and make people dream.
The lining is natural cotton
taken from sheets of
a Palace hotel in Paris.
Nothing is left over.

The jumpsuit :
From crepe silk Haute-Couture
dead stock. The finitions
are made from tweed
left over.



Credits photos : Jacques Burga



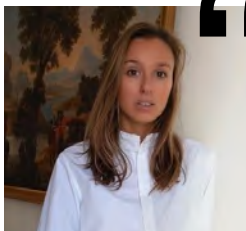
France Elena Feit THE ETHIQUETTE

11

Founded by a young Parisian, **Elena Feit/THE ETHIQUETTE** is a Prêt-à-Couture House whose seasonless drops are designed and created in Paris from Haute-Couture leftovers thanks to exclusive partnerships with manufacturers such as Malhia Kent, Soierie Cheval or Swarovski.

THE ETHIQUETTE, which rhymes Ethics and Etiquette, is for the feminine and cosmopolitan community combining style and sustainability. Our mission is to redefine Couture, making bespoke customization and luxurious textiles accessible to all who dare to dream.

We want to prove that sustainable can mean desirable and that Couture can be affordable.



“ The UE represents a unique savoir-faire that is luxury and sustainable, which we need to enlighten more to the world. »

«At the exhibition we present a dress made from a light cotton and wool blend handwoven antique fabric, all pleated and sewn by hand. The exhibited look is completed with a long, oversized, shoulder-padded overcoat. The fabric of the overcoat was made in collaboration with a family farm in Epirus who utilised their leftover wool, wove it on an electronic loom and felted it in the natural waterbeds of Epirus.»





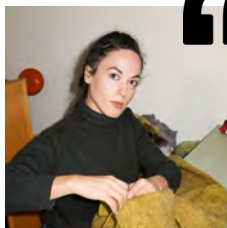
Greece UNSUNG WEAVERS

12


Unsung Weavers pieces are entirely designed and made in Athens, using materials sourced from Greece. The brand reinterprets antique traditional fabrics while deeply committing to slow processes and to creating technically refined, new sustainable materials in collaboration with local craftspeople. Since launching the brand in 2018, the designer Elina Tseliagkou has presented 3 series. She is rejecting the conventions of typical collection releases, creating singular garments only that have been well received in leading concept stores around the globe.

Each unique piece is a relic in itself, echoing the long forgotten rituals of fabric production while reviving the ancient craft of weaving. Every garment is entirely hand-stitched from a unique pattern based on utilitarian apparel archetypes, such as the shepherd's overcoat and monastic jacket.

Unsung Weavers calls for a subtle renewal of lost lifestyles. The fabrics in which the pieces are composed date from a time when individual households created their own clothing, with each village containing numerous craftspeople. Unsung Weavers is an homage to this anonymous expert craftsmanship within these findings. It also honours other synergies that shaped them: the river that washed them, the bright sun that dried them, the Acacia flower that lent its colour.



The European Union is a unity of disparate cultural elements in a global interest for pacification.»

A woman with long, wavy brown hair stands on a stone path in a lush garden. She is wearing a long, white lace gown with a halter neckline and a deep V-cut. The gown features intricate lace patterns, including geometric motifs and floral designs. The lace is composed of alternating panels of hand-crocheted and machine-crocheted cotton. The gown contours the body almost corset-like down to the hips, before releasing into a voluminous skirt that extends into a sweeping train. At the back, a row of buttons fashioned from a vintage pearl necklace provides a delicate closure. The woman has a tattoo on her left upper arm. The background is filled with green foliage and a stone path leading into the distance.

«A gown where tradition meets elegance.» Alternating panels of hand- and machine-crocheted cotton lace—originally edgings and fragments of table linens—compose the surface of the gown. Their geometric motifs, varied in scale and density, are aligned along the seamlines to create a subtle interplay of pattern. The lace contours the body almost corset-like down to the hips, before releasing into a voluminous skirt that extends into a sweeping train. At the back, a row of buttons fashioned from a vintage pearl necklace provides a delicate closure.



Hungary SARA BALINT

Founded over a decade ago by Hungarian fashion designer and artist **Sára Bálint**, BS Bridalwear has become a signature brand of bridal gowns that combine sustainability with timeless elegance. Each creation is crafted from carefully sourced vintage and antique lace, giving the dresses their distinctive bohemian spirit. With materials available only in limited quantities, every gown is truly one of a kind - an exclusive piece designed for a «once in a lifetime» moment.

