

CALIFORNIA ApparelNews

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FASHION

Gold Thimble Honors 'Immortal Fashionistas' While Looking to the Future

Los Angeles Trade-Technical College hosted the fall 2023 Gold Thimble Fashion Show Dec. 8 at its campus in downtown Los Angeles, where 16 graduating student designers from the Design & Media Arts program showcased their work. The designers created pieces reflecting eight apparel categories, which included the show's theme, in addition to swimwear, childrenswear, athleisure, menswear, avant-garde, gender neutral and evening.

"The theme for this semester's students was 'Immortal Fashionistas,' which was a tribute to acclaimed fashion designers from the past," said Joe Guerrieri, chair of the design and media-arts pathway. "The students embraced the challenge of recreating these complicated garments and produced some outstanding work."

"Immortal Fashionistas" honored some of the most groundbreaking designers of the last 10 years. These venerable artists and change makers included Virgil Abloh, Azze- ➔ Gold Thimble page 2

SUSTAINABILITY

Remake Receives \$50K Fashion Impact Fund Grant to Support Ethical Mission

By Dorothy Crouch *Contributing Writer*

Responsible-fashion advocacy organization **Remake** has received a \$50,000 grant from the **Fashion Impact Fund** to raise awareness regarding the challenges faced by garment makers. The San Francisco-headquartered Remake will apply the grant to cultivate its work in garment-worker-rights advocacy, corporate accountability and sustainability.

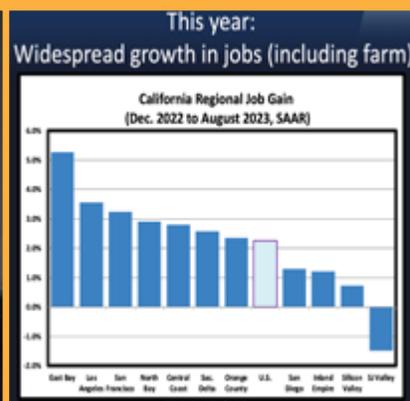
"Remake was founded to center the voices of the women who bring our clothes to life. Our film shorts, campaigns and legislative efforts are worker led and driven," said Ayesha Barenblat, founder and CEO of Remake. "With the Fashion Impact Fund's support, we will bring firsthand accounts of fearless women leaders who are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and growing inequity to public consciousness. We hope this work will inspire investors, legislators and everyday citizens to lock arms with fashion's most essential workers to demand greater corporate accountability."

In addition to its advocacy work, Remake spreads ethical and sustainable fashion messaging by educating consumers. The organization manages ambassador and fellowship programs, hosts complimentary events and produces academic programming. Remake also publishes an annual fashion-accountability report.

The Fashion Impact Fund works with female-founded non- ➔ Remake page 2

TOP STORIES OF 2023

From technology to trade shows, finance to fashion, the top stories of 2023 included the industry experts and innovations paving the way into 2024. These stories begin on page 3.



FASHION



David Gordian



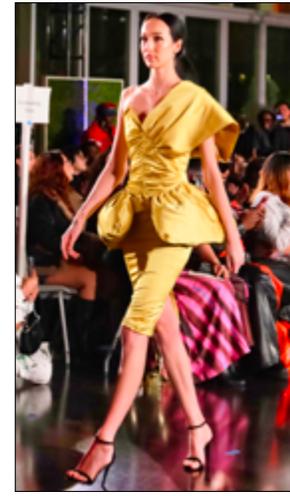
Lily Ma



Marvin Said Rodriguez Lujano



Teddy Stylez



Allyn Romero

Gold Thimble *Continued from page 1*

dine Alaïa, Max Azria, Alber Elbaz, Hubert de Givenchy, Karl Lagerfeld, Issey Miyake, Hanae Mori, Thierry Mugler, Takeshi Osumi, Paco Rabanne, Mary Quant, Kenzo Takada, Isabel Toledo, Gloria Vanderbilt and Vivienne Westwood.

Winning collections that reflected the theme were designed by Andrew Jesse Avila in first place; Diana Ponce in second; and Alondra Gomez in third. Andrew Jesse Avila

placed first in the athleisurewear category followed by Kayla Blackmon in second and Diana Ponce in third. Katherine Veronica Antoniazzi secured first place in swimwear, David Gordian won second and Emily Cordero placed third.

