



Curated By You: Dilakshi Waidyaratne Makes an Anna Allen Anthea inspired Linen / Cotton Mix Dress

## Description



Linen / Cotton

## **Tell us a bit about yourself and what you do.**

I am a Kiwi-Sri Lankan living in Auckland, with my partner Alex. I am your average urbanite with a corporate 9-5 job who enjoys a good soy latte every morning. I have what most people would call an unhealthy love affair with running and spend most days dreaming about travelling the world, pursuing passion projects and cooking epic vegan dishes.

## **Why do you sew?**

To me, sewing is a form of self-exploration. What started off as a hobby has quickly evolved into my creative outlet. It is now a place where I tap into my imagination, mirror my strengths and weaknesses, learn to be persistent and venture to do better when things do not go my way.

These days I sew to be present, to relax and experience the true elation of finishing something you put your absolute everything into for days on end.

But in short, I sew because it's darn cool!



Linen / Cotton

### **What do you like to listen to when you're working (and why)?**

You would find me listening to a country music playlist or a true crime podcast while sewing. I actually envy people who are able to finish a whole Netflix series doing this. That is some serious multi-tasking skills I wish I had.

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

My earliest most vivid memory of beauty would have to be watching my mum get ready for work. The way she pleated her saree and draped it over her shoulder was so mesmerizing to me.

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

I am one of those lucky ones who can proudly claim to have split their life between two very different countries, cultures and people. Being born in Sri Lanka, I spent the first half of growing up in the vibrant city of Colombo. New Zealand has been my home for the past 15 years, and I feel both homes continuously inspire and influence my lifestyle and bold ideas in the most colourful way possible.



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**Name a book that you've recently read which inspired you and why?**

I finished the book *Disaster's Children* by Emma Sloley last year. I thought the main character Marlo in a way depicted a lot of us today. The way she navigated her way during uncertain times with her lust for life & naïve courage was somewhat inspirational to say the least. In a way, the story made me re-think that actions, however small, are much greater than no action at all.

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

Friendship bands! In primary school, we used to make braided bracelets to share with friends. Wearing it around your ankle was cool back then. Would you believe me if I said I still wear them today?



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### **Who are your muses and inspiration?**

My family and close friends have always been and will continue to be my inspiration.

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

I started sewing alone, knowing nothing about it. This community of makers have been absolutely pivotal to my journey in getting to where I am today. They single handedly taught me how to sew! I am grateful to be surrounded by the most genuine and uplifting bunch of people.

### **How important is it to make something with your hands?**

Hereâs how I see it... We live in a world where we can buy/ order anything with a press of a button. So, to create something with your own hands, that previously did not exist in its current form, is extremely liberating!



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## **What does success mean to you?**

I was conditioned through a variety of personal factors and societal expectations placed on me to get things right – whatever it was. So for the longest time, I tried to excel in everything, at whatever the cost.

But as of late I have started valuing the power of being content, showing up and living in the moment. I often feel successful when I am being true to my own narrative, having multiple attempts at trying, learning from my failures, being present and enjoying the journey.

I always come back to this Rupi Kaur quote when I think of success... *âI will never have this version of me again. Let me slow down and be with her..â*



FS MIX NATURAL Lightweight Linen / Cotton

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

I have chosen to make this heavily hacked version of [Anna Allen's Anthea blouse/ dress](#) using this gorgeous [IS003 Mix Natural from FS](#).

I wanted to make a dress that would wow me. So one weekend, I started illustrating what this would look like which ended up having big sleeves, lots of gathers, fabric covered buttons, lace and pin-tucks! I wanted it to showcase skills I have already learnt in my 11 months of sewing and also have a couple of things that challenged me, like pin-tucking and inserting lace. I think it turned out better than what I had in mind.

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