BS Bridalwear embodies a deep respect for tradition, proving that heritage and quality craftsmanship can find new meaning in today's world. Brides are invited to weave their own stories into their gowns, often incorporating treasured heirlooms or lace passed down through generations - transforming memory into modern beauty and symbolizing the connection between past, present, and future.



To me, the European Union safeguards artistic and spiritual freedom while providing economic security.»



Short dress handmade by Aisling in her workshop in Dublin, Ireland. Made from carefully assembled patchwork fabrics. Decorated with screen-printed patterns and bow tie sleeves.



Ireland AISLING DUFFY

Aisling Duffy is a Fashion & Textile Designer based in Dublin, Ireland. In 2011 she graduated with a BA in Printed Textiles from the National College of Art & Design (Dublin, Ireland) followed by a MFA in Textiles from The Edinburgh College of Art (Scotland, UK). After completing her masters Aisling worked in London as a print designer, designing fabrics for fashion brands, until launching her namesake brand in 2017. In 2024 she debuted her first solo fashion show at Dublin Independent Fashion Week - a Dublin based fashion week that Aisling co-founded in 2023. Her work focuses on a slow approach to fashion. She creates limited online collections and made-to-order items.

Aisling incorporates vintage & deadstock fabrics along with found and collected materials into each collection. Techniques such as patchwork, screen printing and embellishment create the visual language of the brand - a reflection of Aisling's background in textile design. A blend of feminine silhouettes with rebellious aesthetics, Aisling Duffy is inspired by daydreaming, 90s grunge & dressing up. The brand is most known for made-to-order Starbags, Babydoll Dresses and oversized Bag Charms.



For me, the European Union means opportunity, community and collaboration.»

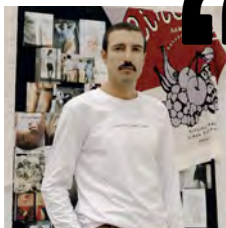




Italy MARCO RAMBALDI

15

Marco Rambaldi (Bologna, 1990) graduated in 2013 in Fashion Design at the IUAV University of Venice. He moved to Milan in 2014 to work in the Dolce & Gabbana women's style office. In 2017 he founded his homonymous brand. His first collection was presented with the support of Vogue Talents and the National Chamber of Italian Fashion. Marco Rambaldi offers a total look, with a focus on knitwear and outerwear. The crochet garments are not only unique, but they are also sustainable and created by assembling existing antique doilies with shapes and new doilies made by his craftsmen. In addition to the multicoloured classics, they are also transformed into elegant evening dresses by embracing the black colour created with artisanal dyes. They express and convert a memory of the past: from elements linked to the housewife, they become a new symbol that, worn on unique garments, transforms this memory of the past into the future vision of a strong feminine and feminist woman. Sustainability is a necessary condition of the designer's daily work, and he actively adheres to the "zero waste" principle. Waste fabrics and yarns from the "industrialised" production of the collection find new life through handmade processes, specifically mainly crochet, which, being free from the constraints that characterise industrial processes, particularly in knitwear, allows him to create unique garments and accessories born from the waste of his own production.



For me, the European Union is like a family: a large community where we support each other in times of joy and in times of difficulty.»



Towel Jacket: created in collaboration with the textile sorting company AjPower.

Materials: an unsold vintage souvenir towel, old bed linen for the lining, and even the collar and zipper were repurposed from thrifted items.

The exhibition look is completed with a Sock Sweater: entirely made from unsold vintage socks sourced from local thrift stores.

Technique: patchwork, following the original steps of Martin Margiela's sock-sweater guide.

Trousers: crafted from vintage men's shirts found in thrift stores, purchased on the last day of sales before the unsold items were either shipped abroad or at risk of ending up in landfill.

Technique: patchwork.



Latvia ZAIGA BRUTĀNE

16

Zaiga Brutāne is a designer and researcher based in Riga. She works under the name Zaiga Brutane Studio. Her practice lies at the intersection of deconstruction and reconstruction. She works with what already exists — second-hand garments, production leftovers, deadstock. In her doctoral research at the Art Academy of Latvia, she explores *pārdzains* — a term she has developed to describe upcycling approached through the lens of design rather than craft. Each piece becomes a quiet study of transformation, process, and memory.

