

MADE IN CHINA

Thrift Style

According to the Textile Recycling Organization, the world sends 23.8 billion lbs of clothing and textile waste to landfills each year. Much of this 'waste' is still completely wearable. If this makes you feel guilty about last week's trip to H&M or that pair of shoes you bought and never wore, well, maybe it should. We don't need half of the stuff in our wardrobe. Other people might, though. So why not begin the year with a sustainable closet detox?

Enter Thrift. Launched a few months ago by Beijing-based American writer Jessica Rapp, the initiative/pop-up-event is part of a larger movement taking place in cities around the globe: compiling handpicked, stylish edits of unwanted second-hand clothes and accessories and passing them onto others through monthly exchanges.

As Rapp explains: "With people constantly coming, going and getting rid of clothing, and a community that is increasingly interested in fashion, there are more and more clothes in need of disposal." Unlike one-off clothing swaps or drives, Thrift recycles garments on an ongoing basis, leaving collection boxes in cafes and bars for people to donate items. A selection of second-hand garbs is on sale at each event, with the remaining stock given to charities.

"Ethical and fashion" is an elegant hendiadys: a single, complex idea expressed by a conjunction of words that shouldn't really go together but somehow do. We like to think of Thrift as that.

> Contact [jmrapp19](https://www.facebook.com/jmrapp19) on WeChat for details on how to get involved and where to donate your unwanted garbs.



COVET

Tea and Circuses

Piling Palang does ceramic pieces and homewares you want to collect, show off and cherish. Inspired by traditional Chinese motifs, its Acrobats series feels fresh and bright – a far cry from the clichés often associated with 'Made in China' stuff. Our favorite items from the collection? The teacups (RMB78/each) and teapot (RMB358).

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Looks Like a Hat...

Bike helmets used to be bulky and ugly and just not that cool, but over the last few years they've become – dare we say it – pretty hip. This model by Abus, for instance, is miles away from the standard polystyrene head protector a la Tour de France. If you want your helmet to really make a fashion statement (and don't mind spending RMB1,889 for the privilege) this is the headgear for you.

> www.natooke.taobao.com

OVERHEARD

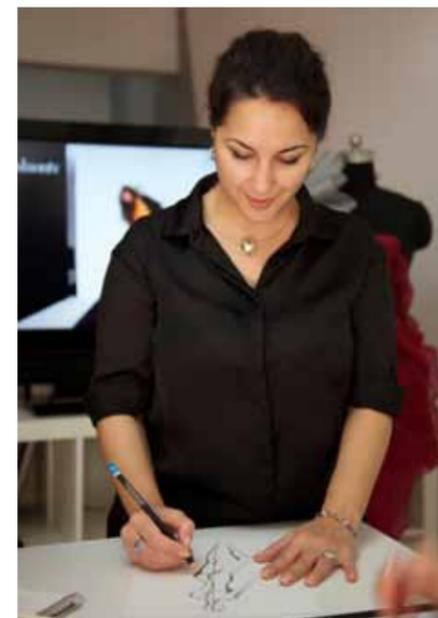
"WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER IS THAT FOR A NATION OF CHINA'S EPIC SCALE, EVEN 'NOT SO HOT' IS STILL PRETTY HOT"

Imran Amed, founder of fashion website (and bible) The Business of Fashion (BoF) on the state of the PRC's rapidly evolving luxury sector. The platform, which counts more than 1.6 million followers worldwide, recently debuted a Chinese-language version featuring the latest intelligence, insights and analytics on the Chinese fashion market. This is the first time BoF has localized content to a specific country – a decision no doubt spurred by China's 700 million Internet users. Amed's comment couldn't be more apt.



SPOTLIGHT

Catalina Calin, Founder of Calin Fashion Academy



What brought you to China?

I came to China five years ago, after the former Raffles Design Institute [which has since closed] invited me to teach Fashion Design. I didn't have much teaching experience, but I fell in love with the academic side of it, and with Beijing in general. I also met my husband here. Beijing is a magic place for me.

Tell us about Calin Fashion Academy.

I founded Calin Fashion Academy at the end of 2014. The idea is to offer short and intensive courses spanning one-to-three weeks to help students enter into the fashion design industry. We cover fashion illustration, drafting and draping, research and concept development, collections and portfolio creation.



Can anyone apply?

Yes, there are no restrictions. Courses are taught in English and translated into Chinese when necessary. Age, and technical background are not an issue either, as we tailor difficulty levels according to each and every person. Students get a completion certificate at the end of their course, and a review of their progress throughout.

If you could have a fashion personality coming to teach at your Academy, who would that be?

Easy: Vivienne Westwood.

What inspires you and how do you think Beijing has influenced the way you approach design?

Inspiration can come to me at any time and anywhere, but it's also triggered by a number of random factors: nature, history, different cultures and people. All these elements impact my creative process and the way I convey personal impressions through my work. Beijing has such a dynamic and fast lifestyle; it's a source of never-ending beauty for me.

Your style in three words.

Minimalistic, chic, feminine.

China fashion scene. Thoughts?

As China is opening to the world I think there's an increasing desire from younger generations to express themselves and their individual identity. Fashion is their first means to do that – it offers a great way to stand out from the crowd, make an impression and be remembered.

> www.catalinacalin.com



UNDER THE LENS

Fashion China



The title of a publication from Thames & Hudson that will cover – as you might guess – the A to Z of the fashion industry in the PRC. Featuring 41 brands and over 350 illustrations showcasing the cutting edge of China's style-makers and mavens, the book – which will hit shelves in March – was put together by author Gemma A. Williams alongside a panel of industry experts and insiders. Expect it to become the go-to guide for design-savvy types looking to learn more about China's rising fashion scene.

