

# CALIFORNIA ApparelNews

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\$3.99 VOLUME 77, NUMBER 19 SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 DOUBLE ISSUE



## NYFW'S CALIFORNIA DREAM

As the fashionable set returned to the runway for New York Fashion Week's Spring 2022 hybrid on-site and virtual events, California designers shone through with Golden State style during in-person shows and filmed presentations.  
See more styles on page 4.

Kevan Hall

FASHIONSTOCK

### TECHNOLOGY

## Resale App Sea n' Soul Helps Environment, Users Earn Cash

By Noe Garcia *Contributing Writer*

**Sea n' Soul** is here to help Mother Earth. As an avid surfer and environmentalist, John Kozlowski spends most of his days at the beach and in the ocean. As a professional, Kozlowski has spent years as an executive in the retail, fashion and apparel industry with roles at **Ralph Lauren**, **Polo Ralph Lauren** and **GQ** magazine.

"During my time in this role, I read many articles about how we as an industry are damaging our home planet by way of overproduction of goods that are not necessarily needed," Kozlowski said. "At the same time, I saw a trend emerging—resale platforms like **The RealReal** and **Poshmark** were exploding in popularity, but there was nothing like this for the outdoor-adventure marketplace."

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### TEXTILES

## Fabric Alternatives PLNT FIBER and FRUT FIBER Introduced by Pangaia

By Dorothy Crouch *Managing Editor*

Seeking to combat the negative impacts of pollutive textiles in the fashion industry, materials-science company **Pangaia** unveiled its latest innovations in the fabric space. Manufactured from plant fibers, Pangaia's **PLNT FIBER** and **FRUT FIBER** were introduced as the company commits further to a mission of moving apparel manufacturing away from non-organic cotton and synthetics created from petroleum-based resources.

"The future of sustainability in fashion lies in a return to the bio-economy through promotion of bio-diversity and regenerative agricultural systems," said Pangaia's Chief Innovation Officer Dr. Amanda Parkes. "FRUT FIBER and PLNT FIBER are Pangaia's latest innovations, which embody our commit-

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# Buyers and Exhibitors Converge at FMNC for Immediate, Spring Styles

During its most-recent edition, **Fashion Market Northern California** hosted its trade event at the **Embassy Suites South San Francisco** as buyers who value local shows met with exhibitors who were ready to take orders on Immediate and Spring. According to FMNC Executive Director Mary Taft, the show is continuing to grow with 25 to 30 new stores in attendance during each edition.

"It was a really good show. We had 82 exhibitors," Taft said. "We didn't have any smoke from the fires, but we had people come from those areas. We've been hovering around the 200-store mark."

Taft also noted that buyers were visiting FMNC to do serious business as they move into the final months of 2021 and into 2022. This edition, which was held Aug. 22-24, was hosted in a suite-style atmosphere that allowed buyers to easily peer into each exhibitor space as they shopped.

"They are not coming to look around, they are coming to buy product," Taft said. "And they do. People are buying product each time because they are buying close."

Within the **TASC Performance** suite, West Coast sales representative Cameron Todd was welcoming buyers from Northern California who were interested in the Louisiana brand's bamboo-viscose and organic-cotton essentials. Todd said that the store representatives who stopped by were prepared to buy.

"Most of the people I deal with, whether it's resort properties or spas, wineries or men's and women's retail or specialized retail were in the mood to buy," Todd said.

Buyers were also seeking color as they sought goods to replenish and refresh their

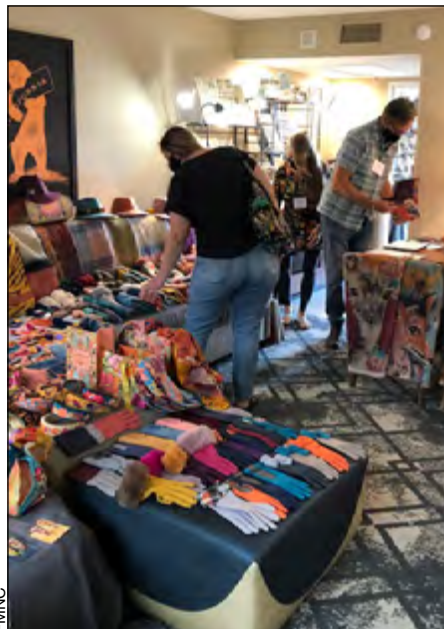
stock. Todd was happy with the show and felt that being present at FMNC was important.

"Our customers seem to buy seasonal product for seasonal delivery. They bought what they needed for the spring season, they bought what they needed for the fall season," Todd said. "The show itself and the venue of the show were excellent. The timing of the show was excellent."

Buyer Kelli Frye enjoyed the inviting environment of FMNC while shopping for **Coming Attractions**, a Sutter Creek, Calif., boutique that specializes in misses clothing manufactured using natural fibers including cotton, silk, linen and a touch of rayon in addition to a bit of hemp. Frye said that her customers are responding with high interest to rich colors.

"The colors that stood out to me are just those beautiful jewel-tone fall colors that were really apparent and the classics of black and white with a splash of red," said Frye, who was shopping for wholesale price points below \$100. "That mustard color will not go away. It's not a bad thing. We've had that year-round every season for three years."

—Dorothy Crouch



During its last edition, Fashion Market Northern California welcomed buyers who were ready to invest in placing orders, as they sought to refresh their stock and look ahead to upcoming seasons.

## NEWS

### Tailored Brands Announces New Chief Technology Officer

Menswear-retail holding company **Tailored Brands, Inc.**, headquartered in Houston and Fremont, Calif., and includes in its portfolio **Men's Wearhouse**, **Jos. A.**

**Bank**, **Moore's Clothing** and **K&G Fashion Superstore**, has announced Scott Vifquain as its new executive vice president and chief technology officer. Vifquain brings more than 25 years of technology and retail experience to Tailored Brands and will also become a member of the company's executive committee.

Vifquain joined **Kohl's Inc.** in 2005 and served as the senior vice president of technology since 2016, where he helped accelerate the company's digital culture and increase its return through technology.

"The retail experience Scott brings will provide a unique outlook as we pursue new ways to understand and meet consumers' needs—fulfilling our promise to show up strong in all the moments that matter and further accelerating our success. We are extremely excited for this seasoned leader to join our team," said Peter Sachse, interim co-chief executive officer of Tailored Brands.

Vifquain joins other new members of the Tailored Brands' leadership team. After company president and CEO Dinesh Lathi left the company in March, board members Sachse and Bob Hull stepped in as co-CEOs. In May, Tailored Brands appointed John Tighe as executive vice president and chief customer officer, Karla Gray as executive vice president and chief stores officer, and Tim Cooksey as senior vice president of real estate.

—Tyler Shultz

## Inside the Industry

**Lenzing AG** CEO Stefan Doboczky will not renew his contract ending the third quarter of 2021, according to an announcement by the Austrian fiber firm's supervisory board. The contract is scheduled to end by mutual agreement on Sept. 30. "The design and implementation of the transformation of Lenzing AG into a global specialty-fiber leader and the positioning of the company as a recognized sustainability champion have been major accomplishments of Stefan Doboczky over the last years," said chairman of the supervisory board Peter Edelmann. Supervisory-board member Cord Prinzhorn has been appointed interim CEO of Lenzing AG as the company searches for a candidate to permanently fill the role. "Developing and consistently implementing the Lenzing strategy has been the cornerstone of my work in recent years," said Doboczky.