For her, sustainability is not a concept to be added — it is embedded from the beginning. She works without virgin materials. She trusts what already surrounds us. She disassembles to understand. She reconstructs to reflect. Each garment becomes an ongoing conversation — with time, with function, with the beauty of the unfinished.

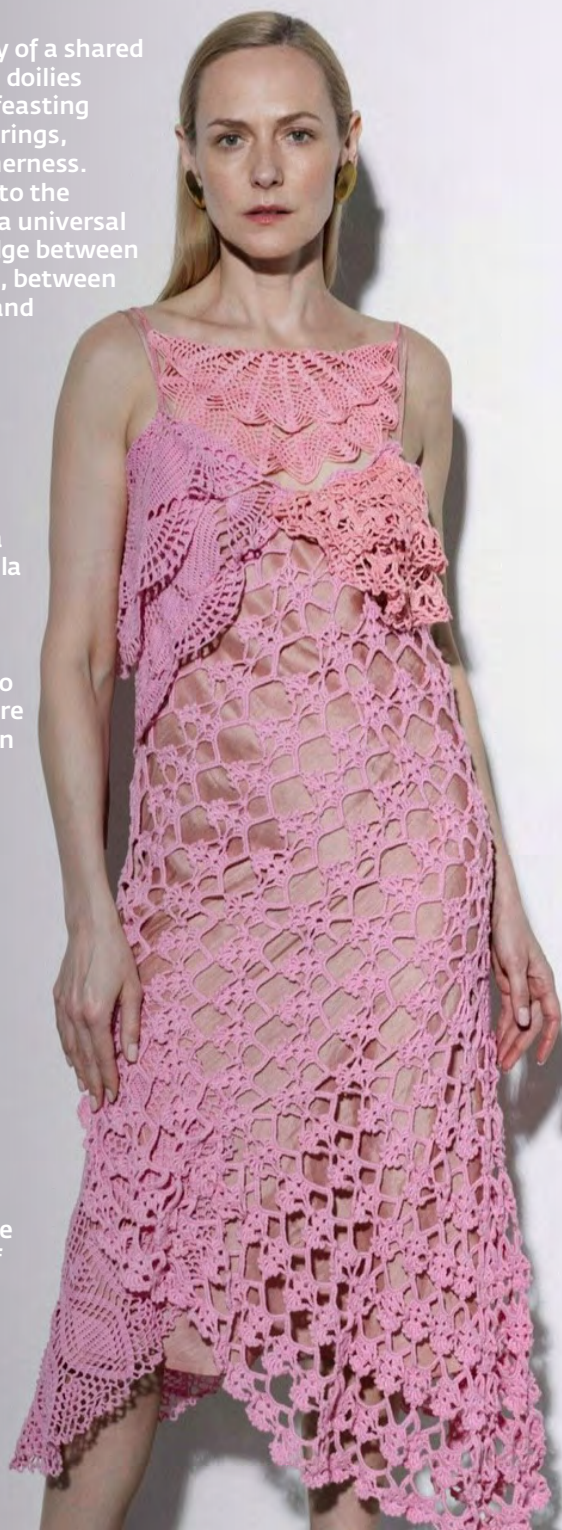


For me, the EU is a space of shared thought and shared responsibility. It enables diverse voices to respond together to ecological and cultural urgencies.»

This dress tells the story of a shared table – a tablecloth and doilies that evoke Lithuanian feasting traditions, warm gatherings, and the ritual of togetherness. The mandala, woven into the composition, becomes a universal cultural symbol – a bridge between the local and the global, between intimate domestic life and cosmic order.

The piece is created from repurposed home and interior textiles: one hand-crocheted tablecloth, two hand-crocheted doilies, and a hand-crocheted mandala set in a metal ring. Textiles infused with memory and everyday life are transformed into a unique garment, where the ordinary takes on an artistic form.

Delicate hand-made lace crowns the work, reminding us of the slow, patient labor of human hands, where each loop ties together time, memory, and the spirit of creation. It is a subtle reflection on today's paradox: as artificial intelligence increasingly takes over creative processes, this dress invites us to pause and recognize the irreplaceable artistry of human craftsmanship.





Lithuania REDA PAULA


Reda Paula is a vibrant fashion brand that embraces nature-inspired design, natural and recycled materials, and respect for the environment.

