

Designing with wild rubber from the Amazon rainforest

Flavia Amadeu

Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion, UK and University of Brasilia, Brazil

amadeuflavia@gmail.com

Recent innovations in processing wild rubber in the Amazon rainforest by rubber tapping communities have signified socio-economic alternatives for the sustainability of these traditional populations, who are considered ‘guardians of the rainforest’. Among the new materials, the coloured rubber called *Folha Semi-Artefato* (FSA), translated as ‘semi-artefact rubber sheet’, is a qualified material ready to be used in the manufacture of diverse products. In addition to promote a better income for the local families, social inclusion of women, and to improve the labour conditions of this activity, the coloured material enables the manufacture of rubber handcrafts in situ, along with numerous applications in fashion and jewellery design. This workshop aims to discuss and explore creative possibilities with coloured rubber sheets in a collaborative way.

Keywords: Amazon rainforest; design and crafts; social innovation; sustainability; wild rubber.



Photo: Flavia Amadeu

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