



# ALISA RUZAVINA

## HEAD DESIGNER

April 2019 to Present // Oshadi // Tamil Nadu, India and London, UK

Working on the design direction for Oshad fashion line, a sustainable fashion and textile brand with focus on rejuvenating dying traditional handloom weaving and ikat techniques as well as natural dyeing.

Oshadi work with artisans who are wishing to step out of the dominating fast fashion textile production in Tamil Nadu and focus on rejuvenating old forgotten crafts of the area while using sustainable materials.

First collection of modular pieces designed with circularity in mind for No Borders Boutique in Mumbai is currently in production.

## 2ND PLACE WINNING TEAM - CIRCULAR FASHION GAMES

Jan 2019 to February 2019 // Start Up Mix // Fashion For Good // SingularityU // Innovation Hub // Eindhoven and Amsterdam, Netherlands

Worked in multidisciplinary teams to co-create new circular innovations for the fashion sector. Our team worked on a challenge from Lenzing, a leading innovative cellulose fiber company, to offer creative and efficient solutions that could help to achieve more transparency in the whole supply chain with the focus on consumer engagement.

We've proposed an alternative currency system called Conscious Chemicals that with the use of tokens has the potential to raise consumer awareness about toxic chemical use in garments and facilitate consumers to make more sustainable choices and propel higher transparency from the companies, as well as creating a demand for garments with safest chemicals out of the overall stock as the tokens can only be spent on garments with the best score regarding chemicals used and only come in possession of the consumer from buying garments which chemical composition is checked and approved.

## NISKUA MOLA PROJECT LEADER, WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS FEMALE ARTISANS OF GUNA YALA

October 2018 to Present // Crafting Futures Scheme British Council and Craft Council UK // La Wayaka Current // Armila, Guna Yala, Panama

Working on a self-directed project with indigenous Guna artisan women, who are known for their Mola applique. The project uses sustainability-focused work with textiles and fashion design to bring empowerment, visibility, exposure to new markets and financial opportunities to female artisans, as well as to propel interest, awareness, conversation and action directed in response to environmental changes these makers' homelands are rapidly affected by, providing these women with the skills and confidence to be at the forefront of climate change activism for their area through the use of their craft.

The project accomplishes these goals with: ○ extensive research and in-depth interviews with the community members ○ assisting 28 women in establishing a cooperative ○ setting up digital tools and platform for the cooperative ○ connecting it to bigger artisan guilds and networks and alliances for further support ○ establishment of a more localized sustainable material sourcing route (currently all that is available for the community are cheap toxic fabrics from China) ○ preliminary research into potential establishment of a more circular system for their own fabric production ○ facilitation of product design workshops, workshops on the effect of textiles on the environment and organization of textile design development workshops structured in the form of knowledge exchange within the community, allowing women to teach other and empower them to view themselves as designers ○ piloting a test capsule collection with the artisan-made molas that reflect village's environmental concerns based on the drawings of local children ○ creation of an environmental and waste management educational program for a local school that will be integrated into the curriculum ○ organisation of exhibitions presenting the outcomes of the project.

For more info please visit: [niskuamola.com](http://niskuamola.com)

## BIO

Adventurous fashion and textile designer, specialising in sustainability and holistic change with deep interest in circularity



Freelance screen printer, color specialist and dyer. Researcher and multimedia artist.



Strong team player as well as project leader. Fearless drive for social and environmental change through creative outputs, ability to always hold a bigger picture of the work and its impact, attention to detail, love for work, never-ending energy, optimism and positive attitude.

## EDUCATION

Central Saint Martins  
College of Art & Design  
University of the Arts London:

- MA Material Futures, 2019-21
- BA (Hons) Fashion Print, 2014 -18
- Foundation Diploma in Art & Design, 2012-13

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Centre For Sustainable Fashion x Kering - "Fashion & Sustainability for Luxury Fashion" short course, 2019



Schumacher College & Embercombe - "Nature's Path Towards Authentic Sustainable Leadership" short courses, 2018



Central Saint Martins - Creative Patterncutting & Fashion Illustration short courses, 2014-16

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## PRINT TUTOR & TEACHING ASSISTANT

June 2018 to September 2018 // Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts // London, UK

I was the head print tutor on a shirt making short course, being in charge of introducing group of 16-18 year old pre-college students to ideas of print design, composition, different drawings and printmaking techniques and heatpress sublimation print methods.

