

All In

SHORT DESCRIPTION

This striking pair of trousers holds space for all the stories and journeys being told through these textiles. Each patch, piece and thread represents an abstract expression of personal experiences, emotions, and identities. Through appliqué, patchwork and stitching techniques, the composition symbolizes diversity, connection, and the coming together into one shared story.

The garment features an oversized body and wide-leg structure, reclaimed belts and buckles form the garment fastenings from top to bottom down the leg on both sides, allowing for an inclusive and adaptable fit across different body types.

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

The piece was inspired by the diverse experiences of the participants, particularly the journeys of migrant women, and the idea of bringing together different perspectives into one shared visual narrative, based on the collective Muse moodboard. The patchwork design reflects how individual stories, identities, and cultures can go side by side and form a cohesive whole. The work also follows the overarching theme of a transition from darkness into light, symbolizing movement from hardship, uncertainty, or displacement toward hope, empowerment, and new beginnings. Overall, the piece explores themes of migration, connection, identity, and transformation.

SUSTAINABILITY

Materials Used

Fabrics/textiles: Materials were reimagined from old soft furnishings like bedding and curtains, old clothes, previous half made projects and scraps.

Salvaged Belts and Buckles: rescued from suitcases, bags and pre-loved belts.

Eco-responsible Methods:

The creation of the trousers had a strong focus on upcycling and waste reduction. All materials used were recycled or leftover fabrics, sourced from previous projects and personal collections, preventing unused textiles from becoming waste. By repurposing these materials, the project actively extends the life cycle of existing resources. Although electrical sewing machines were used, this garment was heavily constructed by hand power.



PARTICIPANTS



María Wright

Born in Malta in 1986, Maria Wright is a multidisciplinary artist, fashion designer, award-winning actor and director, whose work moves fluidly across disciplines and mediums. Sewing, which she began in early childhood, continues to be a foundational element of her artistic practice. Creating something out of nothing, reimagining the ordinary and discarded, became her vocation.



Users Participating in the project

Migrant and refugee women

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/ finished garment



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METHOD AND PROCESS

Participants began by selecting recycled and leftover fabrics, working within a shared colour palette that has been decided from the collective Muse moodboard. The participants developed an individual panel using an intuitive approach, focusing on texture, layering, and abstract storytelling. The pieces were first arranged and hand-stitched onto base panels to allow flexibility and adjustments. Once the compositions were finalized, they were secured using sewing machines. The process involved a high level of manual work and experimentation, encouraging participants to explore materials freely, with joyous intent and develop confidence with sewing techniques. Challenges included limited time, organizational constraints, which required continuous adaptation during the sessions. The process also had to remain flexible depending on the number of participants present, making coordination and time management an important part of the work.

CULTURAL RELEVANCE

Malta through history has been the salvation for many a lost sailor. Known as shipwreck island, it has liberated many from the rough and unforgiving sea. As with these trousers, they welcome all, regardless of size, shape, religion or cultural background. Where each layer upon layer, continues the saga of those that came before as well those set to return.

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/ design process

