## 



During its Oct. 7–10 return, LAFW provided a platform to global and California-based designers, such as Nicholas Mayfield, at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. See page 6 for more styles.

Nicholas Mayfield

**WILLIAM I** 

## TRADE-SHOW REPORT L.A. Market Attracts Buyers Invested in Spring/Summer 2022

#### By Tyler Shultz Assistant Editor

Los Angeles Market Week took place Oct. 10–13 in downtown Los Angeles and brought with it a number of designers and brands previewing their upcoming products and collections. Buyers gathered at the **California Market Center**, **The New Mart** and the **Cooper Design Space** to see what designers had in store for the upcoming Spring/Summer 2022 season.

#### Fresh designs at the CMC

At **New Designers Space** the brand showcased its newest foray into sustainable fashion by debuting hoodie-and-sweat-pants sets, each made using 108 recycled plastic bottles.

## TRADE-SHOW REPORT Nearshoring and Sustainable Options Tick During LA Textile Return

#### By Dorothy Crouch Managing Editor

During the return edition of LA Textile at the California Market Center in downtown Los Angeles, apparel makers and creatives were welcomed back to the trade-show floor to find inspiration following the event's hiatus, which began after its March 2020 edition due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the course of the Sept. 29–Oct. 1 event, 1,500 attendees and 130 exhibitors from across 18 countries met to discuss textile-sourcing options.

In addition to networking and buying opportunities, LA Textile offered a full schedule of information sessions that provided expert analysis regarding sourcing, production and design trends. On Sept. 30, the event hosted a full-day intensive Sustainability Certificate Workshop presented by LA Textile page 9

## INSIDE

Where fashion gets down to business<sup>sm</sup>



Ralph Lauren and Dow clean up cotton dyeing ... p. 2 Vuori receives SoftBank investment ... p. 2 NuOrder-GOA partnership ... p. 3 Pangaia Lab x Twelve combats CO<sub>2</sub> ... p. 9 Resource Guide ... p. 10

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# Ralph Lauren and Dow Collaborate on New Process to Dye Cotton More Sustainably

**Ralph Lauren** and **Dow** are open-sourcing a new platform that aims to transform how the apparel industry dyes cotton.

The two companies released a detailed manual regarding how to dye cotton more sustainably and effectively by using ECOFAST Pure Sustainable Textile Treatment. The manual details how to use ECOFAST Pure, a cationic cotton treatment developed by Dow with existing dyeing equipment.

"As fashion supply chains look to recover from impacts of the pandemic, there is a critical window to build more-sustainable practices into production processes," said Mary Draves,

chief sustainability officer at Dow. "By collaborating today to scale a less resource-intensive dyeing process, we can help address pressing challenge like climate change and



Ralph Lauren and Dow have partnered to release a detailed manual that covers dyeing cotton more sustainably and effectively by using ECOFAST Pure Sustainable Textile Treatment.

water resiliency in the long term."

Conventional fabric dyeing uses more than a trillion gallons of water each year, according to the companies. Dow says the new platform uses 90 percent less chemicals, 50 percent less dye, 50 percent less water and 40 percent less energy. Ralph Lauren is the first brand to use ECOFAST Pure and will use the technology in its cotton-dyeing process as part of its new Color on Demand platform. The Color on Demand platform is a system that enables the recycling and reuse of all water from the dyeing process.

R al ph L auren used ECOFAST Pure as part of its Team USA collections for the **2020 Olympic** and **Paralympic Games**. By 2025, the brand aims to use Color on Demand to dye more than 80 percent of its solid cotton products. The company

has previously referred to climate change as one of the most challenging issues at present and pledged to reach zero greenhouse-gas emissions by 2040.—*Tyler Shultz* 

## **Inside the Industry**

Rent the Runway Inc. announced it has filed for an initial public offering and is hoping the return of events will draw business back in. The fashion-rental company listed the size of the offering as \$100 million, a placeholder that will change when the terms are set. Despite struggling during the pandemic, seeing its valuation dip to \$750 million after being valued at \$1 billion and reporting a nearly 39 percent revenue drop last year, the company saw an uptick in subscribers over the first six months of 2021. The company plans to list on the Nasdaq with the ticker symbol "RENT."

