(I) Debbie Leung

# DEBBIE LEUNG

# **Biography**

Debbie's intense passion in design and hand craft have compelled her to take a sharp turn in her career and became a full-time artist two decades ago. She has been experimenting with different media in her artwork. It includes mosaic, pottery, glass and fibre.

Lately he focus is on fibre both in 2D and 3D form with sustainable practice. Fibre is an exquisite medium for self-expression. Regardless of its origin, be it from nature or from high tech innovation, it is there for us to improve our lives both functionally and aesthetically. It is the application and affinity aspects of this medium that appeals to me enormously.

By bringing back reminiscence of how our artisan ancestors made things from accessible natural resources with their bare hands, we can uncover our roots and take a different perspective of ourselves and our surroundings.

Debbie's work has been exhibited and collected around the world. She custom makes art wearables for individual clients as well as create decorative pieces for commercial organizations, fashion shows and exhibitions. Apart from teaching in design colleges in Hong Kong, she has been a visiting lecturer in The Central Academy of Fine Arts (中國中央美術學院), China Fashion Designers' Association, Penland School of Crafts (U.S.), University of South Queensland. She has also worked as art consultant for hotel chains and curated art exhibitions.

Debbie's most recent project involves reviving our traditional dress "cheongsam" which is one of the national intangible cultural heritages.

## About Handmade by Debbie Leung

The brand "Handmade by Debbie Leung" was established in 2010 in Hong Kong. The products are entirely handmade by Debbie Leung, a textile artist, from natural fiber and hand dyed. They are mostly one off unique wearable pieces.

By 2013, the Brand further develops this mindful fashion line "Debbie Leung" to incorporate collaborations with other artists and craftsmen. The latter includes, sculptors, painters, textile artists, print makers, glass artists, ceramic artists etc. and other artisans that Debbie trains up from some underprivileged groups in the community. The Brand philosophy strongly supports a healthy economic cycle and fair trade principles.

Apart from providing an alternative income to these groups, it translates ancient craftwork to a modern context. When a garment is handmade by a person in ancient ways, it carries a story behind the tangible form. It becomes a manifestation of human wisdom passing from generations to generations, and continent-to-continent. In short, it is a crystallization of art and culture.

The Brand celebrates objects that hold meaning for the producers and for the wearer and that is inherent in the textile itself.

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#### **SUMI TRANCE**

Beret and necklace are made with recycled wool fibre and wool yarn. The dress is made with recycled silk duvet and wool. Hand dyed. One piece seamless zero wastage construction. The whole outfit is made with discarded industrial and domestic material (except the core of the necklace) and can be compostable at the end of its life cycle.



#### SUMI FLOW

This top is made with discarded garments and scarps from garment factories. These scarps are fused together by an unique felting technique (Nuno felt). One piece seamless construction. Zero wastage. The motif of the skirt is created with silk waste, hand dyed and hand felted on recycled wool. The beret is also made with recycled wool fibre, seamless felt.



#### SUMI COSMOPOLITAN

The dress is embellished with hand dyed silk waste from discarded duvet. Using felting needle, silk fibre is fused on the recycled polyester. The head piece and shoes are also decorated with hand dyed wool felt. Handbag is made of merino wool, seamless construction with leather trim.



#### SUMI ECLIPSE

The poncho is handmade with recycled wool waste. Industrial silk waste was hand dyed and felted on the poncho. Both poncho and headpiece are made seamlessly and create zero wastage.