



Lynn Christiansen studied fine art sculpture at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, and here began her fascination with wearable art. No longer simple ornamentation, when combined with the human body, a living sculpture is created. Christiansen had the opportunity to create metal outfits for the school's Fashion Show which led to collaborations with top fashion designer Jeremy Scott. During these collaborations Christiansen created pieces in materials from metal to plastic and had the opportunity to see them walk down the runways in New York and Russia. Christiansen's work has also been in the World of Wearable Art Shows in New Zealand and several pieces have been acquired by the World of Wearable Art Museum.

*Falling Leaves Necklace, silver, 23k gold bi metal \$2,000.00 available at Velvet Da Vinci Gallery
www.velvetdavinci.com
www.lynnchristiansen.com

in 2007, **Christina Krämer Collection** was launched.

A sustainable luxury brand, Christina Krämer specialises in knitwear, apparel and leather accessories for both men and women. Last year Krämer presented her SS11 collection at the GREENShowroom in Berlin during Fashion Week, showing organic silk blouses, 100% GOTS certified cotton jersey shirts and organic cotton satin dresses and trousers. I was especially attracted to this hand-crafted/stitched vegetable-tanned calf leather hat. All goods are hand-crafted in small ateliers in Switzerland and Italy and are made of fine, natural and organic materials, each vegetable-tanned to perfection.

*Leather Hat, 575.00 CHF
www.ChristinaKraemer.com

Norma Kamali has always been ahead of her time: in the 1980s she used video to present her look books; in the 1990s she pioneered the use of the internet to promote her brand. Today, Kamali embraces technology through her i-Phone App, Skyping with clients and stylists, and tweeting. She has always used sustainability practices, making every piece of her collection in the USA, and, here, with the parachute dress, re-working old military parachutes into a beautiful collection of dresses, tops and skirts. Knowing the importance of being accessible to the consumer, Kamali uses WalMart and Ebay as collaborators in getting her brand to middle America. She also has a Wellness Café in her Manhattan flagship store and holds weekly events promoting her organic beauty products. The Norma Kamali brand is a beautiful example of longevity, creativity and democratization. Kamali is also daring in her designs - and her celebrity clientele, among which are Beyonce and Lady GaGa, loves her for it.

*Empire Vest dress, \$2,800.00
www.normakamalICollection.com

Karolina Zmariak is a jewel in the NYC design landscape. Launched in 2009, this Fashion Institute of Technology graduate's brand locally makes and produces her collections from inception (patternmaking and sampling) to finished product in NYC's famed Garment Center. This allows Zmariak to forge relationships with all of her vendors, enabling her to produce products of only the highest quality. Zmariak's hero is Cristobal Balenciaga (as evident in her designs, which are all based on form), and together with her technical and artistic execution she ends up with pieces that are strong, powerful and oh so wearable. Innovatively, Zmariak designs with the idea of convertible/reversible pieces, which give them a longer lifespan as well as a classic, timely essence. Zmariak's impeccable construction and clean silhouettes make her one of my favorite sustainable luxury designers. I predict a very long and successful career for this Gen Art Styles winner, and am excited to see where she takes her gorgeous brand.

*Printed Silk Gazar with Black Panel Drape - \$1810
 by request www.karolinazmariak.com