The **California Chamber of Commerce** announced Sept. 3 the appointment of Jennifer Barrera to the roles of president and chief executive officer of the business-advocacy organization. Effective Oct. 1, the appointment has Barrera succeeding President and CEO Allan Zarembek and leaving the role of executive vice president, which she has occupied since 2019. Serving as the CalChamber president and CEO for 23 years, Zarembek will remain at the organization until the end of 2021. "Jennifer's experience, her effectiveness in serving CalChamber members and her dedication to improving California's business climate has been demonstrated consistently throughout her tenure with CalChamber. She will step into the role of president and CEO ready to lead on day one," said Donna Lucas, chair of the CalChamber board of directors.

Following the Aug. 24 announcement that Chuck's Vintage, Inc., the Los Angeles and New York retail specialty brand, had been sold to VGTel, Inc., the retailer's parent company, Green Stream Holdings Inc., announced on Sept. 9 that Chief Executive Officer Jim DiPrima will serve as interim CEO of VGTel. DiPrima will lead the transition through filing the necessary reports for VGTel to affect a Green Stream Holdings Inc. tier while identifying officers and directors to encourage the growth of VGTel. "As both companies now have common control of the day-to-day activities of the two companies, it is the intent, after VGTel becomes current, that we at GSFI intend to acquire shares of VGTel for these services so that our GSFI shareholders will get additional consideration for the transaction," DiPrima said. "The initial consideration was the assumption of certain liabilities."

**Accelerating Circularity**, the organization committed to supporting a circular textile supply-chain model that steers waste away from landfills and into a system that relies on recycling measures, announced additions to its United States steering committee. Eastman and Milliken & Company were announced as members to the committee, which strategizes and guides the U.S. efforts of accelerating circularity. Members of the committee include Gap Inc., Giotex, Gr3n, Lenzing, Nike, Target, VF Corp. and Unifi. Eastman and Milliken & Company will provide support to chemical-recycling options and textile-manufacturing capabilities during the project's trial phase.

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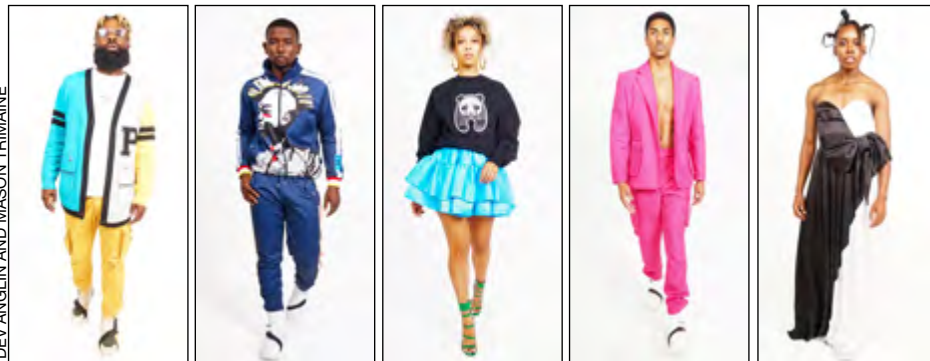


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## FASHION



Kevan Hall



Silent Panda

## California Designers Shine During NYFW

It was a return to a more traditional fashion calendar as designers headed to the East Coast to showcase their Spring 2022 collections during **New York Fashion Week**. Following a year that was defined by virtual fashion presentations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this fashion season afforded a sense of normalcy blended with a new normal. During its Sept. 7–12 run, NYFW welcomed a return to on-site fashion productions but also continued the opportunity for designers to unveil their collections through video.

Designers based in California enjoyed a strong presence with fashion houses including **Kevan Hall**, **Silent Panda**, **Tadashi Shoji** and **Wolk Morais** presenting their new designs. For many, the celebratory nature of emerging from the cocoon of home extended from their designs into this NYFW edition.

Referencing the signature style of Christian Berard's painting—and the artist's contemporaries, Alberto Giacometti and Jean Michel-Frank—Hall created a collection named "Brushstrokes," which incorporates trompe l'oeil influences. The designer noted that this return was made sweeter by the fresh approach led by **NYFW on Fifth**.

"New York Fashion Week on Fifth Avenue is a brand-new venue that is going to be the spot where designer collections are go-

ing to be shown. Right there on Fifth Avenue, with floor-to-ceiling windows where passers-by can look and see the collection happening in real time, I feel like it was a phenomenal space to show in," Hall said. "It was great. People were excited to be back at Fashion Week and excited to see the collections."

Shoji's collection, which was presented via a short fashion film, reflected inspiration drawn from the jubilant Roaring Twenties period that followed the 1918 influenza pandemic. The designer was hopeful that a similar pattern of joyfulness and merriment was beginning now.

"[For this collection,] I researched the 1920s fabrications, all the silhouettes," Shoji explained. "This is next Spring, so we are thinking about how we hope—I hope—the feeling of the Roaring Twenties is coming next year. This hundred-year cycle from the Roaring Twenties is coming back around."

The Spring 2022 showing of NYFW designers relied on an air of hope, which the fashion industry has been feeling over the last few months as clients return to life lived outside the home, necessitating refreshed styles that perfectly reflect society's re-emergence. With these presentations of their latest works, California designers also unveiled their visions for the future. Full NYFW coverage can be found at [nyfw.com](http://nyfw.com).—Dorothy Crouch



Tadashi Shoji



Wolk Morais





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# Atlanta Apparel continues to build on its in-person-market momentum

"We have seen so much optimism and hopefulness coming from our audience," says one vendor, who could not be more excited to be back in action at Atlanta Apparel. This common sentiment—that buyers are eagerly responding to their customers' desire to reboot and refresh their wardrobes as life begins to open up again—adds octane to buyers and these five vendors.

## Dear John Denim

As the company explains it, Dear John Denim set out to create a jean "that you search for relentlessly—the one you love, fits perfectly, always makes you feel confident, and is priced reasonably," heralding the patternmakers as "artists who masterfully shape our Sculpted Fits that flawlessly accentuate your figure."

For Spring/Summer, the Dear John's designer is seeing "a lot of feminine, uplifting colors, from soft palettes to bright highlighter colors, with feminine details and florals." The '90s trend is "huge, bringing back the super-high-rise straights with looser-fitting silhouettes" in straights, wide legs, and shorts. Treatments include stone washing "with mineral high-low characters, a mix of clean and destructed wash treatments, as well as patchwork details." Dear John also offers sportswear pieces in exclusive prints and fabrications, including Tencel dresses and tops and gauze dresses and tops.