MycoWorks announced that Ian Bickley has joined the company as a strategic adviser. Bickley brings over 25 years of fashion and luxury-market experience and leadership and previously was president of global business development for all Tapestry brands, which include Coach, Kate Spade and Stuart Weitzman. The news comes on the heels of the company announcing that former Hermès CEO Patrick Thomas had joined the board of directors in July. MycoWorks developed and owns Fine Mycelium, the world's only proprietary biotechnology that harnesses mycelium to grow a made-toorder natural material to develop a so-called "mushroom leather." The technology works to replace traditional leather using mycelium, the vegetable part of the fungus.

A \$4.25 million federal grant has led to the creation and expansion of an Industrial Sewing Apprentice Program. The need for a sewing apprenticeship became apparent after the pandemic caused problems in fashion-industry supply chains and created an increase in demand for U.S.-made products. The program was launched through the Innovation Grant from the state of Idaho. The first pre-apprenticeship group was taught in May 2021 by Voxn, a Boise-based brand behind the program and apprenticeship, and the International Rescue Committee. The preprogram began as an eightweek course but quickly grew to a 12-week program. The apprenticeship is expected to undergo a massive expansion with the help of the federal grant.

A number of trade associations in the retail, footwear and apparel space expressed disappointment over U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai's announcement to keep existing tariffs in place. American Apparel & Footwear Association President and CEO Steve Lamar previously sent a letter to Tai requesting relief from the tariffs left over from the Trump administration's trade war, claiming the tariffs are directly threatening businesses that are facing shipping disruption. "At a time when the industry is struggling with an unprecedented supply-chain crisis due to our crumbling infrastructure, economic fallout from a damaging pandemic and unprecedented freight costs, it is distressing that the administration has chosen to continue to subject U.S. companies to these damaging taxes," Lamar said.

## SoftBank Invests \$400 Million in Vuori

Activewear brand **Vuori** has announced a \$400 million investment from **SoftBank Vision Fund 2** at a valuation of \$4 billion. Since 2015, Vuori has established itself as a leader in the activewear market that merges techwear with a West Coast aesthetic.

After widespread feedback in the United States, Encinitas, Calif.–based Vuori will be-

gin its international expansion in 2022. The brand will launch an omni-channel business in key markets throughout Western Europe and the Asia Pacific region as well as an innovation center in Taiwan. Vuori said it would also increase its retail expansion in the U.S. with more than 100 store openings scheduled over the next five years.



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Since 2015, Encinitas, Calif., brand Vuori has established itself as a leader in activewear and is now ready to expand globally.

The investment will allow Vuori to expand its product offerings, make key investments in infrastructure and people, and expand its sustainability efforts. Through partnerships with organizations such as **Climate Neutral** and **CleanHub**, Vuori is offsetting its carbon and plastic footprints while trying to eliminate 80 percent of plastics from its supply chain by the end of 2022.

"With its strong consumer engagement, sustainability focus and sheer growth, we believe Vuori is a leading brand in the attractive activewear market," said Nagraj Kashyap, managing partner at **SoftBank Investment Advisers**. "We are delighted to partner with Joe and the Vuori team as they introduce new products to consumers and expand globally."

SoftBank Vision Fund 2 is the second investor to back Vuori after **Norwest Venture Partners** invested in the company in 2019. -T.S.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

## NuOrder to Launch Enhanced Grassroots Outdoor Alliance Retailer Experience

#### By Tyler Shultz Assistant Editor

**NuOrder**, a leading B2B commerce platform, is launching a new buyer experience for **Grassroots Outdoor Alliance** retailers this fall.

Grassroots Outdoor Alliance is a network of 96 independent retailers with 195 locations in 42 states working together to help the growth of specialty, independent outdoor retail. Members are accepted after completion of an application, an interview, a review of key business metrics and final board approval, which then gives them access to a variety of events and services that can benefit their business. Grassroots Outdoor Alliance has been recognized as a catalyst for the success of its retailers and vendor partners and is seen as a key influencer in the outdoor industry.

The partnership between the two entities was originally announced in the fall of 2020 with a shared goal of revolutionizing the buying process with a new digital platform. When developing the platform, NuOrder used interviews and research to assess what retailers were looking for and found that they wanted a faster and more efficient order-writing process in addition to a single place where they could set ship dates for orders, review and adjust the orders as needed, and upload prebooking spreadsheets. Retailers also said they needed a platform that allows them to confidently place orders by visualizing the whole assortment before it's in stores.