The winners of the avant-garde category included Marvin Said Rodriguez Lujano in first place, Kiah Hanssen-Kilpatrick in second and Lesley Evangelista in third. Kayla Blackmon's designs placed first in the gender-neutral category, while Scarlet Mi-

randa secured second place and Ryan Scott Debonville won third place. In the menswear category, Kiah Hanssen-Kilpatrick placed first, Marvin Said Rodriguez Lujano won second and Allyn Romero secured third. Diana Ponce placed first in the eveningwear category, while Alondra Gomez secured second and Allyn Romero won third. The childrenswear category's first-place winner was David Gordian, Diana Ponce placed second and Katherine Veronica Antoniazzi secured third.—*Dorothy Crouch*



Katherine Veronica Antoniazzi



Diana Ponce



Andrew Jesse Avila



Kayla Blackmon

SUSTAINABILITY

Remake *Continued from page 1*

profit organizations that provide workforce-development solutions to the fashion industry by providing funding to increase women's economic inclusion through empowerment, combating poverty, fighting discrimination and driving positive change. It is a partner of the **United Nations Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network**.

According to Kerry Bannigan, founder and executive director of the Fashion Impact Fund, Remake's work is crucial to identifying and dismantling the "systemic issues" that plague the garment industry.

"Remake's commitment to amplifying the voices of garment workers resonates deeply with our mission at the Fashion Impact Fund," Bannigan said. "By supporting Remake, we can advance transformative change and foster a culture of accountability within the sector. This grant reinforces our shared belief in the power of conscious fashion to shape a more equitable and sustainable future."

Previous grantees of the Fashion Impact Fund include Tamburai and Pauline Chirume



Remake will apply its Fashion Impact Fund grant to promote awareness, ethics and responsibility through initiatives such as this Wear Your Values event.

of the **African Academy of Fashion** in Cape Town, South Africa; Devon Feldmeth, Ketty Promise and Lauren Shipley of **Artisan Global** in Gulu, Uganda; Dominique Drakeford and

Whitney McGuire of **Sustainable Brooklyn** in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Jenny Holloway of **Fashion Enter Ltd.** in London; and Ngozi Okaro of the **Custom Collaborative** in New York. ●

Inside the Industry

Panda Biotech has announced that building construction is complete and the official commissioning process has begun on its Panda High Plains Hemp Gin project. The commissioning process marks the final stage before beginning commercial operations in 2024 at the 500,000-square-foot Wichita Falls, Texas, facility. The Panda hemp gin will process 10 metric tons of industrial hemp per hour, and the facility is expected to be the largest hemp decortication center in the Western Hemisphere and among the largest in the world. Using only renewable energy sources, the engineering and production process has been certified green by the Mid-South Engineering Company. Panda Biotech has also partnered with Oritain, a scientific traceability company, to bring the most traceable hemp grown in the U.S. to market.

Textile Exchange has released its three 2023 Materials Benchmark reports, which showcase the progress of both brands and suppliers toward more-sustainable materials sourcing. With 394 participating brands and retailers and 52 suppliers and manufacturers, Textile Exchange's Materials Benchmark is the largest peer-to-peer comparison initiative in the fashion, textile and apparel industry. By providing a standardized framework for companies, the program creates consistency in their sustainability reporting at the materials level, including the uptake of preferred fibers and raw materials, and how companies are addressing areas such as circularity, biodiversity, land, fresh water and forests. The results capture trends from participants, helping to create a better understanding of the state of the sector and the solutions needed.

Cotton Incorporated has closed out the year with a list of its top five trends for 2023. Topping the list is the benefits of digital fabrics, with CottonWorks continuing to support brands and designers with free resources for experimenting with cotton in digital 3D designs, including the FABRICAST collection of digital fabrics and the new CottonWorks Virtual Showroom. Unveiled in June, the Virtual Showroom is an innovative platform that delivers an engaging and interactive experience. The year's other top news items included the denim fashion trend, which is evolving to be more sustainable in addition to fashionable and comfortable. Cotton harvesting has also taken the spotlight in the wake of great eco consciousness, and RESTech Cotton has emerged as a new performance innovation in the home space.

