



Curated By You: Pauline Sarwan Makes A Linen Faux Jumpsuit

Description



Faux Jumpsuit made with FS KENYA Midweight Linen

Tell us a bit about yourself and what you do.Â Â

My name is Pauline, I am French and I've just celebrated my 29th birthday! I am multi-racial, my father is Indonesian, my mother is also mixed from Tunisia and Germany and I myself was born in New Caledonia. When I'm not sewing at home I am a leatherworker for a French luxury brand. I studied fashion design and then started my own fashion brand with three partners. It was a great learning experience but proved to be overwhelming so I decided to step aside and pursue my own way.

Why do you sew?

Before working as a leatherworker, I never thought about designing or making a piece of garment for myself. Sewing was something I did as a job. Yet, since last year, sewing became a real hobby. Thanks to Covid 19 quarantine I had time to go through Instagram (very thoroughly!) and discovered a whole sewing community and indie pattern companies: it was a revelation! I started making one jacket and never stopped. Sewing for myself really helped me acknowledge my body, even though sometimes I still suffer from body dysmorphia, it allows me to express myself creatively. I try to document my process as much as I can- from sketches to process videos and photo styling, I think it's fascinating. Sewing has also become essential because I don't find what I like in my size in French stores. Size inclusivity in France is pretty late compared to English speaking countries for ready-to-wear collections but also amongst pattern companies.



As a child, what was your first encounter and memory of beauty?

I would say everything about my grandmother. She liked antique furniture and to dress me in beautiful dresses with detailed collars and flower prints and nice leather shoes. She always looked amazing with her hair beautifully done and clothes that had lasted more than 30 years. Growing up in Paris helped me appreciate beautiful architecture which is something I am now always paying attention to when travelling anywhere else.

Where is home and how does it affect what you do?

Literally home is where I have always been living, in a suburb very close to Paris. I recently moved with my partner so I am daily learning what it is to live with someone you love alongside running a house. Being close to Paris is really important to me because I love going out to restaurants, exhibitions, fabric stores... Paris is also well known as a fashion capital so I think it may have affected my love for fashion.



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What was the first thing you ever remember making on your own? Tell us about this memory.

It is very hard to remember the very first make because I think I have always loved using my hands. At fifteen, I remember creating my very first leather bag, a copycat version of the famous Kelly bag from Hermès by using an uploaded pattern of make- your- own paper Kelly bag maquette. I sourced the leather, tools, metal hardware and I self-taught myself saddle-stitching: it was a mess! But I was very proud of it and I think that was the main thing.

Do you have a community of crafters/ makers around you or do you find you are on your own?

Four months earlier I would have said that I was on my own but since I started [my Instagram](#) account I can definitely say that my community has grown. I am so happy to connect with people sharing the same hobby from all around the world! It's very stimulating as there are so many inspiring and kind people.



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How important is it to make something with your hands?

Well, I would lie if I told you that making something with my hands is not important since I am literally handmaking things every day at my job and sewing at home. I feel so emotional when I am in the process of making: from pride and happiness to guilt whenever I make a mistake. What I love also about handmade craftsmanship is that you learn every day; from making mistakes, or reading a book, by glancing through Instagram or through someone at work. Passing on savoir-faire is likewise very important to me.

What does success mean to you?

I aspire to simple things in life. I think success is to blossom in everyday life, at work, with family and friends, or through a hobby.



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What have you chosen to make out of FS linen and why?

I have chosen the [FS KENYA Midweight Linen](#) because first I had a real crush on this color! I chose this weight as it lends itself to make a garment for summer. For a long time, I was also eyeing the [Papao Pant pattern from Ready to Sew](#), which is a French pattern company, and thought it was a perfect match. I also had in mind to make a faux-jumpsuit with this pant and asked the Instagram community for recommendations on the most suitable top. The [Cielo top](#) was very popular so I decided to give it a go! What is so great about making a set is that you can make your fabric the most profitable when cutting. Now with all the scraps, I am planning to make a hat and scrunchies so this fabric will be fully used.

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