The platform is built to be visually driven to match the nature of the apparel industry, which is what helps set NuOrder apart from other sell-through-reporting companies. The visual nature enables buyers and brands to see reports in a form where they can more easily analyze their business as opposed to looking at rows of text and numbers in spreadsheets.

"The Grassroots partnership provides a critical voice in NuOrder's mission to transform the retail process, with a key focus on helping independent retailers. This new season fo-



With a new NuOrder-led platform, Grassroots Outdoor Alliance retailers will be able to use enhanced ordering capabilities that include improved ship-by-date ordering, the ability to quickly create orders by import UPCs and quantities, ATS reordering, and integration at POS.

cuses on the first priorities that have been shared by Grassroots retailers, and we are just getting started. Our commitment to ongoing innovation will continue with each new season," said Olivia Skuza, co-founder and co-CEO of NuOrder.

With the new platform, Grassroots retailers will be able to use enhanced ordering capabilities that include improved ship-by-date ordering, the ability to quickly create orders by importing UPCs and quantities, ATS reordering, and integration at POS. Grassroots retailers will also have access to the latest virtual-showroom features and the use of advanced capabilities such as NuOrder's proprietary EZ Order functionality, which allows brands to send shoppable line sheets straight to a dealer's inbox alongside easy removal of dropped styles, userspecific discount and pricing rules, and order export templates. Grassroots has long advocated for a wholesale-buying solution with consistent processes across all brands. The partnership falls in line with Grassroots' mission to invest in digital technologies that streamline the buying process. Going forward, NuOrder will be the only platform endorsed by Grassroots for its retailers to place orders.

"The historic offerings from B2B sales platforms have been built specifically to cater to the needs of a product brand, while NuOrder is working to build a platform centered around the experience and time concerns of the retailer. For a retail buyer, it's much like the difference between shopping for a hundred products in a hundred stores versus shopping for a hundred products in a single store," said Rich Hill, president of the Grassroots Outdoor Alliance. "The goal here is to directly improve the bottom-line financial health of retailers by making it easier and quicker to visualize, budget, plan and buy. Improved efficiency means better choices made during the buying process and more time available to spend on the shop floor."

Updates and enhancements to the NuOrder platform will continue to be released throughout fall 2021. Those updates include the ability to import spreadsheets, add multiple colorways to the cart more easily and size by buyer-selected ship dates. Retailers will be able to organize and quickly make adjustments across ship dates with fewer clicks, have access to multiple order views and import orders from the platform through an integration into retailers' POS systems. Future plans for the platform include using the sell-through integration to enable easy reordering so retailers don't miss any sales or other key opportunities.

Earlier this year, NuOrder was acquired by **Lightspeed**, a provider of cloud-based, omni-channel commerce platforms to create an industry-leading bridge between buyers and sellers by simplifying product ordering for retailers.

#### **TRADE-SHOW REPORT**

#### L.A. Market Continued from page 1

"We use 42 percent recycled plastic, 20 percent polyester and 38 percent cotton to make the set feel soft like traditional hoodies and sweatpants," said Bob Chun, executive director at New Designers Space.

Located in The Loft, the CMC's new event space on the 10th floor, was **Label Array**, a showcase featuring on-trend fashion apparel in the contemporary and young-contemporary categories by both established and emerging designers.

Emerging L.A.-based designer Keirstin Selváge brought pieces from her brand, **SELVÁGE**, to display at her first show. Pieces in the collection are designed to

be classy, elegant and versatile for any occasion, with pieces named after women whom the designer respects and admires. "I want women to feel feminine and beautiful with this

line, no matter their shape or size," Selváge said. Also at Label Array was **FIT:MATCH**, a new technology

platform that uses 3D-mapping technology to take 150 body measurements to match shoppers with products from brands that are guaranteed to fit them. The platform aims to ease the minds of online shoppers and allow them to make a more informed decision on purchases.

"For example, denim is a hard-to-fit category. FIT:MATCH helps provide context around size variance. You might have a size 27 pair of jeans that fits differently than a same-style size 27 in a different brand due to things like stretch and inseam differences," said Hillary Littleton, senior growth marketing manager at FIT:MATCH.

Buyers at the CMC were looking for a wide range of items, from luxury goods to skateboarding pants. Debra Carrington, owner and founder of **Summer Colony Living** in Palm Desert, Calif., was at the CMC shopping for her boutiques and mentioned she had placed Immediate orders to fill her stores.