## French Connection

Since its inception in 1972, French Connection has skillfully balanced cutting-edge trends with accessible price points. Its loyal consumers can rely on the brand for dependable basics as well as "bold statement pieces to serve her youthful, dynamic lifestyle." For Spring/Summer 2022, "we're seeing a lot of poplin fabric along with eyelet details, ruffles, smocking, and lace," the brand reports. "We're loving the romantic vibe and vintage florals" and also the signature "unexpected pops of color, which have been super well-received this season." Of note is a colorful sweater vest with a "super-on-trend" version featuring a white poplin puff sleeve. Expected bestsellers include an expanded collection of smocked dresses in fun prints and "beautiful boho pieces that are easy to dress up or down."

## Latico

After three decades working with hand-selected leathers and natural dyes, the family-run Latico is renowned for their heirloom-quality bags, which blend natural beauty with a modern, utilitarian aesthetic. There is also a deeper



mission at play: "We're passionate about environmental sustainability and giving back," they say, donating a percentage of sales to Feeding America, providing 76,000 meals during the pandemic alone. And business is looking bright, they add. Their boutique-oriented customers "have emerged more focused and stronger than pre-pandemic. Our stores are thriving." Trends being embraced for Spring/Summer 2022 and Resort include luxe, woven-leather, lightweight multi-function totes/clutches and metallic/pearlized leathers "because they look great with a tan," they say with a wink. Bestsellers will likely include the Nala, Collin, Iris, Wilkins, Melita, Clara, and Aleks designs.

## Moodie

It's all about the mood for the designers at Moodie. They want their consumers to not only have the ability to wear clothes that reflect their mood—hence, Moodie—but to feel empowered and confident wearing them. Noting that people seem "ready for a return to a sense of normalcy," Moodie isn't interested in changing its aesthetic. "Spring/Summer is always bright, fun, and puts you in a good mood," they say. For this Spring and Summer collection, "we are definitely seeing a huge response in color—LOTS of color." Moodie has always done well with its sets, whether a top and bottom or blazer and bottom, which are perennial hits. "We've always done well with our mixed-media pieces," they report. "Anything tiered, buyers love."



## PAIGE

The celebrated California lifestyle premium men's and women's denim, apparel, and more brand, has locked in on the vibe for Spring 2022. "It may come as no surprise, but vintage prints from the '60s, '70s, and '80s continue to be a huge inspiration," the team at PAIGE says, with nostalgic "wallpaper florals," "British rock 'n' roll royalty," and other '80s elements serving as the apparel muse. In denim, the ever-wider wide leg and straight-leg jean "will still be a must," they add, pointing to their Harper wide leg, Leenah ankle-length, and "the return of long Flare jeans worn with high wedges and cool clogs." Fresh colors include lavender, butter yellow, and lipstick pink. Other anticipated "crowd pleasers": the silk Katharina dress, Stella denim crop in Seawater, and vegan-leather Mayslie dress.

See these brands and many more at Atlanta Apparel October 12-16, 2021. Visit Atlanta-Apparel.com for more information.



## TECHNOLOGY

### Sea n' Soul *Continued from page 1*

And just like that, Kozlowski became the founder and chief executive officer of Sea n' Soul, a social marketplace for outdoor-adventure gear and apparel. Launched earlier this month, the app has already seen several hundred adventurers and users with more people joining the community every day.

"Our mission is to inspire the world to use what has already been produced, reduce the demand for new products that are not needed and promote conscious outdoor recreation while helping to save our home planet," Kozlowski said.

Sea n' Soul is a destination where visitors can buy or sell lightly used gear such as surfboards, skateboards, snowboards, mountain bikes, kayaks, boots, jackets and vintage items. Sea n' Soul gives a portion of the proceeds to nonprofits including **The Surfrider Foundation** and the **Outdoor Alliance**. The app also brings together like-minded, passionate outdoor enthusiasts who can share their stories and learn more about protecting the environment.

"We live in a society of constant consumption where single-use and disposable items have become the norm, and, to combat that, I wanted to create a fully regenerative company," Kozlowski said. "I truly believe business can and should be a part of the solution to give back to the world and help solve our climate crisis."

He added that places like garages, basements and closets are full of perfectly usable items that are just sitting and collecting dust. The goal was to make selling these items as easy as posting on **Instagram**.

Just take a photo or video of an item, upload it to the app, fill in a few more details like price and condition, and the item is instantly posted for other users to purchase. Users can also browse popular categories such as bicycles and kayaks to find the item they're looking for. Depending on the listing, users can make an offer or buy the item directly while having the option of it being shipped or picking it up in person.

"With a simple buying-and-selling process from start to finish, you can feel good that your transaction is helping to keep unnecessary waste out of landfills, reduce demand for new textiles and directly contribute to earth-repairing nonprofits with each trans-

action," Kozlowski said.

Sea n' Soul's mission comes on the heels of the global crisis that the earth currently finds itself in with climate change continually wreaking havoc throughout the globe. As Kozlowski put it, giving back to Mother Earth is "why we get out of bed in the morning." He added that cleaning up the planet is a collective effort and one that Sea n' Soul wants to be in the middle of with a "think global, act local" mindset.

"We are deeply passionate about keeping our planet healthy, not only for the immensely important notion of a thriving world ecosystem to sustainably support all species but to also be able to enjoy the outdoors in its most natural state," Kozlowski said.

Sea n' Soul is also helping others engage



Inspired by other resale platforms, John Kozlowski decided to fill a void in the outdoor- and adventure-gear market with Sea n' Soul.

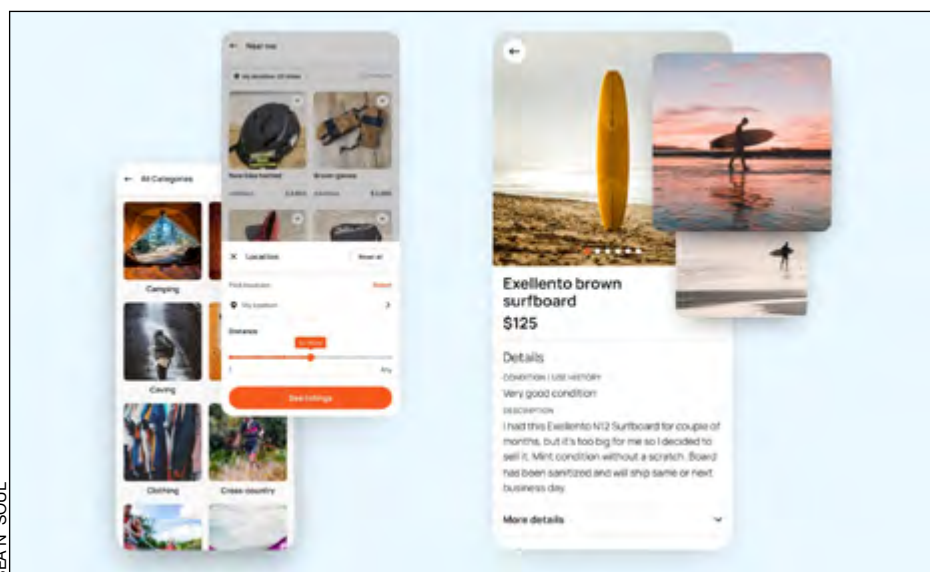
in outdoor sports by helping lower the cost of these pricy activities.