Founded in 2018 by designer Reda Paulauské, the brand draws inspiration from what is closest to her and rooted in personal experience: Lithuanian culture, local crafts, coastal design, art, and literature.

Reda Paula's signature linen dresses, classic wool blazers, and semi-haute couture one-of-a-kind suits made from recycled home textiles have reached audiences worldwide, bringing together a community of admirers of sustainable Baltic fashion.



The European Union enables the fashion community to connect internationally.»



The vest and bag are made from carefully handpicked Moroccan rugs, recycled and transformed into unique pieces in a small family-run workshop in Marrakech. The dress is crafted from hand-selected deadstock fabrics in Jaipur, India, and turned into this piece by a partner atelier. The exhibition look is completed with a necklace created from a previous jewelry collection made of stones and beads. The brand used its own unsold stock to transform the elements into something new.



Luxembourg DEVİ CLOTHING

18

Devı is a Luxembourgish fashion brand created by Debbie Kirsch in 2018 during her studies in Sustainable Business and Innovation, with a focus on the fashion industry. It was born from a deep desire to reimagine the way fashion is produced, consumed, and valued. Each piece is made from carefully sourced upcycled fabrics — including vintage saris and scarves from India, carpets from Morocco, and high-quality deadstock materials — all hand-selected for their texture, story, and soul. The brand follows a strict zero-waste philosophy, using 100% of its fabrics and reworking its own deadstock and previous collections into new creations. Devı works exclusively with social enterprises and small family-run ateliers around the world, maintaining a transparent, ethical, and personal supply chain. These trusted partners are visited annually to ensure safe working conditions, fair wages, and a genuine spirit of collaboration. With over 120 artisans involved globally, Devı is a celebration of craftsmanship, culture, and co-creation — aiming to offer fashion that is both meaningful and truly sustainable.



***The European Union
empowers young
entrepreneurs like me to
create ethical, purpose-driven
projects across borders.»***

The Anubis Gown was designed by Luke Azzopardi for AZZOPARDI Studio. It forms part of the Sahar Collection for the Fall/Winter 2024 season. This corseted gown is presented in hand-beaded plissé chiffon and made entirely out of silk chiffon and beaded by hand. The plissé fabric effect is achieved through heat and not chemicals. The gown is a one-off piece and follows the studio methodology of creating unique pieces or piece on order only, and not producing in bulk in order not to create waste. Although the studio follows a seasonal collection launch system, the pieces are meant to transcend seasonality and exist as timeless heirlooms, not following seasonal trends or fads.

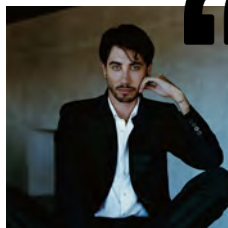




Malta LUKE AZZOPARDI

19

Luke Azzopardi has showcased his couture works during the fashion weeks of both London and Dubai. The creative director was awarded the 'Premio Cultura e Moda award by L'Istituto Italiano di Cultura, the 'Fashion Designer of the Year' award by LovinMalta, and most recently Arts Council Malta's 'International Achievement of the Year 2023' as well as 'Multidisciplinary Production of the Year 2023' alongside Open Square Collective and City of Art respectively. The atelier uses only the highest quality fabrics in its collections and bespoke commissions, and keeps away from polyester, nylon, acrylic, and other harmful synthetic fibres, all of which have been proven to be heavy contributors of marine pollution through the bioaccumulation of microplastics. Luke Azzopardi studio is proud to champion the slow fashion movement — upholding the highest ethical standards



“

The European Union embodies both connection and complexity; a framework where culture, identity, and politics converge.»



Appliquéd and embroidered arts-and-crafts intuitive storyboard mini dress with silk duchesse lining on silk corset base. The dress is made from knit scraps, hand embroidered in a collage way.



Netherlands RONALD VAN DER KEMP

20

Ronald van der Kemp worked internationally for over 25 years as designer and creative director for high-end international luxury brands before launching his own brand RVDK in 2014 with "New ethics in luxury fashion" as its leitmotiv. RVDK Ronald van der Kemp is the world's first ethical couture brand, a pioneering and influential force, recognised by the *Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode* amongst the world's leading brands invited to show at the official couture week in Paris.

Ronald's work veers between art and fashion and stems from the innate idea that there are enough leftovers on this world to fuel his creations.