"We're a luxury boutique so I'm looking for luxury brands," Carrington said. "I'm not necessarily price driven but more quality and construction driven. I'm also looking at things that are creative or unusual."

#### New relationships at the Cooper

At the Cooper Design Space, Mayola Martinez and Jen Derrick, who were at market taking notes to curate for their



Catherine Gee has been showing her brand at Brand Assembly since 2016 and reported positive business during this recent edition. Wide legs, flares and culottes were trending for Kut from the Kloth buyers.

naria in San Francisco, said they liked the vari-

store, **The Finerie** in San Francisco, said they liked the variety they saw throughout the building.

"We've seen a lot of nice knitwear, and we're glad to see more workwear that isn't super dressy. It's like a soft workwear," Martinez said. "There have also been a lot of good denim brands."

Madalyn Brim, account executive for the New York–based **Derek Lam 10 Crosby**, said buyers at market were looking for colors and cotton poplin for spring but were also going in and asking for novelty pieces and other specialty items. Derek Lam shared a showroom with **ATM Anthony Thomas Melillo** as both brands are owned by the same parent company, **Public Clothing Company Inc.** 

"A good thing about sharing the room is the buyers for ATM get a chance to see Derek Lam, even if they had never bought from it before," Brim said.

On the Cooper Design Space's 11th floor, **Brand Assembly** showcased a roster of contemporary brands and designers. Catherine Gee, who has been exhibiting her eponymous label at Brand Assembly since 2016, said that despite the current climate of the ongoing pandemic L.A. Market had been very successful for the brand. During this market, **Catherine Gee** opened a new account with **Girl Boy Girl**, a boutique in Carmel, Calif., that specializes in on-trend women's apparel.

"It's a phenomenal store, and I'm really excited," Gee said. "It's one of the most reputable stores in the nation. She has an impressive array of everything from lower contemporary, advanced contemporary and designer, so to be included in the mix is a huge honor."

Each hoodie and sweatpants set from the fresh New Designers Space line uses 108 bottles worth of recycled plastic in its creation.

#### **On-trend at The New Mart**

Buyers at The New Mart were able to browse a wide selection of brands and showrooms. The **M Showroom** on the 11th floor featured brands including **Olive Hill**, **Sisters** and **Paparazzi by BIZ**. On the fourth floor, representatives at the denim and sportswear brand **Kut from the Kloth** noticed the different trends buyers were looking at for Spring/ Summer.

"Wide legs, flares, culottes and faux leather are probably the most popular pieces," said Jamie Dufour, West Coast sales account executive for Kut from the Kloth.

Susan Testa and Debbie Hurley, shopping for **Romantiques** in Los Gatos, Calif., said they were browsing the building for blouses and other products that would attract their target customers, who are women ages 25–55.

"I also feel the quality of fabrics are better. There is more of a demand for soft rather than stiff fabrics, at least at the vendors we're looking at," Hurley said.

Taking place on the third floor of The New Mart was **Designers and Agents**, an independent trade show that showcases advanced-contemporary and emerging-designer brands. The **Aubrey Company** showed its brands **Epice**, **MJ. Watson** and **H+ Hannoh Wessel**.

"Buyers really welcome the opportunity to touch fabrics. Some people like to try them on or have you try them on so they can see how it looks," said Jakki Fink, senior account executive for the Aubrey Company. "They're really excited to be able to do a more thoughtful and considered buying process."

#### TRADE SHOWS



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MAGIC executives hope that MAGIC Nashville, which is slated for a May debut, will provide greater options for Immediates buying and inventory replenishment for bricks-and-mortar businesses and online retailers.

## IMF's MAGIC Announces 2022 Show Dates and New Addition to Event Roster

By Dorothy Crouch Managing Editor

Apparel-industry trade event MAGIC recently announced its 2022 schedule to help buyers plan for next year while also adding a new show to its calendar-MAGIC Nashville. Informa Markets Fashionowned MAGIC will launch its Nashville edition May 16–17 at the Music City Center, catering to trend and young-contemporary brands in women's in addition to children's. footwear and accessories. MAGIC Nashville is intended to fill the space between major buying seasons, affording greater options to buyers as the traditional apparel calendar continues to transition according to the needs of the industry.