Worked as a teaching assistant, technician and mentor on several summer school short courses, provided print and knit tutorials, photoshop and illustrator guidance.

## COSTUME DESIGNER

Jul to Aug 2017 // Bread & Puppet Theatre // Vermont, US

Worked at a legendary radical political theatre which is focused on using art as a tool for community building, sustainable living, ignition of change and political activism accessible to all.

Developed and created a collection of costumes for stilt walkers, which are now regularly used in parades, circus performances and theatre shows. The costumes were made by recycling old donated fabrics and bedsheets, as well as old wall art and flags, puzzling together new fresh context and meaning out of older work.

## COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT

April to May 2017 // Christian Joy // New York City, US

Assisted Christian at her studio, creating costumes for music and festival stages. Helped with textiles, as well as to patterncut and execute outfits for Karen O of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Maggie Rogers.

## MATERIAL & FABRIC INTERN

Jan to April 2017 // Marc Jacobs // New York City, US

Assisted Head of Textiles Department with development, selection, organisation and preparation of fabrics for the past and upcoming season; up-keeping and organisation of the fabric archive and libraries, helped with local sourcing of fabric; created fabric design boards to present to Marc; assisted with collection research, dyeing of final fabrics, painting and embroidery sampling.

## PRINT DESIGN AND DIGITAL SPECIALIST

September to December 2016 // Bernhard Willhelm // Los Angeles, US

In charge of all the digital work of the studio: digitalised sketches and samples; made all the tech packs and spec sheets to send of to the manufacturer; designed prints, logos and drawings; was in charge of coordinating communications with factories to assure quality, color and testing standards.

## STUDIO ASSISTANT

May to August 2015 // Sadie Williams // London, UK

Production of AW'15 "Ikebana" collection, general studio assistance. Research, design, print and embroidery development for SS'16 "Barnes B" collection.

## STUDIO INTERNSHIP

June to July 2014 // Leutton Postle // London, UK

Production of AW'14 collection. Production of one-off designs from past seasons for a pop up shop. Worked daily on a domestic knitting machine.

## STYLING ASSISTANT

September 2010 to August 2012 // Independent Media, Yes! Magazine // Moscow, Russia

Assisted with styling for photoshoots and events. Wrote and edited several fashion and beauty articles. Trend research. Assisting backstage at fashion events. Set design for photoshoots.

## AWARDS & GRANTS

Creative Learning Aid to Artisans Grant, March 2019

Crafting Futures Grant, British Council & Craft Council UK, Oct 2018

Green Trail Winning Award for Sustainability, Maison/O LVMH x Central Saint Martins, June 2018

Sponsorships from Soil Association approved eco-friendly printing Inks from Permaset and carbon neutral suede alternative Alcantara, March 2018

Recipient of Alice Brown Scholarship for the Residency and Textile Conference in Oaxaca, Weave A Real Peace, June 2017

## RESIDENCIES & EXHIBITIONS

Talk about youth activism at Roskilde Festival. Workshops & performances around Temporary Commons, School for Civic Action by public works, Denmark & Tate Modern, London, July 2019

Artist Representative for British Council at European Development Days, European Commission, June 2019

Numerous workshops and talks + workshops at Heal Her & Commune Festivals, Ldn, Apr - June, 2019

Exhibition and Panel Discussion 50M x Crafting Futures + workshop & talk part of Fashion Open Studio, Fashion Revolution Week, Apr 2019

La Wayaka Current Immersive Residency, Panama, Oct to Nov 2018

Plantasia Soft Sculpture Installation for Desert Daze Festival, Los Angeles, CA, October 2018

Collection Performance at Commune Festival, The Old Baths, Ldn, Sept, 2018

Graduate Degree Show: Design, Central Saint Martins, June 2018

Arquetopia Foundation for Development, Instructional Residency with focus on traditional embroidery and postcolonial studies, May 2017

## SKILLS

Languages: Russian (native), English (near native), Spanish (Intermediate)

High Professional Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite: & Adobe CC: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat