

**Tell us a bit about your recent and upcoming projects.**

I am currently working on a collaborative collection with fellow designer Amiria Skipwith which will be showcased at the upcoming Te Matatini Kapahaka Festival in Rotorua and I am also heading over to Melbourne to buy for my 2013 Knit wear collection.

**Tell us about your winning design – from inception to conception.**

I was inspired by the piu piu and bodice worn by Kapahaka performers I had the idea to transform it into a wearable street dress and I gave it a Lady Gaga splash of colour along with thousands of tiny stitches woven on board. TANIKO

**If you could go back and choose a completely different career path to the one you've chosen, what would it be?**

I really can't do anything without fashion if I had another career choice I'd be a textile designer, I absolutely love fabric

**What place is always with you, wherever you go?**

Tahiti or Tawhiti (in Maori) - being Maori and re-tracing my footsteps back to our ancestral Homeland has always been magical for me I keep that place the beauty and language in my heart always

**What's the best way to listen to music, and why?**

Loud! The latest song I've been blasting is *The Fighter* by Gym Class Heroes it gets you going if you have a clothing run or deadline piece to finish, music carries the soul

**You are given a piece of string, a stick and some fabric. What do you make?**

I'd probably make a wearable kite and try and wind surf on Lake Rotorua.

**What's the best stress relief advice you've ever been given?**

Watch t.v and eat some french fries (It actually works)

**What's great about the Cult Couture and the Southside Arts Festival?**

Cult Couture and SSAF is great because it allows a platform for people from all nationalities to explore and showcase their culture in all its diversities. It supports the arts both indigenous and international.

**What's your big idea for 2013?**

Don't let a circumstance/situation get you down from living your dream. And in the words of Ghandi - be who you want to see!

**\*\*\* The Big Idea 10th Birthday Questions \*\*\***

**What does The Big Idea mean to you?**

An insight into the stories behind the people

**What changes have you noticed in fashion in the past 10 years?**

More diversity

**What are some of the opportunities and challenges for the next decade?**

There's always challenges so being more innovative in delivering a story