"For the trend and young-contemporary market, speed to retail is critical in order to deliver on continuously evolving consumer demands," said Jordan Rudow, vice president of events at MAGIC. "In 2021, we introduced MAGIC New York, and in 2022 we are further expanding our portfolio to support the industry's need for more-frequent opportunities to convene and conduct business by bringing the spirit of MAGIC to Nashville.'

Located two minutes walking distance from the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum on Rep. John Lewis Way South in downtown Nashville, the Music City Center's convention complex occupies a 2.1 millionsquare-foot space. MAGIC executives hope that the new event will provide greater options for Immediates buying and inventory replenishment for bricks-and-mortar businesses and online retailers. The event will also include activations, networking opportunities and education sessions that will afford attendees access to industry leaders, celebrities, influencers, stylists and media.

In addition to the MAGIC Nashville schedule. MAGIC also released dates for the event's counterparts throughout the United States. MAGIC Las Vegas will return to the Las Vegas Convention Center Feb. 27–March 1 and Sept. 18–20 at the **Javits**  Convention Center.

"As new trends emerge and consumer demand shifts, MAGIC's full 2022 calendar will support brands and buyers with moreefficient ways to capitalize on these shifts and ultimately drive more growth for their businesses," Rudow said.

Bringing categories such as trend, young contemporary, sportswear, footwear, accessories and children's to buyers with accessible price points, MAGIC Las Vegas will provide expertly organized themes including made in the USA, sustainability and eco-consciousness to aid retailers in discovering the brands whose missions align with their customers. Educational programming and event activations in addition to celebrity and fashionindustry expert appearances will benefit both established brands as they continue to navigate the market and emerging businesses as they grow. Continuing its efforts to promote diversity, the event will also work through the Informa Markets for Change Initiative, which encourages allyship, inclusion and equity in fashion. This work will be performed through programs, content, educational opportunities and on-site activations. Trend and youngcontemporary brands that would like to become involved in the MAGIC programming, which promotes equity and inclusion by featuring minority, women and LGBTQIA+owned businesses, are encouraged to apply.

During MAGIC New York, buyers will be afforded expanded opportunities in women's and children's apparel, footwear and accessories in accessible to moderate price points. Hosting this edition on the East Coast allows greater options for buyers during major buying seasons while affording access to new brands in addition to private-label opportunities at lower minimums. The show will build on its foundation of creating an exciting buying environment, educational programs, floor activations and networking opportunities that attract domestic and international buyers representing boutique, specialty online and large 14–16 and Aug. 8–10. Following its 2021 department stores, generating an atmosphere debut, MAGIC New York will return Feb. that provides access to new accounts and territories.

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## LAFW Marks Return to Petersen With Lineup of Global Designers

Hosting its Spring 2022 lineup of designer fashion shows, LAFW returned to the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles' Miracle Mile neighborhood Oct. 7-10. The roster of designers featured during the event included international artists and those representing California.

On the runway from around the globe were Spain's 404 Studio; Baltimore's Bishme Cromartie; Fabiana Milazzo of Italy; Frisk Me Good by Cierra Boyd of Cleveland, Ohio; Gypsy Sport of New York; Thailand's Issue; Laura Theiss of the United Kingdom and Germany; Luooif Studio of London; Mc2 Manufacturing by Ronaldo Arnoldo of Manila, Philippines; Renim Project of Thailand; and the United Kingdom's Superdry.

Los Angeles design was well represented by local designers including Coral Castillo, Elie Madi, Greg Lauren, Oluwatosin "TOSIN" Junaid's NAID, No. J by Jane Wu, Nicholas Mayfield, Oliver Tolentino, Ria Victoria and Radka Salcmannova's RSVisualThing.

Classic elements were reimagined in pieces by Los Angeles designer Ria Victoria, who incorporated fringe on a traditional foundation of structured dresses and applied sultry cutouts to classically glamorous gowns. Los Angeles-based Oliver Tolentino showcased updated details on classic formalwear with tiered tulle skirting and sophisticated ribbon details, while ruching provided a full look to bottoms that complemented busier top pieces. Greg Lauren's oversized approach to suiting blended style with comfort as the Los Angeles designer also incorporated additional details such as cargo pockets that afforded function to tailored pieces while patchwork details provided an added zest to casual garments such as jeans and other denim-heavy looks.