The Port of Los Angeles announced at the 53rd Annual Los Angeles Business Council Architectural Awards ceremony that two major infrastructure projects have won awards for innovation and excellence. The Wilmington Waterfront Promenade was honored with two awards for exceptional open public-space design, while the Alameda Corridor Terminus Gap Closure project has been recognized as a top regional transportation improvement. Expected to open in early 2024, the \$77.3 million Wilmington Waterfront Promenade will create a community park adjacent to the Banning's Landing Community Center along with a waterfront promenade, public pier, public dock, green roof and playground. The LABC recognizes projects that encourage meaningful transformation in communities and cities.

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Top Stories of 2023



UWIE JELTING / UNSPLASH.COM

Industry Focus: Denim—The Style, Manufacturing Trends That Will Become Classic Denim Staples

While the foundations of the denim industry were established hundreds of years ago, there are constant improvements, innovations and updated practices that lead the way for this classic to remain fresh and at the forefront of popular culture. New trends emerge each season, yet denim remains in a league of its own as a reliable, trustworthy clothing and textile option. Although denimheads are constantly innovating in this space, classic styles and processes continue to influence up-and-coming trends, allowing each piece of denim to have a special connection to the roots that hold the industry together.

Many trends in denim—whether in design, supply chain, manufacturing, treatments or washes—are often revisited until they are perfected but are eventually reinvented as the category evolves. *California Apparel News* asked some of the denim industry’s most-passionate blue bloods: *What current denim trend do you foresee becoming a classic, and what do you believe the next fresh, groundbreaking trend will be?* [Read more](#)



JOE GARCIA

Los Angeles Swim Week Energizes Market With Runway Shows

Los Angeles Swim Week hosted its second edition June 9–13 during **Los Angeles Market Week** through a partnership with **Fashion Techworks** at **The New Mart** in downtown Los Angeles. The show’s parent company, **Art Hearts Fashion**, continues to cultivate its support of artists and designers from its home state of California and around the globe.

“We were a packed house on a Tuesday during market week,” said Art Hearts Fashion President Erik Rosete. “That is our main goal—to revitalize the fashion district in downtown Los Angeles. We were really excited because it brought a lot of people down here.”

Los Angeles Swim Week attracted global powerhouse brands **Nike Swim** and **Desigual**, but a **Michael Costello x Revolve** finale on June 13 perfectly closed out the event. Michael Costello’s festive, colorful resortwear and swimwear took to the runway and was available to shop on Revolve following the show. [Read more](#)



ASU

ASU-FIDM Integration Blends Innovation With Deep Fashion Roots

Two powerhouse institutions of higher learning—**Arizona State University** in Phoenix and the **Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising** in downtown Los Angeles—have joined forces through ASU’s integration of FIDM to afford greater opportunities to apparel and fashion students. This integration allows the schools to align their support of students through ASU’s innovation and exposure to FIDM’s rich fashion legacy. Through the new integration between the schools, which was unveiled in April, ASU’s fashion program has been renamed ASU FIDM, and FIDM will remain a separate entity.

FIDM now has a place among ASU’s creative concentrations offered by the **Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts**, which had already expanded with the school’s renovation of the *Herald Examiner* building in downtown Los Angeles. This historic building was updated to accommodate the latest and emerging technologies that support student excellence in the cultural and creative fields. [Read more](#)



EPSON

Epson’s New HQ Heralds the Changes in the Way We Work

The last three years have instigated an era of change that is just beginning, but **Epson** has positioned itself—quite literally—with a fresh, new vantage point. In May, the global technology leader cut the ribbon on its new headquarters in Los Alamitos, Calif., amid a host of VIP attendees from the worlds of politics, commerce and environmental organizations.

The 150,000-square-foot campus will serve as Epson’s headquarters for the U.S., Canada and Latin America and oversee operations for home, office, commercial and industrial printing, visual communications, wearables, robotics, micro devices, and manufacturing. Over 80 percent of the workforce is part of an innovative hybrid program of remote working flexibility, with a six-day-per-month in-office schedule. The campus also features a hoteling workspace system, greatly reducing the staff’s physical footprint.

