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**LARISSA von PLANTA**  
Sustainable Artisanal Couture

**PRESS RELEASE**

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*Bi Dress*

## LARISSA von PLANTA

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*Examples of Clients Bespoke Commissions*

Larissa von Planta's Beirut atelier creates sustainable artisanal couture using fine antique and pre-owned textiles.

Her method combines upcycling and traditional craftsmanship, to give exceptional textiles and skills a new lease of life in honour of the history and heritage they hold. Crafting each piece from carefully selected existing garments and textiles, Larissa elevates upcycling to exhibit the rare beauty, history and humanity to be found in revived and heritage materials.

The thorough training Larissa received at Central Saint Martins and with the Savile Row tailors Byrne and Burge cemented her belief that the highest form of luxury design is one which holds a personal story and which endures. The atelier primarily offers bespoke commissions working with her clients to transform precious heirloom clothes into finely tailored and unique pieces.

in recognition of her pioneering approach to sustainable fashion and upcycling, Larissa was invited to present her work at the WSM Sustainable Showroom at Milan

Fashion Week in January 2020.

This followed the launch of her first capsule collection of embroidered designs exhibited on Mustique Island, Caribbean, over the Christmas season. She will also present her work at the The Good Business Festival in Liverpool in October 2020.

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In fall 2020 Larissa von Planta will present her second collection in London comprised of two ranges:

### SUSTAINABLE ARTISANAL COUTURE

A range made from fine collected textiles. For example, a one hundred year old gold silk shawl from Aleppo, restored with expertise from the Palais Galleira in Paris and transformed into a evening dress by Larissa and the highly skilled Syrian seamstresses she works with.

### ARTISANAL PRÊT À PORTER

A range made from selectively chosen second-hand garments embroidered by artisans across Lebanon. This body of work is designed to give these women a stable monthly income and an accompanying sense of independence. The second aim is to preserve and exalt heritage Levantine embroidery techniques which are at risk of being lost. The partnering of Larissa's sophisticated design with the artisanship of these women can honour, value and preserve the tradition of embroidery and its authors, while simultaneously re-

contextualising it, and bringing the artisanal work to a broader market and recognition. The final pieces and accompanying communication strive to encourage a dialogue and a personal sense of connection between the maker and all those who engage with the piece.

Combining these two models in her show, Larissa von Planta will present a tangible vision of what future of couture and sustainable fashion could look like.



*Palestinian embroidered shirt and hand-painted Thai silk trousers from the von Planta archive*



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*Lebanese Druze crochet on upcycled linen jacket & antique Chinese embroidery combined with British merino tweed*

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*Larissa with Noura and her mother discussing the linen jacket (above left)*



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