Closing the event on the evening of Oct. 10, Los Angeles

designer Nicholas Mayfield presented his signature colorful, hand-painted designs with a collaboration featuring other California creatives. Partnering with Jamani Clothing Co.'s Subira James Kiuruwi and Yarn Movement's Shantelle Brumfield, some of Mayfield's pieces featured the designer's animation on the Los Angeles-based Kiuruwi's blanks and others on the Vallejo, Calif., Brumfield's handmade pieces.

Upon returning to the fashion scene this season, Mayfield was grateful to those who bring the cool factor to his designs such as the diverse cast of models that represented real people on the LAFW runway during his show.

'Cool is loving yourself and being yourself. This isn't a collection or a brand that is for the dilution of soul. Cool is you and I thank you. Cool is who you are and it has nothing to do with clothing," Mayfield said. "Cool starts from you. We forgot about that."-Dorothy Crouch



Laura Theiss



Nicholas Mayfield

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#### **MADE IN AMERICA**



Sisters Celine and Joline Nehoray are intent on remaining the faces of the brand, recognizing that there is an element of trust that women must feel when making intimate purchases. Their line sends the message they want to give of empowered women and power women.

## Beverly Hills Lingerie's Unabashed Approach to Streetwear-Inspired Intimates

#### By Dorothy Crouch Managing Editor

In 2017, Los Angeles-born and -raised sisters Celine and Joline Nehoray began developing a brand that would allow women to feel sexy and bold while also living these characteristics out loud and with no reservations. Launched in 2018, **Beverly Hills Lingerie** invited women to dress in exquisitely crafted intimates while using its goods not only as undergarments but also as statement pieces in an outfit.

"We found a gap in the streetwear-lingerie market. We really felt like we could fill the gap, merge the space and really find the balance of an edgy, cool streetwear lingerie that encouraged girls to wear lingerie out and feel sexy for themselves—not a taboo thing for the bedroom," Joline Nehoray said. "This line speaks to both my sister and me and the message we want to give of empowered women and power women from us to our audience."

Styles such as the Pierre Underbust Corset, made with a lacy handmade appliqué; the Maxime Top, a satin long-line bralette available in black, pink and green; the Fussy Top, a satin-and-lace camisole in pink and black; and the satin-and-lace Temper Bodysuit in pink and black are all meant to be worn as part of an ensemble. The Basile Top is noted as the Nehorays' favorite as the sisters aim to make elevated intimates more accessible. Available in light azure blue, the corset relies on a spandex-and-polyester-blend mesh. The piece is a structured corset that features thoughtfully placed boning—a preferred design element of Joline Nehoray.

"I absolutely love [the boning features in lingerie]. My sister and I are really into that, and I feel like it's so underserved in affordable lingerie," Joline Nehoray explained. "The manufacturer that we work with makes incredible corsets, but they are thousands of dollars. We want to bring that to a wider audience and make it accessible. I absolutely love the structure and the feel of boning and the way it makes girls feel. It is so flattering, and it should be more accessible."

Within Beverly Hills Lingerie's mission toward affording quality to its clients is a production process that takes place in Los Angeles. Rooted in the sisters' link to the city's culture, they also felt a kinship with their manufacturing partner that they felt could result in more-beautiful pieces.

"We feel a connection to the quality and luxury here—the people we work with and the options we have to manufacture the products and materials. We really felt that it was on brand to stay here and do everything here from A to Z," Joline Nehoray said. "We focused on the chemistry between us and the people we work with. We felt like we could create magic and find what we wanted based on the relationship."

The sisters are also intent on remaining the faces of the brand while working through a hands-on approach. Despite the Nehorays' bold message regarding lingerie, they do recognize that there is an element of trust that women must feel when making these purchases.

"It's such an intimate purchase, and my sister and I are such a big part of the brand that we want to be a part of the image and the feeling of the brand—being at pop-ups, meeting customers, meeting potential customers," Joline Nehoray said.

While wearing lingerie as clothing has trended throughout history, there is a difference between previous trends, such as those seen during the 1980s, and the current styles.

"It's a different way than the 1980s—now it's just about self-love, self-respect, selfcare and self-wellness. It is definitely a different way, but it's mimicking it," said Joline Nehoray. "White is what we are working on more. In terms of fashion or trends in general, I don't know how much longer hazelnut is going to stay in, but I love the colors hazelnut and sage."