"I believe that creativity, art, craftsmanship, intuition and aesthetics - touching people beneath the skin - can lead to much needed awareness, empathy and behavioural change in society." Ronald is a true inspirational advocate for his cause, speaking at international conferences, colleges and organisations.



For ethics there are no borders.»



«This dress was created in the spirit of upcycling, using materials sourced from one of the largest textile sorting facilities in Europe – Wtórpol in Poland. It is a true patchwork of second lives: fragments of old sweaters, leather pieces from vintage jackets, sequined details, and even natural furs from the second-hand stream – not as a promotion of fur farming, which I strongly oppose, but as a way of giving existing materials another life.

The composition also includes recycled polyesters and cottons. Hand-made sequin appliqué in the shape of meteors and flames enrich the design, turning it into a statement of imagination and transformation. Each fabric carries its own past, and together they form a dress that tells the story of multiple lives woven into one.»



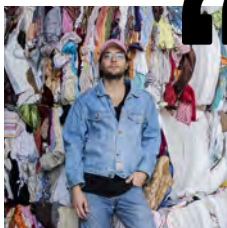
Poland JAKOB BUCZYŃSKI

21

Jakob Buczyński is a Polish fashion designer working in the field of circular fashion. His work is based entirely on upcycling — giving new life to discarded garments and textiles sourced in collaboration with Wtórpol, one of the largest textile sorting facilities in Europe. Each piece is one-of-a-kind, handcrafted in his Warsaw studio using second-hand clothing, vintage fabrics, and deadstock materials.

Through his collections, Jakob challenges the fast fashion system by focusing on emotional value, craftsmanship, and storytelling. His designs have been presented at New York, Berlin, and Budapest Fashion Weeks, and worn by artists, activists, and individuals who believe fashion can be a tool for change.

Sustainability is not a trend in his work — it is the foundation. Every jacket, every seam, is a statement against overproduction, waste, and uniformity.



The European Union is a space where independent voices can grow louder — together.»

«Madeira Embroidery Midi Dress, created in the atelier of the brand in Lisbon. Crafted from an antique traditional Madeira hand-embroidered tablecloth and finished with satin ribbons.»





Portugal
BÉHEN

22

Founded in 2020 by designer Joana Duarte, **BÉHEN** is dedicated to celebrating and safeguarding traditional Portuguese craftsmanship. Inspired by her family stories, international experiences with artisan communities, and a Master's degree in London, Joana created BÉHEN as a bridge between heritage and contemporary fashion. The brand's mission is not only to protect these traditions but also to reveal their potential to younger generations, showing how craftsmanship can remain relevant and inspiring in today's world.

For BÉHEN, sustainability means protecting heritage while working consciously with what already exists. Every piece is created in collaboration with artisans across Portugal, using responsible materials and practices that prioritize quality and longevity, ensuring traditions live on while minimizing environmental impact.



The European Union creates opportunities to connect with artisans, institutions, and audiences across borders.»



Velvet silk blouses hand embroidered inspired the folklore motifs and velvet silk trousers. Completed by an upcycled old leather belt, upcycled shoes and 80 years old "Kokeš" hat which is part of the traditional folk costume.



Czechia LA FEMME MIMI

23

Mimi Lan Nguyen Hoang grew up in Vietnam and came to the Czech Republic when she was 15.

There everything was too big for her, and she really did not enjoy the look of the clothes. Mimi just made her own clothes out of the old ones. That is when she started to look for vintage clothes in second-hand shops and upcycled them even before this word got into use. The year was about 2000.

One of the most important parts of the La Femme MiMi brand is the material. She even has her own „textile dealer”, a woman who searches for the sustainable or second-hand fabrics for her. Buying less and combining is one of Mimi's strongest visions. She focuses also on less waste – the sizes are only two, S/M or M/L; from clippings, she makes popular obi belts or collars. The unisize and cuts help to save fabric together with the planet. „I agree with a sustainable way of clothing, buying less and combining what you have. I only have a problem with the sentence «Let's not buy anything!». If my customers would stop buying our clothes and other artisan and designer clothes; there would only be fashion chains who survive! Since I graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in 2002-2006, where we devoted a lot of time to the history of the European Union and NATO, I have a pretty strong connection to the European Union. I believe in it!»



For me, the European Union is a symbol of security and freedom.»