“The innovative Epson campus embodies the lessons we’ve gleaned from relocating during a global pandemic,” said Epson America CEO Keith Kratzberg. [Read more](#)



CALIFORNIA RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

Getting a Handle on the ‘Smash and Grab’ Epidemic

“Shrink” is retail-speak for inventory lost to shoplifting. And shrinking, you could say, is expanding—quite dramatically.

Last month, **Nordstrom** shuttered its San Francisco location, where it had stood for 35 years. Announcing the closure in May, Nordstrom officials said the “dynamics of the downtown San Francisco market have changed dramatically over the past several years, impacting customer foot traffic to our stores and our ability to operate successfully.” And word on the street, from coast to coast, is that shoplifting is up dramatically, with a new video going viral almost daily.

So with “smash and grab” becoming part of the new-normal lexicon, the *California Apparel News* decided to reach out to the **California Retailers Association**, the trade organization based in Sacramento, Calif., that advocates on behalf of merchants. Rachel Michelin, president of the CRA, breaks down the current landscape, with advice to both shoppers and storeowners. [Read more](#)



BERKIN LUJEGEN / UNSPLASH.COM

Fiber, Yarn and Fabric: Identifying Underrated Textile Resources

Sourcing for textile production has experienced many changes over the last decade. Calls for the industry to become more sustainable while the business continues to be influenced by consumer demands for immediate access to trends have driven innovation to deliver greener goods at a faster pace. The apparel industry has also experienced shifts as supply-chain challenges within the last three years are leading brands to diversify their sourcing to avoid production pitfalls.

During this time of greater examination of how fiber, fabric and yarn are sourced, previously under-recognized regions of the world are now experiencing an upswing in attention for their abilities to deliver materials on a faster schedule through a more innovative approach or with stronger ecological foundations.

California Apparel News asked experts in fiber, yarn and fabric: *What region of the world should be afforded more attention for its contributions to fiber, yarn or fabric, and why do you feel the experts and artists in this particular area deserve a brighter spotlight?* [Read more](#)

Top stories *Continued from page 3*



WALLACE CHUCK / PEXELS.COM

The Other Side of Apparel Sustainability—Ethics in Worker Treatment

Conversations that cover the promotion of sustainability within the apparel industry often focus on solving environmental challenges that stem from pollutive practices and irresponsible materials sourcing. One of the most important sustainable issues, which is often overlooked, is the problem of ensuring ethical treatment of the workers whose labor makes apparel production possible—along the supply chain and in the factories where clothing is produced.

Many of these workers are women, some are also children, yet the hardships they face—such as unsafe working conditions, low wages, long hours and insufficient training—are frequently left out of conversations that drive action toward creating a more sustainable apparel industry. While they are the most important people in the industry, they are hidden away, out of sight and out of mind.

To create an apparel industry that is completely sustainable, worker treatment around the world, in every factory and across all suppliers, must become more ethical. *California Apparel News* asked apparel-industry leaders: *What are the most pressing labor and worker issues that must be addressed to improve sustainability within the apparel industry?* [Read more](#)



HYOSUNG

Fiber & Yarn: What Will the Future Fashions Be?

It's the eternal question, and seeking the answer involves not gazing into a crystal ball but one made of fabric.

In the interest of delivering innovations and solutions across the entire value chain, **Hyosung's** Fashion Design Center has released its forecasted Spring/Summer 2025 Textile Trend report, which provides a vision of the key materials brands will likely be incorporating into their collections.

An interactive global fashion studio surveying progressive brands and retailers for consumer insights, the FDC has given a name to SS 2025's overall textile trend: Regenerative Life, which reflects an uplifting mindset regarding the well-being of self and planet. According to Gary Oh, general manager for Hyosung FDC, consumers are seeking long-lasting, multifunction apparel made with eco-friendly materials from brands they feel good about wearing. [Read more](#)



DREW GRAHAM / UNSPLASH.COM

It's Not Easy Being Green: Transparency Within the Textile, Apparel Industry

Sustainable commitments, manufacturing and offerings are now standard within the fashion industry as the once niche category of eco-friendly and ethical apparel has become an integral component of the garment business. While many companies make promises to include more-ecologically and -socially sound components of apparel making, their environmental, social and community commitments aren't always clear, which could result in accusations of greenwashing.

