

DETRITUS & ART / Waste to Fashion

by Rainer Stegmann

Fashion has a long tradition in all cultures; it shall protect, warm and enjoy. Fashion emphasizes beauty, reflects culture and tradition and mirrors epochs. Today, garments have increasingly shorter life time. Another trend is the cheap mass production of dresses with a frequently changing design that supports short-term use: Fast Fashion. A short period of use produces a lot of wasted dresses. The numbers are frightening, showing that 62 Million t of apparel were consumed worldwide in 2019 with increasing tendency. The fashion industry produces about 10% of the total annual carbon emissions; 20% of the wastewater comes from fabric dyeing and treatment. The fashion contributes to the discharge of massive amounts of plastic micro-fibers - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/09/23/costo-moda-medio-ambien>.

All produced garments one day become waste often with a detour via developing countries with the laudable intention to help poor people but with the negative effect of partly destroying local fashion industries, e.g., in Kenia, Ghana. Since only part of the clothes originating from the US and Europe is reused, many of them are dumped in the landscape or on waste dumps. On the other hand, more second-hand shops are created, and clothes are also supplied to people in need, but most of the used fashion is thrown away; dresses are burned and landfilled. This situation is one of today's severe waste problems, and not everybody is aware of this situation; waste science has to focus more on this subject. One way of reducing this problem is



About 40% fast fashion sent to Ghana ends up on landfills
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-12/fast-fashion-turning-parts-ghana-into-toxic-landfill/100358702>

to make it visible to the users and producers and convince them to change their behaviour; producers need to change their strategy to create sustainable fashion. A very good example of reacting to fast fashion comes from fashion schools that use discarded clothes in their education programs. In addition, remains from designing new dresses and other wasted materials (e.g., plastic) are used to show the value in discarded materials.

Many start-ups often founded by graduates from fashion academies and privately organized initiatives produce fashion designed from used dresses. The reasons are manifold: setting up own business, learning creativity in fashion and making aware of the fast-fashion problem. In addition, the large clothing companies and well-known brands - although to a low extent - offer clothes from recycled fabrics. I show some beautiful, very creative examples of Waste to Fashion, enjoy and get thoughtful...



Mumbai-based brand, Ka-Sha by Karishma Shahani Khan
<http://www.doonething.in/content-hub-archive/2016/7/4/eight-indian-fashion-start-ups-committed-to-upcycling>



Katell Gelebart, (a)
<https://katellgelebart.com/>
JAK Academy Hamburg, (b, c) - <https://www.jak.de>

The next edition will introduce unique art mosaics from scraps of plastic and fabrics from the fantastic Turkish artist Deniz Sagdic.

She was born in 1982 in Mersin, Turkey, and began her art education in Mersin University's Faculty of Fine Arts in 1999, where she graduated at the top of her class in 2003.

Her work was celebrated by critics, collectors, architects and interior designers and installed in various architectural spaces and design products.

Let me surprise you...



DENIS SAGDIC / Turkish artist.