Lace "Denim" Jacket made from recycled electrical wires (ethernet and telephone cables from construction site waste). Entirely handmade through an intricate bobbin lace - making process adapted to waste internet and telephone cables. The look is completed by a pleated skirt made in the same way and an ensemble from lace scraps embroidered on tulle.

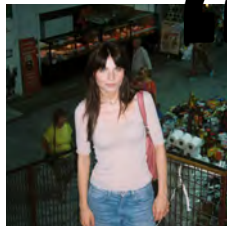




Romania ALEXANDRA ȘIPA

24

For **Alexandra**, sustainability means living in harmony with our environment — not dominating and extracting from it, but cherishing and acknowledging its limits. In her work, it is about finding unused waste and repurposing it in a considered way. Waste valorification can be the next step in couture fashion. Haute couture is about using the most artisanal, precious techniques, and she believes it is the prime space for turning waste into luxury. This was the driving motivation behind her first foray into recycling in fashion: repurposing electrical cables from her uncle's construction sites in London into lace — reusing waste while working to preserve the craft of handmade bobbin lace.



***I do owe the European Union
my existence as a brand
today.»***



Knitted ensemble with designer's own original bioplastic crystal leather material adorned with Swarovski crystals.



Slovakia MATA DURIKOVIC

25

Mata Durikovic is a founder of MADBYMAD 'bioluxury' house based in Paris. Mata graduated as a fashion womenswear designer at Central Saint Martins and became LVMH green trail award nominee in 2022, as well as multiple awards winner. Such as Copenhagen Fashion Summit 2019 'Sustainability price', 'Media Award' by ITS : plastform contest in 2022, 'Best Fashion Graduate 2022' award by Slovak Fashion Council, and a winner of 'Material and textile' award by Mittel moda at Milano Unica 2023. Mata became a winner of 'Best Slovak National Design' award and 'New Talent' award by Slovak Design Center in 2023. Besides she was awarded Swarovski Foundation and UPW scholarships. Moreover, Mata has various experiences and demonstrated history of working in womenswear luxury industry as textile designer in textile design and development research team, and embroidery house.

With motto: « be MAD! be Bioluxury! » a bioplastic material, which Mata has invented and mastered during her studies, is being used as a leather replacement « bioplastic crystal leather », material which is harmless, compostable in your garden or power pot, or even edible. Combining all with 3D embroidery and recycled Swarovski crystal waste, using only zero waste techniques such as cooking, knitwear and crochet, MADBYMAD creates garments, which are fully decomposable.



The European Union enables MADBYMAD to innovate responsibly by providing access to sustainable resources, cross-border collaboration, and high environmental standards.»



The dress titled 'Flower Fields' is a part of 'A Garden of Fabrics' master thesis collection made under mentorship of prof. Jenko Marija and asist. Zorec Petja at the Faculty of Natural Science and Engineering in Ljubljana. The strap dress is made from 114 vintage cotton textile handkerchiefs that are layered and then gathered together with an elastic thread and sewn together positioned as fields seen from the bird's perspective. Thanks to its elasticity it fits and flows perfectly on the body.



Slovenia ZALA HRASTAR


26

Zala Hrastar is a designer and the founder of the brand MORJA, where she combines vibrant and patterned vintage textiles to create unique garments. Her creative journey began in childhood and was further developed through her studies in Ljubljana, as well as through an Erasmus exchange at Design School Kolding in Denmark. Her master's project, 'A Garden of Fabrics', was awarded the highest recognition in the Republic of Slovenia for achievements in the field of artistic creation, the Prešeren Prize, by the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering.

Zala views sustainability as a way of showing respect and gratitude for materials, craftsmanship, the stories of the past and the creative process itself. Through MORJA, she focuses on the creative reuse of second-hand garments and vintage textiles, transforming them into colourful patchwork creations that celebrate the value of what already exists. She believes that fashion is not only a form of visual expression, but also a tool for connection, awareness and change. When you choose MORJA, you wear stories, not just garments.



To me, the European Union is home. It provides a platform for dialogue, collaboration and mutual respect, fostering personal and collective growth.»

A woman with dark hair pulled back is walking on a city street. She is wearing a large, voluminous, blue garment made of recycled denim, which is heavily fringed with white tassels. The garment appears to be a cape or a large shawl. In the background, there is a black car, a white tent, and a crowd of people. The setting appears to be a public event or festival in an urban area.