In addition to e-commerce partners Garmentory, Modesens, More Dash, Not Just a Label, ShopStyle, Verishop and Wolf & Badger, Beverly Hills Lingerie engages in pop-up shops. Through the pop-up model, it has enjoyed success with Nars and More Dash. Sized from XS–XL and priced between \$16 for a two-pack of panties to \$160 for an underbust corset, Beverly Hills Lingerie is available at *beverlyhillslingerie.com*. ●

## The Eco Future Is So Bright Pangaia Lab x Twelve Wants Us to Wear Shades

By Dorothy Crouch Managing Editor

Within the last year, scientists have reported the development of a method to channel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into a resource that can serve as the foundation for manufacturing products including electronics, cars, clothing and accessories with the technology serving as a replacement for fossil fuelbased plastics. These building blocks have led the Londonheadquartered material-sciences company **Pangaia** to partner with the San Francisco Bay Area–based carbon-transformation company **Twelve** on a collection of eyewear whose sunglass lenses are created from CO<sub>2</sub>.

"Pangaia is working to be a climate-positive business, and that means closing the carbon loop and providing a viable pathway to a fossil-free future," said Pangaia Chief Innovation Officer Dr. Amanda Parkes. "We were excited to partner with Twelve to bring this product to life and show it is possible to create products that have the double impact of capturing and utilizing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions while avoiding the use of traditional fossil fuel–based plastics."

Coinciding with the partnership, the materials-sciences company also announced the launch of Pangaia Lab, which serves as a platform through which Pangaia announces advanced technology. The release of Pangaia's first eyewear collection with Twelve was announced under the partnership of Pangaia Lab x Twelve.

"[Pangaia Lab] is a place for us to launch our most innovative products—ones that due to their cutting-edge nature may be released in limited quantities and at higher price points before they reach scale for full integration into the main Pangaia product line and the technology can be available for wider industry use," Parkes explained. "Through Pangaia Lab, we will be able to promote consumer education around our new technologies and also promote industrywide adoption through viable products."

According to the companies, the transformation of carbon that Twelve applies is a process that mimics the photosynthesis that plants employ to create oxygen by using sunlight to process carbon dioxide. This technology is able to be integrated into existing systems within the supply chain, affording an innovative alternative to plastics while also creating a space in which CO<sub>2</sub> can be channeled and utilized rather than



Pangaia Lab x Twelve aims to show that it is possible to create products that have the double impact of capturing and utilizing  $CO_2$  emissions while avoiding the use of traditional fossil fuel-based plastics. The eyewear collection is available in blue, black and silver.

trapped in the environment.

"Twelve's carbon-transformation technology works like a form of the industrial photosynthetic process, which takes in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and combined with water and renewable energy can be transformed into critical chemical precursors that are the building blocks for everyday materials like plastics," said Parkes. "Twelve's process naturally lends itself to the creation of CO2Made feedstocks for polycarbonate, a durable and high-performance plastic, which is difficult to replicate in bio-based materials but is perfect for eyewear lenses."

Through its work shifting materials sourcing into a solution that affords a more sustainable product and provides a use for the abundance of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, Twelve is ready to apply its technology across industries. The company is in discussions with other brands within fashion, technology, home goods, construction, automotive and space exploration. Nicholas Flanders, co-founder and chief executive officer of Twelve, notes that the time is now for committing to this type of environmental change.

"Our global economy is at a critical point for climate action, where brands and organizations are stepping up to reduce their environmental footprints and build sustainable supply chains," Flanders said. "We're delighted to be partnering with Pangaia, a company committed to making a deep impact through climate action, on a pioneering launch that demonstrates how brands can source carbon from emissions while continuing to make the products customers love. CO2Made means no trade-offs."

In order to create a circular economy by closing the loop on sourcing, Pangaia has remained committed to examining fresh technologies, remaining on the edge of new innovations that will promote its ecological mission. The Pangaia Lab x Twelve partnership aligns fully with the materials-sciences company's goals to expand its influence into new products.

"We are always looking to utilize waste streams, places where there is an abundance of nature, which can be augmented in functionality by high-tech processes," Parkes said. "The technological process developed by the team at Twelve is a wonderful example of this. We knew this would be a great partnership to showcase innovation in CO<sub>2</sub> capture and utilization as an alternative to the use of traditional fossil fuelbased plastics in eyewear."

