



Sustainable Millinery

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What is sustainability?

Sustainability consists of fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations, while ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental care and social well-being. Sustainable fashion refers to clothing that is designed, manufactured, distributed, and used in ways that are environmentally friendly and mindful of the people who produce them.

5 Sustainable Fashion Brands

- *If Only If*
- *Reformation*
- *Palava*
- *Sika Designs*
- *Style Ignite*



How could you be more sustainable in your own life?

Be Informed - When starting out it's important to do your research and investigative work online. When researching whether a brand is sustainable or not, if it's difficult to find out their stance, chances are they aren't as eco-conscious as they seem.

Resale/Renting - opting for vintage pieces or renting out special items for certain occasions is a great way to be more sustainable.

Invest in year-round clothes - spend the bulk of your money on pieces that will see you through more than one season. Jeans, t-shirts, classic dresses, timeless coats will make for a much more sustainable wardrobe.

Donate old clothes - Donating your unwanted clothes to a good cause, rather than leaving them hanging in your wardrobe, will help yourself and others to be more sustainable.

Look after your clothes - Look after them properly and you will have to replace things less often.

Repair - When something rips or a heel breaks, you don't necessarily have to throw it away. Learn how to repair your clothes and accessories or pay a tailor to do it.

What is Millinery?

Millinery refers to the making of women's hats, which includes its design, manufacturing and sales. Milliners use their skills to create headpieces for special occasions and high-fashion events. Millinery is a significant part of the world of high-fashion. In the 1800s millinery was one of the most important trades along with dressmaking.

Traditional vs Non-Traditional Milliners

Philip Treacy is an Irish milliner who has worked with design houses Chanel, Versace, Valentino, Thierry Mugler, Rifat Ozbek, Alexander McQueen and Givenchy. Treacy's work in the fashion industry and beyond has changed how the world sees hats and their limitations, by creating non-traditional designs.



Lock & Co. was established in 1676 and is the oldest hat shop in the world, the oldest shop in London & one of the oldest family-owned businesses still in existence. Their hats were not only born out of fashion, but also functionality. Their hats have transcended time to become traditional classics.



Kijima Takayuki is a Japanese milliner and emulates old-fashioned headpieces, and steps closer to contemporary fashion and streetwear. He has been able to blend traditional techniques of hatmaking and the luxurious feel of handmade products with forward-thinking fashion lines.



Hats are a symbol of pride for native Peruvians. They are made locally and come in all colors, from lime green to pink, the brighter the better. Most are adorned with gold or silver chains, trinkets, sequins, gemstones or feathers. Traditionally, brown or green hats made from sheep's wool indicate an Andean women and tall, white ones made of thatch suggest a person of mixed Inca/Spanish heritage.





My Chosen Milliner

My chosen milliner is Eleanor Houghton, she has researched historic millinery practices and recreated hats, bonnets and headdresses found in fashion plates and in museums. By carefully deconstructing the processes involved in their original production, Eleanor has learned a great deal about the materials, makers and wearers of eighteenth and nineteenth century headwear as well as the society in w



My Chosen Theme

My theme is the Regency era which was a period between c. 1811- 1820. The period is named for George, Prince Regent, the temporary king of Great Britain while his father, George III, was ill. The Regency era is noted for its elegance and achievements in fine arts and architecture. This was a time of great social, political, and economic change. Bonnets like these date to circa 1816/17 had a soft crown and could be called a capote. Firmer crowned bonnets trimmed with ribbons, feathers, frills and sometimes flowers shown left soon got larger. The variety and range of trimmings can be fascinating and is always a source of joy when studying Regency era fashion.





I originally wanted to make my bonnet out of a straw hat but I found it hard to source in charity shops due to the time of year. In retrospect, a straw hat would have made my project much easier. I then went back to the drawing board and I found this portrait of Euphemia van Rensselaer and I fell in love with it. I remembered that I had a yellow dress that I didn't wear anymore and that I could use it as my fabric.

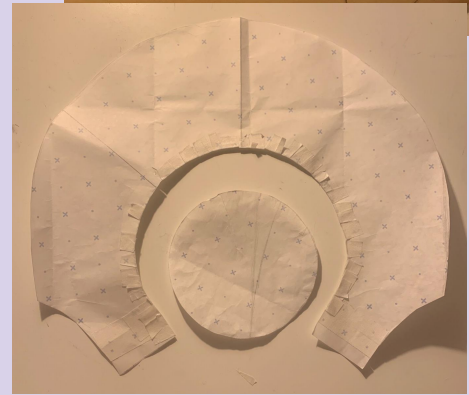
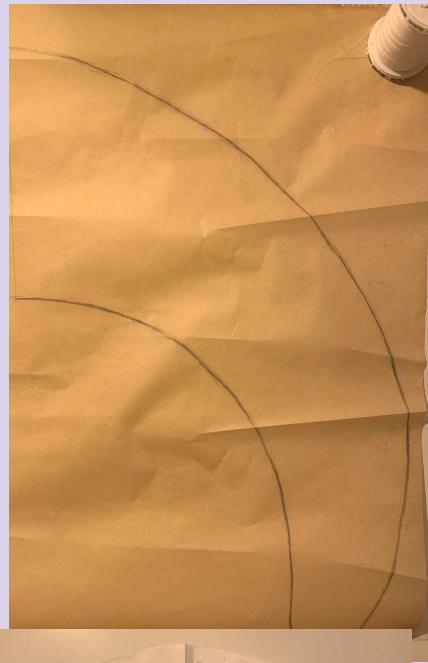


For my fabric, I used an old NastyGal dress that I didn't wear anymore as it was the perfect shade of yellow I was looking for.



Disassembly

I began looking at youtube videos and bonnets in museums to get an idea of how a fabric bonnet was made. After a few rough drafts, I then drew up a pattern I was happy with and then traced it onto a thick paper which could then be covered with my fabric. The pattern drafting was the hardest part of this project.



I sewed the fabric onto the cardboard and used some fabric glue where needed. I then began to assemble my bonnet.



Process



I then sewed the two tabs at the back together, these would be at the nape of the neck.

Then using fabric glue and some masking tape, I placed the top part on the crown and let it dry.



Embroidery



For my embroidery element, I was inspired by the embellishments on baby bonnets.

I decided to embroider the flowers onto the ends of the ribbon that would tie around my neck.

Embellishments



For my embellishments, I used stuff that I had lying around my house and collected over time. One of my favourite films is *Emma*, as the costumes are beautiful. I drew inspiration from the many bonnets in the film, particularly this one worn by Harriet. I love the feature of lace inside on the brim.

From my research, I learned that regency era bonnets were usually adorned with ribbons, bows, feathers and flowers.



Results

























Thank you