"We wanted to make these recreational activities accessible to everyone, and by creating a marketplace where you can purchase lightly used gear for a hefty discount we are lowering the entry requirements," Kozlowski said. "Not to mention, if you try out a sport that you don't end up loving, you can put your gear up on Sea n' Soul and recoup some of your expenses."

Kozlowski has big dreams for Sea n' Soul's future with the hope that the app becomes the go-to place for adventure items.

"Sea n' Soul will become the top-of-mind destination for anyone seeking to buy and sell adventure gear and apparel. It will be a place to turn to when someone is looking to learn more about what's happening with the health of our shared public lands and how to get involved to help protect them."

Sea n' Soul is currently available for download at the **App Store** and **Google Play** and can also be accessed at [seansoul.com](https://seansoul.com). ●



Visitors to Sea n' Soul can buy or sell lightly used gear such as surfboards, skateboards, snowboards, mountain bikes, kayaks, boots, jackets and vintage items.



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# Style Blossoms

This season’s bouquet of florals showcases a diverse range of patterns to accommodate different style genres across the decades. Blooming sunflowers nod to those free-spirited, sun-loving fashion enthusiasts of the 1990s while those blended in paisley provide a 1970s rocker feel.



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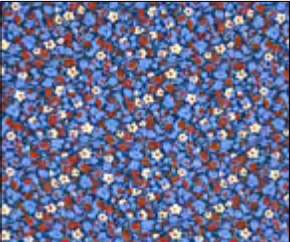
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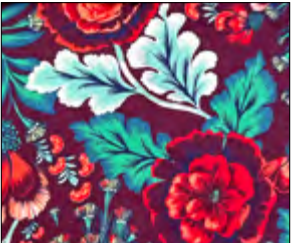
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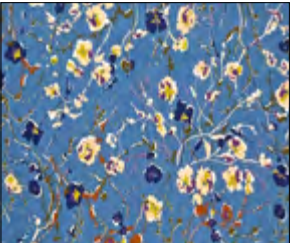
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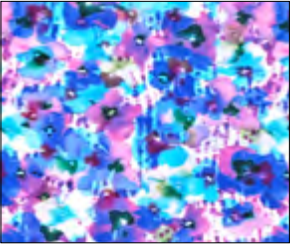
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# Into the Blue

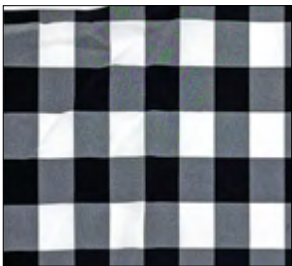
Current trends in blue hues range from elegant patterns in deep, rich color to camouflage in sky and royal. Classic textiles are afforded the blue treatment in beloved mainstays such as the navy-and-white stripe, evoking an air of days spent sailing, in addition to inviting plaids and delicate florals.



Cinergy Textiles, Inc.

# Checkmate

Checkerboard patterns and cozy plaids remain strong with updated designs of these classics. Plaids in flannel-worthy textiles provide a welcoming allure to get comfortable, while others in the category speak to rebellious style. New takes on traditional checks yield a feeling of slowing down and enjoying long picnic afternoons.



La Lame, Inc.



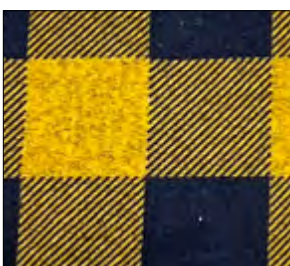
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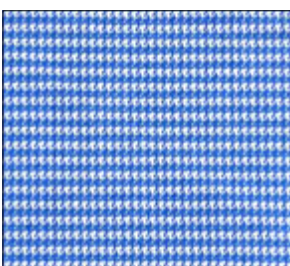
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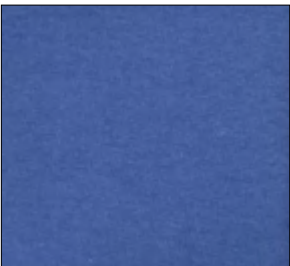
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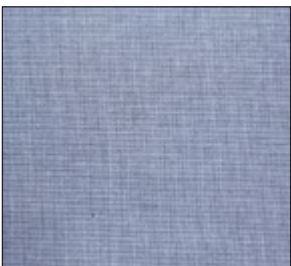
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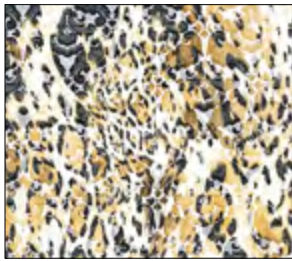
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# Into the Wild

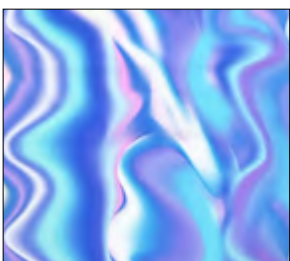
Remaining strong, trends in cheetah and leopard are joined by giraffe- and snakeskin-patterned designs. Many fabrics in this category rely on a more traditional approach, taking inspiration from the naturally occurring patterns on these animals, while neon details still pop up.



KBC Fashion / LK Textiles

# Dyeing for Style

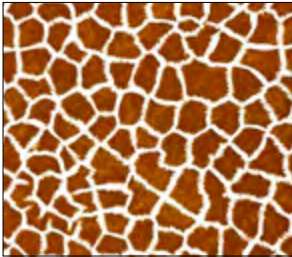
Building from previous tie-dye trends, textiles are approaching this area with a fresh vision. Tie-dye remains, but it is now electric in stunning lightning or vibrant color and also paired with geometric designs. High-energy paint splatters are contrasted with subdued, relaxing patterns.



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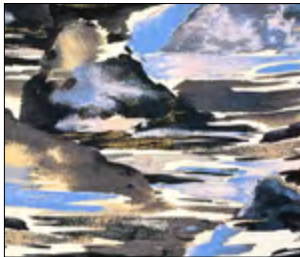
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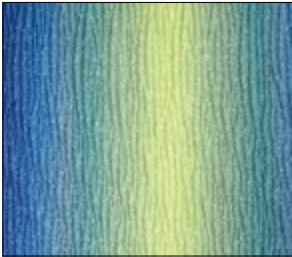
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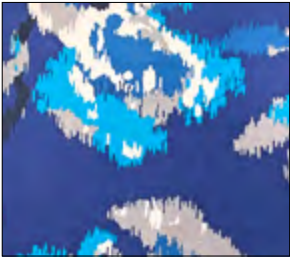
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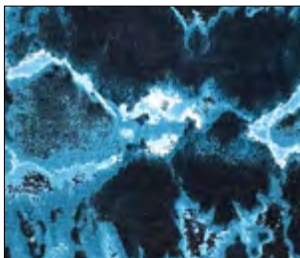
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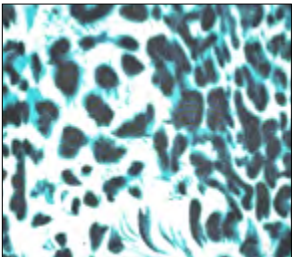
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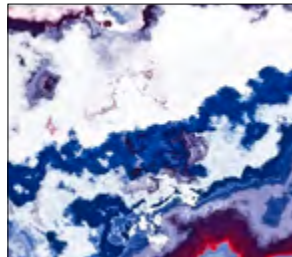
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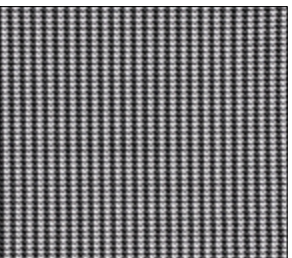
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# Dark Dreams

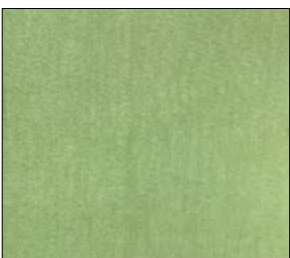
Classic black-and-white becomes a bit darker this season with textiles yielding shadowy characteristics. Geometric patterns, Southwestern influences, florals, delicate lace, and classic stripes or polka dots gain popularity as they reflect the beauty that can be found in the dark.



