

JASMINE HIRTZ

Writing Samples
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Jasmine.Hirtz@gmail.com

JasmineHirtz.ca

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[Ebony & Ivory Lingerie](#)

Blog Post

The Meaning of Nana Benz;

Ever wondered why African fabrics are so full of colour and imagery? It's because there is an entire storyline going on between the folds. Language on the continent of Africa is not restricted to black and white letters on a piece of paper. Their culture is so emotional and is guided by strong moral beliefs, words just aren't enough, so they speak their truth through print and symbolism. The result includes something Africans can't live without; vibrance.

Let's dive into the history of Ankara fabrics, popularized by the inspiring businesswomen known as Nana Benz. These women began selling in Lomé, Togo, in the 1930s and rose to find themselves among the continent's first millionaires - and the first in Africa to own a Mercedes Benz, hence their name. Take a moment to ponder how these women accomplished such success against all odds, they are a true example of bravery and hard work for the women of Togo, Africa, and beyond. These women were also referred to as Mama Benz, a name full of respect, love, and accomplishment.

So, how did they do it?

The Nana Benz would listen to their client's hopes and desires and then prescribe them a print that would express these feelings. There was - and still is - a print to indicate pregnancy. 'The Lustful Eye' worn by a woman expresses her feeling of desire for a certain man; wearing this print could be her way of casually letting him know. The meaningful Ankara wax prints are endless; they speak about family structures, adultery, wisdom for the next generation, and so on.

Ankara is actually a more recent example of African culture in print, they've been weaving proverbs into Kente cloth since the 17th century. It's possible that the meaning of a design evolves, as seen with the graduation stole. This design began as a symbol of strength. The graduates adopted this design as it best represented the strength it took to get through school. Many wearing the stole were graduating outside of the African continent, and so it became a symbol of African pride.

Although the Nana Benz enjoyed having a monopoly on Ankara sales, it was never intended for these prints to remain in Africa. The design, technique, and production actually came out of Indonesia and The Netherlands. We are going to be seeing more African vibrance in the mainstream as the African Diaspora gain influence. When adopting African prints into your everyday, enjoy knowing each print has a meaning and each colour has a feeling. If you don't know the meaning or origin, go ahead and ask because the more a story is told, the more alive it becomes.

At Ebony & Ivory, we've been inspired by the meaning behind Afro-Caribbean symbols. The Adinkra Duafe symbol means femininity, and the Fawohodie symbol means freedom. Together, they speak about female emancipation, and this combination makes up our Adinkra print. The stories of our signature prints are written on our site so anyone interested can get to know the meaning behind Ebony & Ivory.

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[Aube Atelier](#)
Website Copy

Materials Breakdown;

Vegetable Tanned Leather

The process of making vegetable-tanned leather takes approximately two months and relies heavily on tree tannins, water, and skilled workers. This material is durable, biodegradable, and chemical-free. My favourite part is knowing that the colour will change from beige to dark caramel over time.

Leather is a by-product of the food industry, meaning it would otherwise be thrown out if the fashion industry didn't pick it up. For Aube Atelier, I seek out leather from Canadian tanneries, and I purchase these hides from the Vancouver shop called Lonsdale Leather. Every time locals are supported, a community gains strength and happiness.

The alternative is chrome-tanned leather, which is cheaper and faster, taking two weeks to process. In the beginning, middle, and end of this process, chemicals harm the skilled workers and the environment. Since chrome-tanned leather is unsafe, it is not used by Aube Atelier.

An interesting alternative is vegan leather made of plant-based materials. Experiments are happening with mushrooms, pineapples, cactus leaves, and many more. The downside is that the strength and durability of these materials are nowhere near the capabilities of real leather. Also, plastics are still being mixed in, making the material unable to biodegrade. I'm optimistic about these problems being solved, but until then, vegan leathers are not an option for Aube Atelier.

Waxed Canvas

Leather isn't all we're working with at Aube Atelier. Waxed canvas is also a very inspiring and durable material to work with. Specifically, I've chosen to work with a heavy cotton canvas (15-20oz), and I wax it by hand with local beeswax from Planet Bee Honey Farm in Vernon, BC, Canada.

Adhesive

Quality time is spent during the design process to find ways around using adhesive. Purely using stitching methods would be preferred. When necessary, I use water-based adhesives such as Renia Aquilin 315 or Irutex FI 4006 1K.

Developments are happening as we speak to lower the environmental impact of certain materials. Feel free to contact Aube Atelier if you have any new discoveries you would like to share or discuss, I'm always thrilled to have a conversation on the topic.

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[Elice's Closet](#)

Product Descriptions

'Be Me' Palazzo Set;

Hey, Elice here. Let me tell you what's the most important thing when picking clothes for my closet... Versatility, baby!! In just one day, I'll be stepping into numerous locations and my outfit needs to match my 'get the job done' mood. This 'Be Me' Palazzo Set lives up to its name and lets me be me from one spot to the next.

The sleeves are long, so I don't need to pack around a sweater. The top is tight, so my curves look good (crucial!). The pants fall into a dramatic wide leg with the help of front pleats. And that's not all; these pants have pockets, so I have somewhere to stash a bank card when I'm running into the coffee shop.

This set is so stylish and so flattering to curvy girls like us. Whether you are lounging with your besties or running around town being a boss, this set has got you covered.

Tag me on Insta so I can see how you've styled it! And DM me if you need anything; you know I'm always here for you <3

Cary Cropped Distressed Sweater;

Hey, Elice here. I put this sweater on and never wanted to take it off. This soft knit fabric is exactly what I want when I'm enjoying time with friends in the park, and the sun starts to go down. I put this crewneck on, and I feel blissful.

