



A monthly newsletter highlighting and connecting initiatives/projects that transform society through the power of art

A Fashion Challenge

Editorial note by Dr. Melissa Leaym-Fernandez

Thank you to the Artivism team for inviting me to submit this editorial at the closing of the Wearable Art for a Purpose Multi Venue Exhibition, 2023. Please scan the QR code to see the events related to this exhibition.

As I take time to reflect on the work of participants in the various venues, I would like to broach upon the reality of what is happening in the fashion world and how fast fashion is a form of malevolent creativity. Malevolent creativity is the deliberate intention to cause harm in various settings through creative acts. Wearable Art for a Purpose provides a strong springboard to not only educate, but to inspire and demand change in personal and industry-wide global fashion practices. Below I will point out some of the work inspiring change today.



Venue Highlights



@chul.us on Instagram

Remake Our World (<https://remake.world/> and on Instagram @remakeourworld), and **Global Fashion Exchange** (on Instagram at @globalfashionexchange) work as global advocacy groups to gain fair pay and climate justice for workers in the fashion industry. **#StopWasteColonialism** (@stopwastecolonialism on Instagram) is working to stop the European Union from writing waste colonialism into law.

Read the position paper regarding waste colonialism :
at <https://stopwastecolonialism.org/stopwastecolonialism.pdf>

and sign the petition to stop the EU!

Knowledge is power, put your knowledge to work. Find out for yourself what top brands end up in landfills, roll in to choke beaches, and are killing the planet.

I reference Chul's words (and his image) from our interview as my inspiration for higher quality upcycling items.

I make small changes in my creative practice by incorporating more sewing and scraps of fabric into my art making. Incorporating this technique is a positive challenge to my arts practice. Personal changes for me can come in the form of sewing paper or fabric together creating interesting collages in the form of fine art or one-of-a-kind clothing, such as making shoes out of scrap leather or reconstructing an article of clothing. Incorporating this technique is a positive challenge to my arts practice. I have a vest that was made from well-worn, memory filled Ralph Lauren oxfords. Maybe my baby steps of change can inspire Ralph Lauren, the brand, to use their dead stock, make smaller batches of clothes, and lower seasonal production lines. Change starts with me and you.

Vest made from my well-worn Ralph Lauren Oxford shirts.



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I challenge you to give up one hour of your life each week to use your voice by writing to your favorite companies to demand transparent industry-wide changes and thank those enacting change. Use your money to buy from companies who use renewable sources, pay living wages, support transparent environmental change, and contribute to real examples of human dignity. Be selective and buy clothes that are Farm-to-Closet, second hand, or craft your own from dead stock fabric or used clothing.

Learn more about the impact of fast fashion, how you can contact companies. and how you can redesign global fashion markets. Educate yourself on how you can be the change.



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Where do your discarded garments go?
Read about it in this article.



The Guardian

'It's like a death pit': how Ghana became fast fashion's dumping ground
Yvette Yaa Konadu Tetteh's epic swim down the River Volta highlights the damage done to the country's waterways by an out-of-control trade in secondhand clothes from the global north, and why it's time for change
The Guardian Jun 6