Texollini

# Emerald Allure

The array of green hues that are ticking at the moment reveal limitless options for the stylish set. Smoky greens, pistachio and Granny Smith apple are presented to make garments pop, while others lean a bit blue for a different take on this color.



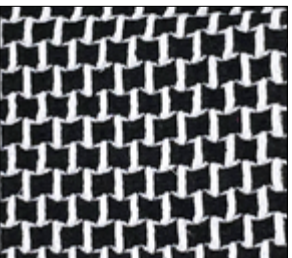
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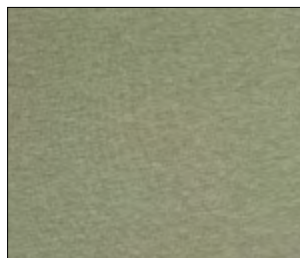
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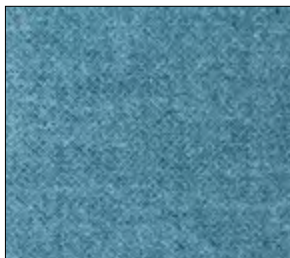
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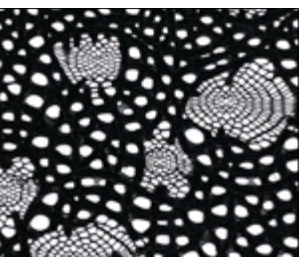
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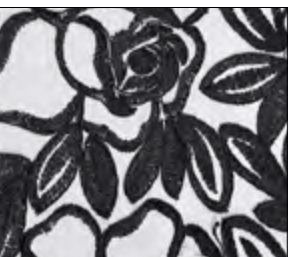
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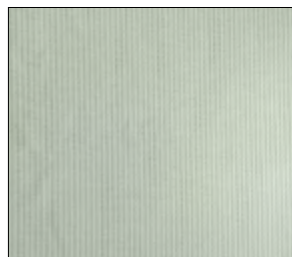
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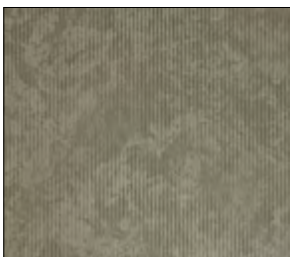
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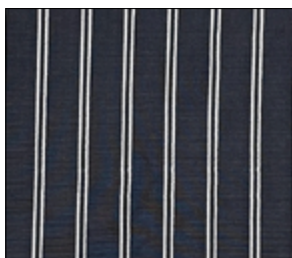
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Texollini



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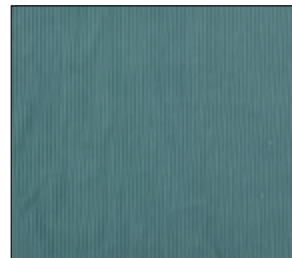
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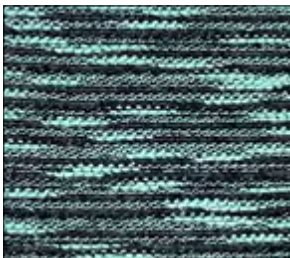
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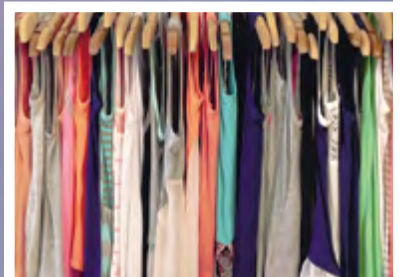


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- 5 With a strong focus on buyer incentives, the New Mart offers an intoxicating charm that is second to none.
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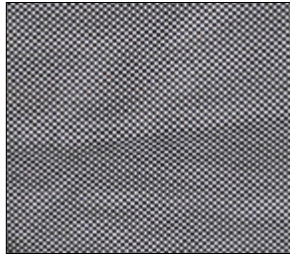
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## Getting Physical

Activewear-performance is seeing fun, uplifting prints for high-energy workouts but also more-grounded tones that inspire inner peace for yoga enthusiasts. From intense, colorful tie-dye patterns, geometrics and florals to relaxing solids, activewear-performance inspiration takes notes from the workouts for which it is intended.



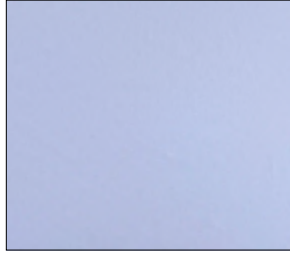
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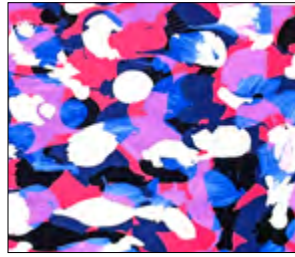
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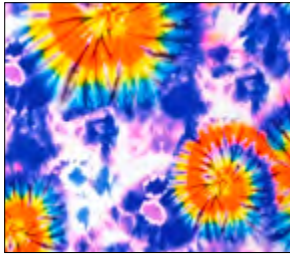
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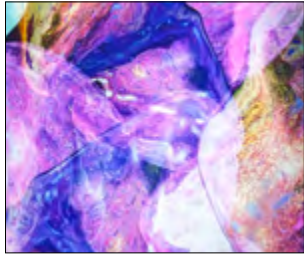
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## Denim Directions

Fashion's most reliable, ubiquitous textile is taking new shape this season as denim includes classic blues and black but also fresh, exciting designs. Dark indigo remains a fashion staple, while denim also becomes colorful in hues of salmon, lilac, tie-dye and 1980s-era paint splatter.