From jeans to rugs – and back again.

The project explores the possibilities of reuse through denim, a fabric that is both resource-demanding in its production and at the same time remarkably durable. Eight hand-knitted rugs, each made from six pairs of old jeans, have been transformed into a wearable outfit.

When the garment has served its purpose, it can easily be taken apart and turned back into eight rugs – a circular design shifting between fashion and interior, from body to space. A textile cycle, moving from everyday garment to art and back to function.



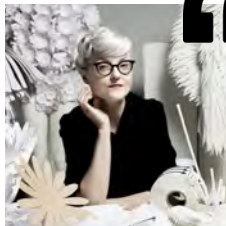
Sweden BEA SZENFELD

27

Bea Szenfeld (born 1972 in Poland) is educated at Beckmans College of Design. Her work is characterized by experimental and artistic garments made from unexpected materials, primarily paper, all handcrafted in her studio in Stockholm. She has developed paper craftsmanship into a genre of its own, and her pieces have been worn by artists such as Lady Gaga and Björk.

Szenfeld's works have been exhibited mostly in Sweden but also at the MET Museum (Metropolitan Museum of Art) in New York and the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. She has received numerous awards and grants, including the Gannevik Scholarship, the Honorary Prize in Art from the City of Stockholm, the Sven-Harry Cultural Award, the Church of Sweden Cultural Scholarship, grants from the Swedish Arts Grants Committee, and a silver medal in craftsmanship from the Royal Patriotic Society.

Recycling and remake are recurring themes in Szenfeld's work, including her appearances on the Swedish TV show "Gokväll". She is a board member of the Stockholm Crafts Association, serves on the jury for Young Swedish Design award, and leads workshops in paper craftsmanship.



The European Union plays a key role in protecting our environment by setting common standards for clean air, water, and nature conservation.»



The Denim Fur Jacket is made from reworked denim base and frayed denim offcuts, imitating a 'denim fur' look.

Inspired by the desire to avoid throwing even the smallest pieces of fabric into landfill and by the designers' love for hairy animal friends, it is made from reworked vintage denim and frayed offcuts. The Denim Fur Jacket requires stitching small denim offcuts and leftover pieces onto horizontal panels attached to a base jacket, which is then washed, so that the offcuts fray, imitating an unusual fur look.

The jacket is made from 100% reworked cotton denim fabric. This production technique, which creates a jeans-fur effect by washing small pieces of vintage denim stitched together, doesn't require any new fabric, as both the base and the "fur" are reworked. The exposed outfit is paired with a reworked jeans, made from several pairs.



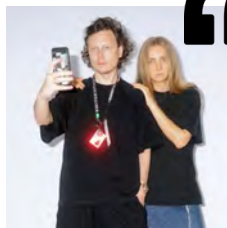
Ukraine KSENIA SCHNAIDER

28

Founded in Kyiv in 2011 by a dynamic duo **Ksenia and Anton Schnaider**, KSENIASCHNAIDER is well-known for its innovative design approach and strong focus on sustainability. Trend-setting and constantly challenging the status quo, KSENIASCHNAIDER's unique Demi-Denim statement jean became one of the most viral trends of 2017, according to Lyst. KSENIASCHNAIDER's unorthodox but highly wearable denim trousers and jackets have been endorsed by Vogue, Dazed, and Highsnobiety, among others, and have been worn by A-listers and celebrities like Bella and Gigi Hadid, Rita Ora, Blanca Miró, Celine Dion, and many others.

Innovative and sustainable technologies, conscious consumption, and the use of upcycled denim are at the core of the KSENIASCHNAIDER brand. Denim fur, so-called patchwork offcuts-based fabrics, organic cotton, lyocell, and upcycled fabrics made from vintage clothes are all used in signature brand silhouettes. For example, KSENIASCHNAIDER has upcycled around 45 tonnes of denim jeans so far, equating to approximately 550–700 jeans upcycled per month.

KSENIASCHNAIDER garments are proudly manufactured in Ukraine. Through garments, we deliver conceptual and norm-breaking fashion pieces while also channeling our love for freedom and our commitment to a more environmentally conscious approach.



“*For me, the European Union represents openness, cultural exchange, and a belief that creativity and innovation thrive when people come together across borders.»*