

# Mixing It Up: Get to Know These One of a Kind Makers

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Isabelle Gougenheim uses fabric as a medium to express her creativity and passion. Her sketches, which are a fusion of abstract expressionism and real-life imagery, are brought to life on luxurious silk and modal fabric, creating wearable works of art that are both multi-faceted and multi-functional.

**What is your background?**

**Isabelle:** I have been an artist all my life. I did my first mural in high school, and it is still there after all these years. After receiving my Master's in Art and Anthropology, I spent six months in the desert of North Africa to explore the Berber culture, and after my trip, I worked for an art gallery in Strasbourg, France. I then moved to the United States to work in the luxury furniture design world. In 2019 I decided to become a full-time artist and fashion designer.

**What do you try to convey through your work?**

**Isabelle:** Behind my artworks lies the idea of freedom. By associating bright colors, imagery from faraway places, and strokes inspired by rhythms, I aim to create unique landscapes that will transport the viewer. In our always faster-paced society, it can be challenging to take a step back and feel, instead of merely observing.

Is there anything you're especially excited to bring to this year's Spring Show?

**Isabelle:** My new capsule collection that features 10 new scarves and pays tribute to the groundbreaking movement of the French New Wave. It's a thought-provoking line of accessories that reflects on the theme of freedom and tackles fundamental topics of the 21st century, such as our relationship with nature, artificial intelligence, and pop culture.

What does *handmade* mean to you? Do you have a most cherished handmade possession?

**Isabelle:** For me, handmade mostly means passion. I have several paintings at home from artists I really admire, and they feel like the epitome of handmade to me.