Global Denim



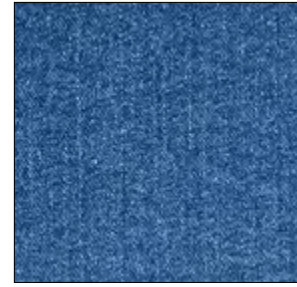
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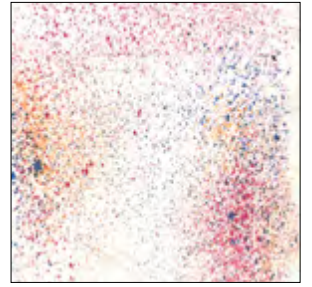
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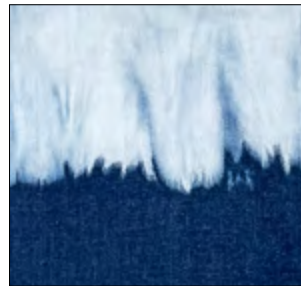
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Global Denim



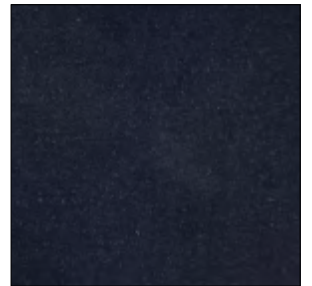
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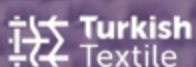


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## TEXTILE TRENDS

### Statement Pieces

Fantastic prints in striking, conversation-sparking designs that make a statement are resonating with the fashion set that seeks ways to stand out through wearing unique pieces. Graphics range from fun space-inspired patterns and colorful geometrics to avant-garde artistic designs.



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Robert Kaufman Fabrics



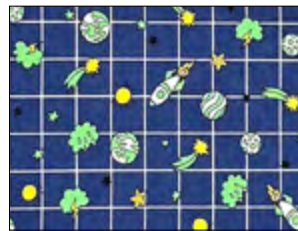
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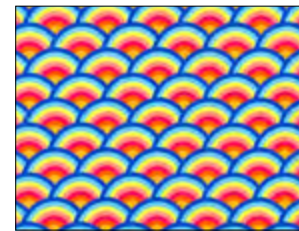
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### Burning Blends

Orange hues take on a burnt appearance in designs that range from alluring patterns to striking solids. These hues dominate and shine in paisleys, tie-dyes, geometrics and abstract Expressionist patterns, while textiles that are solid orange throughout demand attention.

—Dorothy Crouch



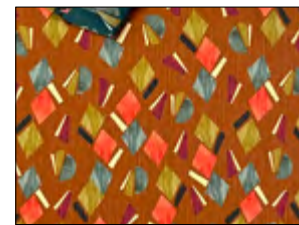
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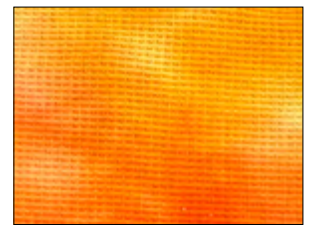
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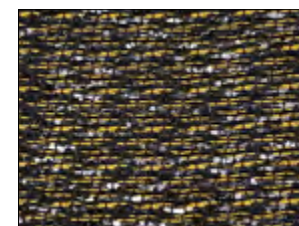
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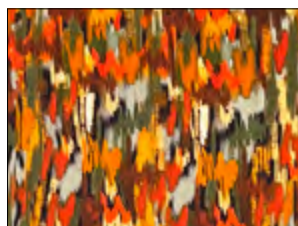
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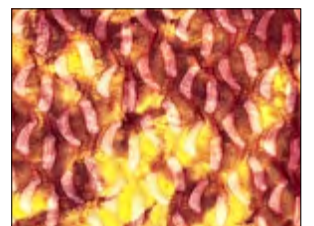
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## TEXTILES



With its new FRUT FIBER and PLNT FIBER offerings, Pangaia is providing alternatives to pollutive textiles by maintaining a soft hand, performance and appearance, while reducing waste and emissions.

### Pangaia *Continued from page 1*

ment to these principles and work toward science-based targets for carbon reduction.”

As the apparel industry moves toward greener, more ecologically sound practices, Pangaia is working to provide options to its clients to fulfill the demand for more-sustainable goods originating in its customer base. While Pangaia recognizes the important role that traditional fabrics have played, it is working to replicate in alternative materials the characteristics that make less eco-friendly textiles attractive.

The London-headquartered Pangaia sought renewable resources when developing its new blends to create the more-sustainable textiles. Its PLNT FIBER is created from bamboo, Himalayan nettle, eucalyptus and seaweed. These plants were chosen as they require no pesticides, fertilizers or irrigation during cultivation. In addition to the low-maintenance approach to growing these plants, consistent harvesting of bamboo and nettle promote growth, thereby affording faster cultivation.

“We are using the first blends we developed as replacements for cotton knits for basics like T-shirts, track suits and loungewear. This is a huge market we have to impact. Each type of fiber offers unique performance and functional characteristics, and we are continuing to expand our textile blends in hand feels ranging from rugged to silky,” Parkes explained. “We are also expanding FRUT FIBER and PLNT FIBER into wovens.”

For its FRUT FIBER, Pangaia relied on bamboo Lyocell blended with fibers sourced from fruit byproducts. As an alternative to relegating pineapple-leaf and banana-leaf fibers to the landfill or burning them as a method of disposal, using these materials to create textiles reduces waste and carbon emissions.

“By using renewable and fast-growing plants, the brand helps to reduce the fashion industry’s reliance on cotton and synthetics by diversifying textile blends,” Parkes said. “Additionally, our lyocell process for bamboo production is completed in a closed-loop system where the chemicals are fully reclaimed.”

With the recent release of its PLNT FIBER and FRUT FIBER alternatives, Pangaia is also relying on technology to help close the loop on its supply chain for textile manufacturing.

Partnering with EON, developer of the CircularID Protocol, Pangaia added digital passports to each of its PLNT FIBER and FRUT FIBER products in order to move the needle forward toward circularity. These passports work through a QR code with a cloud-hosted digital twin that reveals the supply-chain story of each garment. The technology first appeared in Pangaia’s Horizon collection to promote transparency, traceability and circularity. Through this commitment to sourcing renewable, greener resources and blending these initiatives with technology to promote circularity, Pangaia is maintaining its commitment to a mission it refers to as “high-tech naturalism.” ●

## Go Beyond the News and Behind the Scenes

The editors and writers of *California Apparel News* are blogging at [ApparelNews.net](http://ApparelNews.net)



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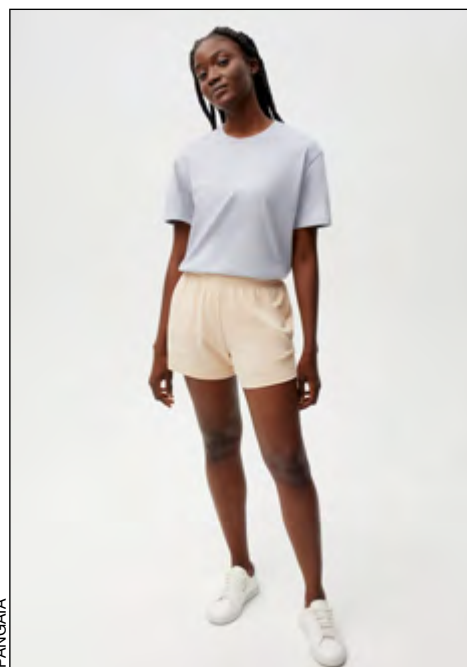
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Pangaia's PLNT FIBER is created from fibers made from bamboo, Himalayan nettle, eucalyptus and seaweed.



