



# REFASHIONED

CUTTING-EDGE CLOTHING  
FROM UPCYCLED MATERIALS

SASS BROWN







MAYER Peace Collection





# MAYER PEACE COLLECTION

BERLIN-BASED LABEL  
MAYER PEACE COLLECTION,  
FOUNDED IN 2004, FUSES  
FASHION AND CHARITY,  
TRANSFORMING RECYCLED  
MATERIALS.



ABOVE: LINEN AND HEMP JACKET  
PRODUCED FROM VINTAGE GERMAN  
FLOUR SACKS AND FEATURING THE  
ORIGINAL GRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION  
OF THE FARM AND THE FARMER.

OPPOSITE: JACKET MADE ENTIRELY  
FROM UPCYCLED AND PATCHWORKED  
DENIM JEANS, INCLUDING POCKETS,  
TABS AND WAISTBANDS.





Growing up in the Black Forest in the south of Germany and playing games around the grain sacks from local mills in her grandfather's barn, founder Christine Mayer remains true to her origins. Working with antique flour sacks from the mid-1850s; folkloric cross-stitched embroidery patterns on striking white backgrounds with scarlet hand-stitched monograms reminiscent of country table linen; richly embellished and embroidered curtains; a mother's decorative armchair protector; a grandmother's delicate trousseau; and rough, hard-wearing handwoven linens and mattress ticking, Mayer beautifully handcrafts tailored jackets and coordinating separates. She relishes discovering new materials from traditional Bavarian farms and mills, antique dealers, flea markets and theatre inventory clearances, which inform each season's direction and signify a new and exciting challenge. Mayer sees her role much like that of a sculptor, establishing a form of communication between the material and the creator, and with a responsibility to set the material's story free and to extend its life, while letting her creativity run its course. Always fascinated by historic materials, Mayer also sources military textiles, such as marine bags and armed forces capes from across Europe.

Russian-army or Napoleonic-style military jackets are paired with Provençal-style tablecloth skirts or worn over urban khaki low-croched and multi-patched-and-pocketed trousers with jackboots. Strict retro military-cut jackets feature sleeves crafted from humble milkmaid cross-stitched aprons and are worn with asymmetric tea-towel skirts. Patchworked recycled denim jeans, inventively reimagined from pieced waistbands, pockets and yokes, form entirely









THE ORNAMENTAL JACKET (OPPOSITE) FEATURES HEAVY DOMESTIC EMBROIDERY ON THE SLEEVES, WHILE THE UTILITARIAN STYLING OF THE BLOUSE AND SKIRT (BELOW) HAS SIMPLE CONTRASTING WOVEN EDGING.



new feminine pieces, strictly tailored jackets and slouchy low-slung trousers. Mayer takes wonderful advantage of the myriad shades in washed and worn denim to create variations in tone and colour within a single piece. The collection also incorporates combat military pieces with multiple pockets and tabs, bringing a decidedly urban feel to balance out the pretty white linen coordinates. With a focus on expressing contrast within her collections, Mayer merges robust looks, elaborate embroidery, feminine fits and exceptional cuts, forming a unique look and making a harmonious and poetic unity.

With a background in fur production, Mayer learned an appreciation of patching and cutting materials and piecing them back together through the complex process of slashing and re-sewing skins. Developed step by step according to Mayer's innate sense of where each piece belongs, each design is hand cut and placed, working directly on the mannequin. The highly decorative pieces are placed first, followed by the leftovers, all moulded into sharp cuts and feminine curves. The unique nature of each of the materials means that there are no actual patterns, while the individual moulding leads to a very feminine fit and line. Inspired by history, in particular nineteenth- and twentieth-century theatrical costumes, Mayer is also influenced by global patterns and embroideries.

A portion of profits from all MAYER Peace Collection designs benefits children's charity projects in Nepal and India. With a trace of spirituality woven in between the threads of the material, every garment provides strength and gives the wearer the impetus to move beyond her own horizons.