

Parivartan: Crafting tassels to re-invent garment making

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Abstract

The process of constructing garments involves laying of the fabric in layer(s) and cutting out the pattern pieces while marker making. This results in 15%-20% of fabric not being utilized and is considered a waste. The larger enterprises are able to recycle this waste however with small scale industries/designers it is a challenge to use this resource in a productive manner. This practice based research attempts to upcycle this textile waste and generate self-employment opportunities for semi-skilled artisans.

In India, decoration has been in abundance and is seen everywhere in a kitsch manner. Tassels have always been an important element of this decoration and are found in garments, home décor or animal accessories. Tassels have never been reimagined and are only restricted of being a trim or a component in a garment. This project explored tasseling at par with fabric and garment making techniques. The focus has been on application of minimal resources thus the final outcome involves no sewing and has the possibility to transform into another product. Due to the very nature of the material procurement each piece becomes individual in color, texture and feel celebrating the idea of ethical fashion.

The simple techniques of sorting, cutting, knotting and twisting cords from textile waste were used. The cords were interlaced and interwoven directly on the body form to create a shell of a garment which was further fleshed out by inserting fabric cut outs. The bespoke garment forms were created for varied anatomical regions of the body through draping resulting in minimal wastage.

Along with the creative contentment; these garment forms create a dialogue towards the impulsive compulsion which is mushrooming into fast fashion. It's a trigger to re-use, curate, revive, re-imagine and re-invent the material.

Keywords: Upcycle, Handcrafted, Indian Aesthetics, Bespoke

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