

SHANGHAI SHIRT

Prof Becky Earley

In Collaboration with

Isabel Dodd

By stitching second hand garments together – an old H&M sundress with a home made Shanghai shirt – this piece reflects upon the need for us to consider the disconnect that exists between the people in the supply chain [TT7](#). The H&M Buying Office staff Earley and Vuletich worked with in Stockholm are very much removed from the decisions made by staff in the Production Offices in China. Sustainability concerns often exist within large fashion companies, but the organizational infrastructure may prevent change taking place at the speed that is required.

For this piece Earley continued her exploration of upcycling polyester shirts and exhaust transfer printing [TT1/TT3/TT4](#), here using over-printing to create a quilted jacket full of symbolism and messages for a young Swedish consumer, inspired by the Hundred Family Jacket [TT6](#). The design of dragons, horses and flowers has been hand drawn and painted by Earley fusing visual research from Dong Hua Museum in Shanghai, the Ming Dynasty artifacts at the British Museum in London and folk textiles from museums in Stockholm [TT6](#). The jacket has been lined with the faces and names of the factory workers Earley and Vuletich worked with in China, printed onto a co-created chiffon sample. Words of advice for the young fashion consumer can be found here too – the Mistra consortium researchers sent Earley the best advice they could offer a young Swedish consumer about to embark on a life of consuming [TT10](#).

Dodd has stitched into the print design to bind the monomaterial fabric layers together, making the sculptural garment warmer, more durable and adding more decorative surface detailing inside and out [TT2](#). The designers wanted to turn the simple, inexpensive yellow Shanghai shirt into something of much higher value, and potentially imbue it with greater meaning, significance and emotional durability for the owner.

TED strategies

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