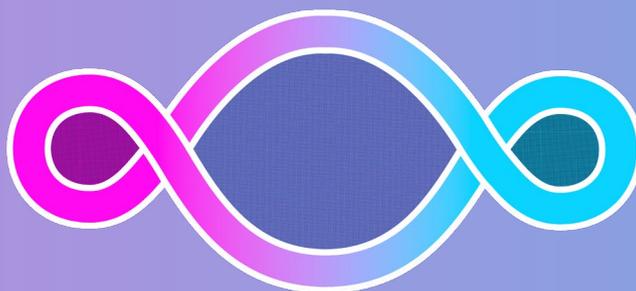


CNMI SUSTAINABLE FASHION AWARDS 2022

25 SEPTEMBER 2022
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PIAZZA DELLA SCALA
MILANO



by Michelangelo Pistoletto

CNMI SUSTAINABLE FASHION AWARDS 2022

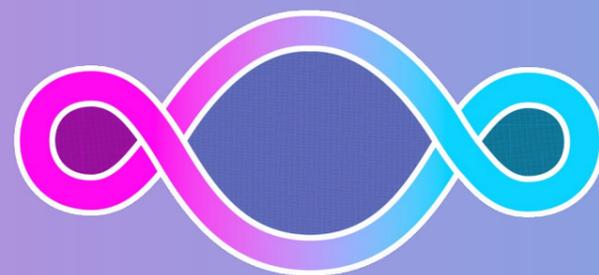
IN COLLABORATION WITH

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by Michelangelo Pistoletto

General Introduction

The Sustainable Fashion Awards, hosted by Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana (CNMI), recognises the achievements and ongoing efforts of both Italian and international designers and brands in helping to redefine a fashion industry which is more sustainable, ethical, and circular.

The fashion industry is increasingly acknowledging the weight of its collective environmental and social impacts: from its relationship with waste, pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss to how the extraction of natural resources affects local communities.

In order to accelerate sustainable, ethical, and circular economy progress, CNMI decided to reward and celebrate the efforts and achievements of initiatives that represent clear starting points and positive steps forward. Sustainability is a moving goal. It is a journey, a path composed of incremental steps; some of them initially challenging and all requiring creativity and innovation. CNMI recognises the complexity of these journeys and seeks to support the fashion industry to share their collective challenges, solutions, and ultimately, their successes.



Carlo Capasa

“Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana feels the responsibility to continue being a permanent workshop with a strategic function about sustainable fashion, one of the main pillar of our Association and believes in systemic actions, which is why we are working with our members, Italian and international institutions and authoritative partners. This edition of the Sustainable Fashion Awards represents an important edition, after the global pandemic, it symbolizes the growth in consciousness and commitment from our Industry in regards to sustainability. This year a focused analysis on sustainability in our Industry has been undertaken and more than 200 projects have been presented by the many Institutions and associations involved. Together with the Ethical Fashion Initiative we were able to develop a framework, starting from this framework we developed a selection criteria tool also thanks to the support of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and Quantis Italia, which made it possible to evaluate the many candidacies. These collaborations and the framework are first steps in the direction of creating, together with EFI, a specific ESG Due Diligence tool for our Industry.” – **Said Carlo Capasa, Chairman of Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana.**



Simone Cipriani

“Sustainability is a lifetime journey of continuous engagement. It is not a blueprint or a simple recipe. Rather, it is about setting objectives and steering the organization’s activities towards those goals. It is a managerial endeavor requiring risk assessment and performance monitoring tools. The investments required to make our planet and our societies sustainable are huge and no government alone can support them: we need the private sector to engage in this endeavor with all its investment capacity. With this award, CNMI and EFI are offering a glimpse into how this is starting to happen: the industry of fashion in motion. Together, let’s accelerate this, and contribute to a better future.”
– **Said Simone Cipriani, Chief & Founder of the Ethical Fashion Initiative.**



Carlo Ferro

“Fashion, more than other sectors, has been able to respond quickly to the new trends and the new sensitivities that characterize today’s consumers. Quality and sustainability, together with the capacity for innovation, are the strong points of our national production and represent a fundamental competitive lever on international markets. We want to make a substantial contribution to this path, and we are accelerating the implementation of the 19 new actions towards digital and sustainability. Seven hundred and forty-four small and medium enterprises in the fashion sectors are present in the online showcases of Made in Italy that have joined our e-commerce initiative. And, in a few days’ time, 300 small and medium enterprises of the fashion and agri-food sectors will be able to access our new service which will allow them to trace, using blockchain technology, the origin of products through all the stages of the value chain, cross-referencing the megatrend of sustainability with that of digitalization. The CNMI Sustainable Fashion Awards interpret the image of an Italy made of traditions and craftsmanship, sustainability and innovation: all these are distinctive features of Italian production which we communicate through the Nation Branding BeIT campaign. We wish the event all the best of luck.” – **Said Carlo Ferro, President of ITA Agency.**

The 2022 Sustainable Fashion Awards follows a robust nomination and selection process.