## SUSTAINABILITY



All Boma Jewelry earrings are made from recycled 925 sterling silver.



The Aveta Ring and the Parel Signet Ring are both made from recycled and reclaimed metals.

## Boma Jewelry Awarded B Corp Certification

By Tyler Shultz Assistant Editor

**Boma Jewelry**, a Seattle-based jewelry brand, was recently awarded B Corp Certification status, meeting the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability. Boma becomes the only jewelry brand in Seattle, as well as one of less than 20 jewelry brands worldwide, to be awarded the certification.

Founded in 1981, Boma Jewelry is a family-run company focused on the triple bottom line: people, planet and profits. Boma built its first factory in Bangkok in 1985 to support and build a community of jewelry makers. In the early 1990s, Boma became one of the top-20 silver-jewelry manufacturers in North America. By 1997, Boma was available for purchase at some of the biggest retailers in the United States, including **Nordstrom** and **American Eagle**.

The B Corp Certification process is administered through **B Lab**, a nonprofit organization founded in 2006 that created the B Corp Certification to award organizations who voluntarily meet certain standards of transparency, accountability, sustainability and performance. A commonly used analogy is B Corp Certification is to business what Fair Trade certification is to coffee or USDA Organic certification for milk.

Suzanne Vetillart, chief executive officer of Boma Jewelry, stated that the B Corp Certification is one of the best tools created to help companies and organizations set, achieve and exceed sustainability goals. Vetillart believes the certification not only helps the company reach those goals but also acts as a road map for consistent improvement.

"Having this framework for evaluating our sustainability goals is something we continue to use today. While it's overwhelming to know where to get started and how to make real impact or change, for us it was important to just get started," Vetillart said. "Working with the B Lab team, we were encouraged to know that every leading sustainable company or organization had to start somewhere. What matters is continual dedication and improvement over time."

Less than 4 percent of companies who complete the assessment score well enough to become certified. There are currently over 4,000 certified B Corps in 70 countries and

150 different industries. Over 100,000 companies manage their impact using the B Impact Assessment.

The rigorous certification process for Boma took three years, with evaluators looking at the source of the precious materials used in the supply chain to the brand's environmental policies and community engagement. Vetillart mentioned that some of the truly hard parts of the process were not just making the commitments to decreasing their



Boma Jewelry is committed to celebrating its customer base by embracing diversity and inclusion in all influencer campaigns, events, and community partnerships.

carbon footprint or decreasing plastic use but also adhering to them as well.

In 2016, Boma Jewelry created the Boma Girl Fund to help support the families of the Boma-factory employees. Every year, Boma commits funds to scholarships, book drives, family and community events, and spiritual and wellness activities for its employees. The Boma Girl Fund also offered Boma an opportunity to show how they were already making an impact on social issues. In 2020, Boma created the Boma Grant Program to provide mentorship and production resources for independent BIPOC jewelry designers.

The company announced in 2021 that it would begin the switch to renewable energy sources with the goal of becoming carbon net zero by 2025. The company also uses various methods to practice sustainability such as relying on recycled silver. Boma recycled nearly 5,000 ounces of silver in 2020, reducing the need for mined silver. Boma has also released a Zero-Waste collection using dead-stock materials including stones and pearls.

To celebrate the brand's 40th anniversary, a pop-up shop has been announced in Seattle during the month of October. The pop-up gives fans of the brand the opportunity to shop the full line of Boma products, including items previously archived. The pop-up will also include weekend events highlighting other AAPI-owned brands in the community. ●

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# Resource Guide

## Sustainable Belda Lloréns

+34 966 56 70 21  
[emovement@beldallorems.com](mailto:emovement@beldallorems.com)  
Since 1956 Belda Lloréns has been making sustainable yarns through a circular economy while preventing virgin material from entering the manufacturing cycle. The Spanish company sources materials from reconverting fabrics and used garments back into fiber. The remaining steps are transforming fiber to yarn, weaving yarn to fabric, manufacturing garments, sales and recollection of the used garment. Belda Lloréns prides itself on its ECOLIFE products using 75 percent solar power, zero percent water usage, chemical products and CO2 emissions.

## Functional Fabric Fair — powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS®

[inquiry@functionalfabricfair.com](mailto:inquiry@functionalfabricfair.com)  
[www.functionalfabricfair21.com/](http://www.functionalfabricfair21.com/)  
[CaliforniaApparelNews](http://CaliforniaApparelNews)  
Functional Fabric Fair—powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS®, is the premiere marketplace in the U.S. where apparel CEOs, designers and product development executives source the most current innovations in high performance functional fabrics, finished trims, and accessories from a carefully curated selection of fabric mills and branded technology companies. The fairs are free of charge to industry professionals and are presented in a sustainable and minimal waste environment. Upcoming show is Oct. 27–28 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Ore.

## Supply Chain Alejandra’s Fashion Inc.

(323) 240-0595  
[alejandrasfashioninc@gmail.com](mailto:alejandrasfashioninc@gmail.com)  
[www.alejandrasfashion.com](http://www.alejandrasfashion.com)  
Alejandra’s fashion organization has provided the best factory direct apparel solutions for various recognized brands such as Nordstrom, Abercrombie & Fitch, Macy’s, Target and Walmart. The 25,000 square foot Vernon-Calif. facility offers full-package and semi full-package services including cutting,

sewing, finishing and logistics. Alejandra’s works with corporate clients to convey the most astounding quality clothing and customer satisfaction delivering 100 percent American labor. With a production capacity of 35,000 items per week, Alejandra’s Fashion has a wide range of experience with simple through high-end garments.

## Technology Kornit Digital

480 S. Dean Street, Englewood, NJ 07088  
Contact: Mandy Liu, (201) 608-5758,  
[Mandy.Liu@kornit.com](mailto:Mandy.Liu@kornit.com)  
[www.kornit.com](http://www.kornit.com)  
Kornit Digital is the leading provider for digital textile printing solutions. Kornit’s innovative printing technology enables businesses to succeed in web-to-print, on-demand, and mass customization concepts. We offer a complete line of direct-to-garment printing solutions that range from commercial to mass production level. Offices in Europe, Asia, and North America.

## Textiles Asher Fabric Concepts

[www.asherconcepts.com](http://www.asherconcepts.com)  
In 1991, Asher Fabric Concepts, based in Los Angeles, transformed the apparel industry by offering cutting-edge, high quality, “Made in U.S.A” knits for the contemporary fashion, athletic, and yoga markets. Since then, the company has become internationally known for its in-house system of vertically integrated machines that manufacture premium quality, knitted fabrications with and without spandex. Asher Fabric Concepts provides fabric development, knitting, dyeing, and finishing in addition to fabric print design and printing capabilities based on each customer’s needs. The company differentiates itself from the competition by offering proprietary textiles and by continually updating and innovating every aspect of textile design and production. Asher Fabric Concepts is constantly adapting as the industry shifts and evolves and offers a selection of sustainable fabrics including recycled polyesters and organic and biodegradable fabrics. Seeing a need for quality sublimation printing. Asher Fabrics is thrilled to now offer in-house sublimation printing to their clients. With an in-house design team, new prints are constantly added to its collection, and color stories are updated seasonally.