Not only am I feeling comfortable, but I'm also feeling seen and heard. I'm not shy about speaking my mind, and this sweater matches this side of my personality. There are frayed edges around the cuff, so every time I move my hands, there is an added layer of drama to the gesture that I can't get enough of. The color pops; it's a golden green that shines bright all night.

The Cary Cropped Distressed Sweater is to be worn with your best jeans and boldest attitude. Enjoy.

Xx Elice

The Sokoru Story;

In 2018, our founder in London began researching eco-friendly alternatives to the classic tampon and pad combo. After trying on her first pair of period underwear, she immediately realised that she's on to something. From applying innovative materials to perfecting the fit, she discovered countless ways to create the ultimate period panty that ticks all the boxes.

We sourced materials from Italy. We recycled these innovative fabrics from pre-consumer waste that comes from excess materials after producing other yarns and fabrics. Then, our materials were tested for absorbency until we achieved perfection. A worthwhile process that took two years to complete.

Not only did the Sokoru period panties need to perform at an exceptionally high rate, but they also needed to feel good against the skin. Bonded seams were implemented, an advanced technology that offers durability and comfort like no other.

The right fit for the panties also took two years to develop. Multiple samples from the factory were needed before we chose our winners. It was clear from the start that if the product didn't fit a woman's body, she wouldn't want to wear it no matter how advanced the materials and construction were.

We are excited to explore other sustainable period products in the future, but the period panties will remain our proudest pieces. The level of absorbency is unmatched, our manufacturing has taken advantage of the best technology has to offer, and above all, the fit of our panties is supreme. That being said, improvements will never cease to be made.

If there is a problem with your panties, we want to hear about it. If you have an idea on how to improve period products, we want to hear about it. We want to nurture an open dialogue about making the period products industry better, so no woman is held back by her period ever again.

[How to Care for Your Jewellery;](#)

Store your jewellery in a plastic bag or tarnish-proof jewellery box

You will know your jewellery is beginning to tarnish if the silver is getting dull and dark. Even with the strength of Argentium Silver, tarnishing is inevitable but there are easy ways to slow down this process.

Basically, it's the sulphur-containing gases in the air that's causing your silver to tarnish. When you're not wearing your precious pieces, keep them tucked away in a plastic bag or tarnish-proof jewellery box. Tarnishing will happen faster if your silver is in a damp space, so do not store your jewellery in the bathroom.

All this doesn't mean Argentium Silver doesn't like to be worn - quite the opposite. While you're wearing your jewellery, the tarnish rubs off when it comes into contact with your skin. The same goes for when you wear your jewellery in the shower, it washes while you wash.

Put your jewellery on last

Hairspray, hand lotion, and sunscreen aren't good for your jewellery to be around. These substances will cause unattractive fingerprints, grease spots, and will only get your pieces one step closer to tarnishing. Your gemstones won't be too happy about getting mucked up either. Once your hair and make-up are done, once you're ready to head out the door, then put on your jewellery.

How to avoid scratches

Silver is a relatively soft metal; it's expected to grow a soft patina of scratches over time. Wearing your silver jewellery to the gym or during a day of gardening will cause this gentle texture to grow. Maybe you spontaneously ended up clambering over rocks at the beach while wearing your jewellery, activities like these will naturally add etching.

These markings are inevitable but if you want to keep your Argentium Silver like new, remove it before any form of exercise or extreme adventuring. Lastly, remove your pieces while sleeping, especially those precious chains and earrings of yours.

When travelling, store in separate plastic bags

When you're packing up for your next trip, keep your silver from touching each other by storing each piece in its own plastic bag. This way, none of your jewellery will get tangled or scratched upon arrival.

JASMINE HIRTZ

[Untraced Golfing](#)

Website Copy

Lengthen the life of your clothes;

Wash less. You will be saving water and energy if you use that washing machine of yours as little as possible. Try spot cleaning if there are little stains that need tending to. When your clothes really need it, choose a cold-water wash and the shortest wash cycle to keep energy consumption low. Hand washing with a natural washing liquid is even better.

Hang to dry. Avoid your dryer at all costs. The heat weakens the fibers in the fabric making your clothes more prone to rips and tears. We're betting the majority of the clothes in your closet will live a longer and healthier life if you place them on a drying rack after their wash cycle is complete.

Iron less. Similar to the problem of putting your clothes in the hot dryer, the fibers will also be damaged when ironed. It's best to keep cool and iron less if you want your clothes to last a very long time.

Repair the clothes. You won't regret befriending a tailor in your neighbourhood. Your local tailor will be more than happy to put your buttons back on, fix the holes in your pants, and make your shirts fit better than before. This is an inexpensive service that will extend the life of your clothes significantly.

I bet you've driven past a sign that says 'Tailor' a hundred times on your way to work. Well, now is the time to go in and say hello.

Sell, swap or donate. If an article of clothing no longer serves you, we wholeheartedly encourage you to pass it on to someone who wants or needs what you have. There are several online platforms where you can post photos of your clothing and then sell it to someone who likes what you've got.

You can be a leader in your community by organizing clothing swaps. All your guests will bring a bag of clothes they do not need anymore and then everyone looks around at each other's items until they find something to get excited about.

Donating is always a viable option. Become familiar with social housing and shelter initiatives in a city near you. If you join their email lists or follow them on social media, they often will send out requests for what they need i.e., socks, jackets, shoes, etc.

Buy better. If you still feel like you need to buy more clothes, shop responsibly. Look for brands with transparent and sustainable values and processes. Choose items that are made with recycled fabrics and/or low impact fibers.

Never throw clothes in the trash. Don't let anyone catch you throwing clothes in the trash! Extend the life of your clothing as much as possible so our landfills won't get any more out of control than they already are.