The process has been strengthened through collaboration between CNMI, the United Nations' Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI), a program of the International Trade Center and input from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. CNMI honors the responsibility to cover its institutional role, the United Nations offers the possibility to implement and promote global sustainability and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation brings its vision of a circular economy for fashion that is regenerative and restorative by design.

CNMI and EFI, together with the input and support of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and Quantis, developed the assessment framework to assist the candidates' evaluation. The adoption of a predefined set of criteria and parameters, has been crucial to guarantee the impartial and factual process of screening and judging.

With the assessment framework, CNMI officially launched the call for candidacies in May 2022, actively involving an Advisory Committee with more than 25 international associations and non-profit organizations, characterised by a specific knowledge base or expertise in different areas of sustainability within fashion's value chain.

Advisory Committee

The 2022 Sustainable Fashion Awards' Advisory Committee is composed by:

1. Assocalzaturifici
2. Assopellettieri
3. Camera Buyer Italia
4. Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana
5. Centro di Firenze per la Moda Italiana
6. Confartigianato Moda
7. Confindustria Moda
8. Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute
9. Fair Wage Network
10. Fair Wear Foundation
11. Fashion Institute of Technology
12. Fashion Minority Alliance
13. Hongik University
14. International Wool Textile Organization
15. London College of Fashion
16. Milano Fashion Institute
17. ICEC Quality Certification Institute for the leather sector
18. Redress
19. Sistema Moda Italia
20. Textile and Health Association
21. Textile Exchange
22. The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel
23. The Woolmark Company
24. UNIC Unione Nazionale Industria Conciaria
25. Universidade Estadual de Londrina
26. Università Iuav di Venezia
27. Worldrise Onlus



Ellen MacArthur

Jury President

“We are thrilled to be working with CNMI at The Sustainable Fashion Awards 2022. This exciting, global event will highlight the outstanding contributions and formidable efforts of creatives from across the industry. The ‘Ellen MacArthur Foundation Award for Circular Economy’ celebrates leading examples of innovation and circular design that can help to redefine the future of fashion, by building an industry that eliminates waste and pollution, circulates products and materials, and regenerates nature.

With CNMI’s network based at the centre of luxury Italian fashion and their work aiming at the highest standards of industrial, environmental, and social sustainability, we have forged a partnership from which the Foundation can bring its vision of a circular fashion industry into the mainstream. Together, CNMI and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation will salute and award those who are taking circular design directly to the heart of an industry that can help tackle the root causes of global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.” – **Said Dame Ellen MacArthur - Founder and Chair of Trustees, Ellen MacArthur Foundation**

Each Advisory Committee member was asked to propose to CNMI five to twenty nominees for consideration in one or more Sustainable Fashion Awards. Following this initial process more than 200 applications were received, analysed and screened according to the assessment framework, from which the Awards' finalists were selected. On some occasions, candidates were nominated by one or more Advisory Committee members because of their core brand operations and products. In others, the focus was on a single, highly relevant project for the specific Award it was presented to.

On 30th June 2022, the finalists' shortlist was brought to the attention of an influential, prestigious international Jury, chaired by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and its founder Dame Ellen MacArthur.

Jury Members

Together with Dame Ellen MacArthur, the 2022 Sustainable Fashion Awards' Jury is composed of:

1. **Andrew Morlet** – CEO of Ellen MacArthur Foundation
2. **Carlo Capasa** – Chairman Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana
3. **Simone Cipriani** – Head and Founder of the Ethical Fashion Initiative at the International Trade Centre, Chairperson of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion
4. **Roberta Annan** – Founder Africa Fashion Foundation
5. **Paola Deda** – DIRECTOR – Forests, Land and Housing Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)
6. **Kerry Kennedy** – President Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
7. **Teneshia Carr** – CEO of Blanc Media Inc. and Editor In Chief of Blanc Magazine
8. **Federica Marchionni** – CEO, Global Fashion Agenda
9. **Ai Tominaga** – Model
10. **Samata Pattinson** – CEO of RCGD Global and Cultural Sustainability Pioneer
11. **Teddy Quinlivan** – Model and activist
12. **Michelangelo Pistoletto** – Artist

Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana wants to thank all the members of the Advisory Committee and Jury, whose passionate and expert work has allowed CNMI to receive such a large number of highly valuable candidacies and to evaluate them according to a structured and reliable procedure.