## Design Knit Inc.

1636 Staunton Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
Phone: (213) 742-1234  
Fax: (213) 748-7110  
[info@designknit.com](mailto:info@designknit.com)  
[www.designknit.com](http://www.designknit.com)  
Contact: Shala Tabassi, Pat Tabassi  
Design Knit, Inc. is a knit-to-order mill based in Los Angeles specializing in the development and production of high-quality, sheer to heavyweight knit fabrics for contemporary, athleisure, sportswear, and loungewear markets. The collection includes but is not limited to: Supima Cotton, TENCEL™ Lyocell, TENCEL™ Modal, Organic Cotton, ECOLIFE®, cashmere blends, linen blends, rayon, mélange, triblends, etc. Fashion-forward athleisure collection. Cut-and-sew sweater knits. Now introducing STUDIO DK, the fabric source for your growing brand. Lower minimums and some stock items available.

## Philips-Boyne Corp.

135 Rome St.  
Farmingdale, NY 11735  
(631) 755-1230  
Fax: (631) 755-1259  
[sales@philipsboyne.com](mailto:sales@philipsboyne.com)  
[www.philipsboyne.com](http://www.philipsboyne.com)  
Philips-Boyne Corp. offers high-quality shirtings and fabric. The majority of the line consists of long-staple Egyptian cotton that is woven and finished in Japan. Styles range from classic stripes, checks, and solids to novelties, Oxfords, dobbies, voiles, Swiss dots, seersuckers, gingham, flannels, and more. Exclusive broadcloth qualities: Ultimo, Corona, and Superba. Knowledgeable customer-service team, immediate shipping, and highest-quality textiles. Philips-Boyne serves everyone from at-home sewers and custom shirt-makers to couture designers and branded corporations.

## Robert Kaufman Fabrics

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(800) 877-2066  
Fax: (310) 538-9235  
[info@robertkaufman.com](mailto:info@robertkaufman.com)  
[www.robertkaufman.com](http://www.robertkaufman.com)  
Robert Kaufman Co., Inc. is an importer and converter with national and international representation, stocking a wide

variety of printed, yarn-dyed, and solid wovens and knits as well as denims. In business for over 70 years, Robert Kaufman Fabrics has been delivering the highest-quality service to manufacturing clients in the U.S. and around the world in a variety of markets, including childrenswear, womenswear, contemporary, juniors, men’s sportswear, maternity, uniforms, special occasion, accessories, and home fashions. In addition to an extensive catalog of on-trend design collections released every quarter, we offer domestic in-stock programs with low minimums as well as customized fabric design, development, and sourcing for prints, yarn-dyes, and solids. All fabrics are available for sampling. We also drop ship for customers with off-shore production needs. Robert Kaufman Fabrics sells wholesale and to the trade only.

## Uludag Textile Exporters’ Association — UTIB

[www.utib.org.tr](http://www.utib.org.tr)  
Uludag Textile Exporters’ Association—UTIB is organizing a Turkish national exhibition with participation of 13 companies at the upcoming LA Textile Show, Sept 29-Oct 1, 2021. The fair will feature clothing fabrics, accessories as well as cultural exhibits. Participating companies through UTIB are Confetti Tekstil, Erkan Tekstil, Ipeker Tekstil, Kimteks Tekstil, Kotonteks Tekstil, Lale Mefrusat, Larma Tekstil, Moripek Tekstil, Özkay Giyim, Özel Tekstil, Reisoglu Iplik, Sahsa Tekstil and Segen Tekstil. The UTIB companies will introduce Turkish design power, sustainable products, production and service quality.

## Finance CIT

[www.cit.com/commercial/solutions/commercialservices](http://www.cit.com/commercial/solutions/commercialservices)  
CIT is one of the nation’s leading providers of factoring and financing to middle market consumer product companies. Our customized financial solutions help middle market consumer product companies improve cash flow, reduce operating expenses and mitigate credit risks. As a preeminent lender and provider of lending and financial and operational solutions to companies in the consumer products space, CIT can help you focus your efforts on developing ideas into sustainable, growing businesses.

## White Oak Commercial Finance

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[www.whiteoaksf.com](http://www.whiteoaksf.com)  
White Oak Commercial Finance, LLC (WOCF), formerly Capital Business Credit/Capital Factors, is a global financial products and services company providing credit facilities to middle-market companies between \$1 million and \$30 million. WOCF’s solutions include asset-based lending, full-service factoring, invoice discounting, supplychain financing, inventory financing, U.S. import/export financing, trade credit-risk management, account-receivables management, and credit and collections support. WOCF is an affiliate of White Oak Global Advisors, LLC, and its institutional clients. More information can be found at our website.

## Fashion Atlanta Apparel

[www.AmericasMart.com/apparel](http://www.AmericasMart.com/apparel)  
Atlanta Apparel is the largest apparel market on the East Coast, offering thousands of contemporary and ready-to-wear women’s, children’s, and accessories lines all together in one location at one time. As the apparel and accessories collection of AmericasMart® Atlanta, it features an expansive—and growing—product mix, including contemporary, ready-to-wear, young contemporary, social occasion, bridal, activewear, resortwear, swim, lingerie, fashion jewelry, fine jewelry, shoes, handbags, and more showcased in permanent showrooms and temporary exhibition booths. Trend-driven juried temporary collections include Première (women’s premium high-end/contemporary apparel, denim, and accessories) and Resort (high-quality lifestyle apparel and accessories). Atlanta Apparel presents five apparel markets and three specialty markets: World of Prom (prom, pageant, quinceañera, social occasion) each year and Vow | New World of Bridal twice each year.

## Cooper Design Space

860 S. Los Angeles St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
(213) 627-3754  
[www.cooperdesignspace.com](http://www.cooperdesignspace.com)  
Constructed in 1924 for clothing manufacturer Milton G. Cooper, the Cooper Building has maintained a strong connection to the garment industry through its historic use and design. Acquired by Stanley and Anita Hirsh in the 1970s, they transformed it into a Fashion District icon. Now known as Cooper Design Space it remains in the Hirsh family, committed to the fashion industry and offering a variety of studio, office, and showroom spaces within a single, dynamic location at the corner of Los Angeles and 9th street. It is home for many of Los Angeles’ most creative premium fashion brands and individuals.

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Contact: Wayne Jung  
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Well established garment manufacturer based in LA downtown area is looking for following positions. For consideration, please send resume to:

hr@4goldengreen.com

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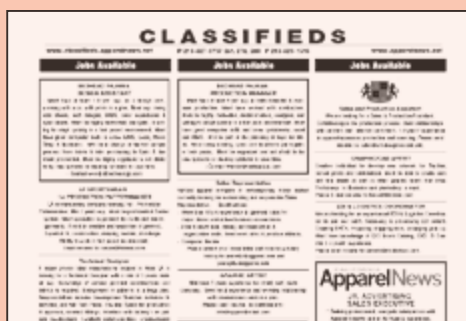
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