At a direct-to-consumer cost of \$495, Pangaia Lab x Twelve sunglasses in black, blue or silver are available via a waitlist at *thepangaia.com*. ●

#### **TRADE-SHOW REPORT**

## LA Textile Continued from page 1

#### Fashiondex.

In town from Seattle, Irena Zilina was visiting LA Textile to source silks and find color inspiration for her business, **Lingerina Zilina**, which had evolved and shifted during the pandemic. Zilina began as a lingerie maker yet transitioned into silk masks, scrunchies and hair bands during 2020. Now ready to return to the brand's roots in intimates, Zilina was preparing to introduce the lingerie that Lingerina Zilina's loyal customers have been craving.

"Some colors are popular because of specific areas. I am from the Northwest, and it's all about gray, beige, navy and black. If you go to Los Angeles, it's floral prints in pink, turquoise and light colors," Zilina explained. "Young customers like neon colors, but customers around my age like silk and luxury. I wanted to meet in the middle. Luxury in neon."

Visiting LA Textile for the first time, Zilina was happy to connect with suppliers and peers in person following a year defined by stay-at-home orders and **Zoom** meetings.

"My main goal is to find silk suppliers and **Pantone** color swatches, which is great for custom-dyed colors," said Zilina. "There are networking opportunities. I am having a great time since it was hard to keep yourself motivated when we didn't see people so much and you felt isolated."

In addition to the joy of meeting with associates in person, another pandemic byproduct was the increased interest in local resources as nearshoring becomes more popular. Faced with supply-chain challenges, many in the apparel industry are now seeking options to diversify.

"We have a lot of people who want their products made in America," said Albert Huh of Vernon, Calif.'s **Royal Textile Print, Inc.** "It's been going well. It's our first year here. It's been pretty good."

While there is currently a demand growing for domestic sourcing, Huh noted that the trend toward diverting the supply chain overseas has had an impact on his business. It is Huh's hope that the interest in United States—made goods will create an uptick in his segment of flatbed textile printing.

"Textile printing in the United States has died off a lot. Most of the industry has moved overseas to China, even down



LA Textile attendees were searching for sustainable goods from exhibitors such as Rachel Ratonel and Jay Wetherald (pictured left) at the Rex Fabrics booth, and enjoyed educational programming such as a trend-forecasting session with Jennifer Karuletwa of Peclers Paris (pictured right).

south to Central America," Huh explained. "This is an effort that we're making to get ourselves out there, have people make their products in the U.S. more and print in the U.S."

Many exhibitors and visitors noted a focus on ecologically sound options, with 73 percent of companies showcasing sustainable offerings. Visiting the show for the first time from Greenville, S.C., Matthew Moreau, creative director of **The Landmark Project**, which celebrates public lands such as national parks through different products including apparel, was searching for heavier-weight sustainable materials as the brand prepares to expand its clothing line.

"The heavier-weight sustainable materials are really hard to find. At that point, organic cotton gets really expensive. We're looking at blends that are in the 200 gram and higher weight to do sweatshirts and fleeces but still have a sustainability story," Moreau said. "Some of the factories we work with can't even find that so I came to find it myself. I am also looking for good flannels. We're hoping to do some wool or wool-blend flannels in 2023."

As a buyer who typically attends outdoor-lifestyle trade

shows, Moreau was impressed with the options that were available to a business the size of The Landmark Project. There was a sense of optimism stemming from attending a textile show that leveled the field for operations of any size.

"You can be a small brand and this is still relevant to you," explained Moreau. "Almost everybody I talked to has really created a process that helps people who are just getting started, whether its making samples easily, low minimum quantities, stocking fabrics, things like that."

At the **Rex Fabrics** booth, the Los Angeles textile business saw local buyers and those from Texas and the East Coast, including New York. Representatives Jay Wetherald and Rachel Ratonel noted interest in sustainable fabrics.

"For us, we are definitely more into the athleisure and ecofriendly fabrics with the recycled polys. Muted earth tones and rose golds are still the thing," Wetherald said. "[At this show,] you can find trims, fabrics, sourcing—you can find everything. This is one of the few shows where you can find everything on one floor for small manufacturing. Local manufacturing is very hot."

## **Resource Guide**

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#### Textiles Asher Fabric Concepts

#### www.asherconcents.com

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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.

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