CNMI hopes that the Sustainable Fashion Awards will encourage further innovation and action, helping the brands and manufacturers of the Italian and international fashion system to continue their sustainability, ethical and circular journeys toward a better future for business, society and the natural world.

It is also hoped that the projects and overall efforts of 2022 Sustainable Fashion Awards' finalists will inspire designers, producers and fashion executives, so that even more brands around the world will participate in the next edition of the Awards.

The Biodiversity Conservation Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

The world is experiencing an accelerated drop in biodiversity. Halting and declining this trend is one of the most urgent challenges of our time. The industry, in particular the fashion one, has played a part in this loss, through the exploitation of natural resources, the degradation of habitats, pollution of the air, water and soil, and its contribution to climate change.

At the same time, the fashion system relies on biodiversity on many levels, from the provision of raw materials and clean water to the inspirational and recreational value nature provides to human minds. To ensure the continued availability of these ecosystems and leave space for biodiversity to thrive, the industry needs to commit and invest its resources in regenerative practices.

Regenerative production practices increase soil fertility, sequester carbon, enhance water quality, and improve the resilience of ecosystems. Using them on depleted land has the potential to restore its health and biodiversity.

This Award celebrates the companies and organisations that not only recognise the paramount importance of biodiversity for the benefit of humankind but are actively taking steps to pursue positive outcomes for nature, leave a better environment to future generations and inspire all stakeholders to become active part in this conversation.

CANDIDATE

BALLY PEAK OUTLOOK FOUNDATION BY BALLY

The Swiss Alps are more than a visually pristine environment surrounding Bally's Headquarters in Caslano, Switzerland, they are integral to the brand's heritage and cultural roots, as well as a rich source of inspiration for its collections.

In the XX century, Bally supported some of the most successful mountaineers in reaching their goals, such as the first-ever successful ascent of Mount Everest in 1953. For this reason, the company is aware of the human-related threats to mountain territories, from climate change to irresponsible tourism and waste contamination.

Established in 2020, the Bally Peak Outlook Foundation continues this alpine tradition. It aims to preserve the mountain ecosystems, habitats and landscapes, while raising awareness of the issues affecting them and empowering local communities.

How does the Bally Peak Outlook Foundation preserve biodiversity?

The biodiversity of mountain ecosystems is essential to the health of our planet. It prevents soil erosion, avalanches and rockfalls, provides freshwater and contributes to the regulation of global climate, not to mention its unique cultural value. The acceleration of climate change poses a serious threat to these environments, while the continuing contamination of decades of waste left by mountaineers – from broken tents, tin cans, batteries, and other toxic materials – is affecting the health and resilience of mountain ecosystems.

Bally has undertaken specific projects to clean up seven tons of accumulated waste left from previous expeditions, from eight 8'000-metre mountains in the Himalayas, to build floodgates to protect Nepalese villages from the effects of global warming, and to support local rangers in Tanzania's Kilimanjaro National Park. Future projects are exploring the creation of mountain rescue infrastructure in the Caucasus Mountains.

The Bally Peak Outlook Foundation cooperates with a broad coalition of environmental activists and mountaineers as well as global partners, such as the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA). Since 2019, Bally sponsors the annual Mountain Protection Award, an international showcase of innovations and projects aimed at improving the living conditions of mountain communities.

The Bally Peak Outlook Foundation has also created documentary films to bring to life the story of these efforts and raise awareness on the project's biodiversity conservation goal, threatening the future of these extreme mountain landscapes and their communities.

CANDIDATE

OASI ZEGNA

Founded in 1910, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group is a luxury global leader. Its success story originates in Piedmont, Northern Italy, where the Lanificio Zegna is still located nowadays.

Ermenegildo Zegna started in 1930 an extensive environmental restoration and land improvement project, taking charge of 100 km² of degraded mountains in the Alps within the province of Biella, with the aim to reforest the area and enhance the landscape.

While the company was evolving in its business and creative operations, the natural reserve known as Oasi Zegna remained a stable focus for its investments and efforts.

Building on this valuable heritage, the Zegna Forest project – launched in 2020 and due to be completed in 2035 – is now progressively replacing the spruce woods with a diverse mix of trees and shrubs, to create a deciduous and coniferous forest, most suitable for the area in the current climatic conditions. Since climate change and the arrival of plant diseases never found in the Piedmont area are now threatening the Oasi Zegna, this project represents a crucial step in enhancing the function of biodiversity for the resilience of natural habitats.