To relay an authentic commitment to sustainability, apparel businesses must not simply rely on a few green initiatives that can support an eye-catching marketing campaign. They must also continue to build a better industry through technology, investments in cleaner practices, support for workers throughout the supply chain and contributions to the development of a circular fashion economy. *California Apparel News* asked sustainability experts and apparel-industry leaders: *With sustainable messaging ubiquitous within the apparel industry, what actions can companies take to relay a true commitment to ecological responsibility?* [Read more](#)



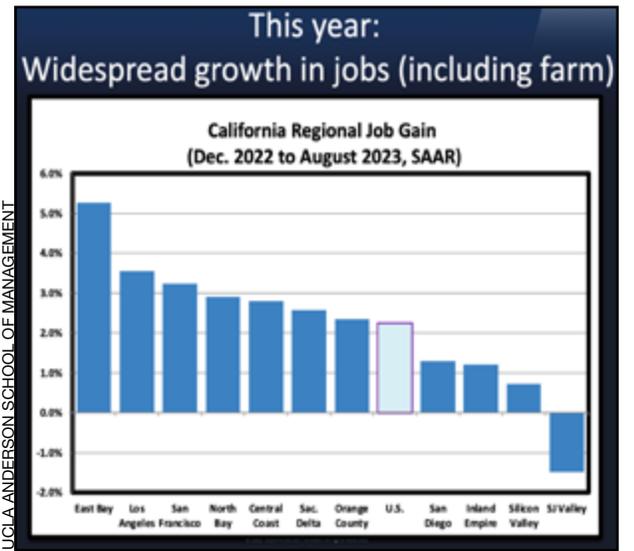
LA Textile FW24/25 Inspires Innovation, Eco Responsibility, Collaboration

The **California Market Center** hosted the Fall/Winter 2024/2025 edition of LA Textile Sept. 27–29 as the fabric and sourcing show celebrated its 30th anniversary. This edition of LA Textile drew many visitors from the Los Angeles area but also attracted attendees based throughout the West Coast.

According to the CMC, attendees were also expected to travel in from Canada, Central America, South America and Africa. Registered attendees included **A.L.C., Banana Republic, Cross Colours, Cult Gaia, Disney, GAP, Joe's Jeans, Johnny Was, Karl Kani, Lululemon, Ralph Lauren, Savage X Fenty, Stüssy, TravisMathew, Trina Turk** and **Vince**.

While many major brands were in attendance, show director Moriah Robinson also looked forward to welcoming emerging labels and entrepreneurs.

"There are some attendees that have fantastic Etsy stores," Robinson said. "They'll be doing smaller quantities, but they're still here to buy." [Read more](#)



UCLA's Anderson Forecast Delivers Good News

Nothing's more welcomed these days than surprise good news. And that's what came in the latest UCLA Anderson Forecast—the prominent economic report put out by the **University of California Los Angeles'** Anderson School of Management—which is cheerfully titled, "The Unexpected Robust Economy."

Recessions follow boom times, but according to the same law that ensures autumn follows summer, the good news is that while 2024 will see a slowing in the national and state economy, no immediate recession is on the horizon.

The *California Apparel News* listened in on a recent Anderson School symposium and afterward spoke to Jerry Nickelsburg, economics professor and faculty director of the Anderson Forecast, to have him help break down the key takeaways on the current state of the Golden State. [Read more](#)



U.N. Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network Annual Meeting Addresses Industry's Challenges

Sustainable-fashion experts, brand leaders and sourcing professionals discussed the progress of Sustainable Development Goals and challenges during the **United Nations Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network** annual meeting with the **United Nations Office for Partnerships** and the **Fashion Impact Fund**. This meeting was held as the network achieved 54 percent growth during the year, with the highest country engagement reported from the United States, U.K., India, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya and Brazil, according to Kerry Bannigan, executive director of the Fashion Impact Fund.

"The meeting emphasized the significance of collaboration and partnership building," said Bannigan. "Globally, we are faced with urgent and complex challenges. Climate change is ravaging our planet, poverty continues to afflict millions of people worldwide, and gender inequality persists in every corner of the world. We cannot ignore the implications of the fashion and lifestyle sectors on our planet and its people." [Read more](#)