In 2014, Oasi Zegna obtained the patronage from FAI – Fondo Ambiente Italiano – and since February 2022 its sustainable forestry management has been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, FSC®.

[How does Oasi Zegna preserve biodiversity?](#)

For more than ninety years, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group through the Fondazione Zegna invested in the restoration and protection of this natural reserve in Piedmont, linking its commitment to land conservation with the wellbeing of its entire employees' community and fashion business.

The surface of the Oasi Zegna covered by natural forest is increasing and today it covers 68% of the territory. Sustainable silvicultural management, as certified by FSC®, is proven to increase forests' capacity to absorb carbon dioxide as well as woods' resistance to storm, droughts, forest fires, pests' epidemics and other pressures, thus, to protect wood's ability to store carbon. The presence of natural forests protects the soil from erosion, landslides and avalanches and ultimately unlocks positive business opportunities, such as environmental tourism, recreation and cultural events.

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation Award for Circular Economy

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

In recent decades, the fashion industry has experienced ever-growing levels of production, coupled with shrinking profit margins, and increasing impact on the environment. Driven by today's linear economic model, clothing production doubled between 2000 and 2015 while, during the same period, utilisation decreased by 36%, causing increasing levels of waste and pollution.

In a circular economy, revenue is decoupled from production and resource use (i.e., more revenue is generated from fewer new products), which contributes to tackling environmental challenges such as greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

A circular economy calls for a fresh approach to every decision made in the creation of fashion. It means not only redesigning products for a thriving future, but also the processes, services, business models, and narratives that will deliver them. It requires a change of mindset to proactively seek to make a positive impact, to shift from linear to circular, and to regenerate and restore nature by design. It represents an opportunity to fundamentally redesign our economic model to benefit society, businesses, and the environment.

This award intends to recognise the outstanding work of those fashion brands, suppliers, platforms and small-medium enterprises that are demonstrating principles of the circular economy – eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, and regenerate nature. Special consideration has been given to organisations that combine circular economy principles and systems thinking at the core of their business.

CANDIDATE

RIFÒ

Rifò is a fashion brand that aims to exemplify a new model for the apparel industry. The brand combines the circular economy principles of eliminate, circulate, and regenerate by creating high-quality and durable garments and accessories with recycled and recyclable fibres.

How does Rifò apply the circular economy principles?

Rifò enables products and materials to be kept in use for longer. Their products are based on the concepts of high durability and repairability and, since blends of natural and synthetic materials are kept to the minimum, products can be more easily recycled at the end of their use.

According to their 2021 Sustainability report, Rifò uses 99% renewable and recycled fabrics from pre- and post-consumer waste to make products designed to be used more. To maximise the lifetime of its products, Rifò provides a warranty service which includes the possibility for its customers to send back the products for repair, as well as instructions on how to best care for the garments. Rifò also offers the option to send back used garments at the end of life, in particular those made of wool. Depending on their condition, garments are either repaired or recycled into new fibres to be used for new fabrics.

Rifò ensures the recyclability of their products by adopting mostly mono-material fabrics avoiding the use of natural and synthetic blends. Rifò also participates in the collection and sorting of used denim, by collaborating with selected partners to recycle them into new fibres and use them in their collections.

CANDIDATE

TIMBERLOOP TRECKER BY TIMBERLAND

Timberland is a global outdoor lifestyle brand based in Stratham, New Hampshire, US. Best known for its original yellow work boot, today Timberland offers a full range of footwear, apparel and accessories made with recycled and renewable materials.

How does Timberland apply circular economy principles?

Timberland incorporates a wide range of recycled fibres into its products – from natural fibres to leather and synthetics – and is committed to increase its current share of materials sourced from farmers using regenerative practices including leather, cotton and rubber. Timberland has made a public commitment to source 100% of their natural materials from regenerative agriculture practices and to design 100% of their products for a circular economy by 2030. Timberland is not only addressing

its impact on waste and pollution but is actively working on how to regenerate the environments they get their resources from. In April 2022, Timberland launched the Timberloop Trekker, a new version of their traditional city hiker that has been designed for a circular economy. Manufactured to last, these hikers have also been designed for disassembly: at the end of their use each component can be individually recycled into new material.

Since the beginning of 2022, Timberland has operated its take-back programme – Timberloop – in five key countries: the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and France. This allows customers to bring back their worn Timberland products to be, depending on their condition, either cleaned, repaired, or refurbished. A dedicated resale platform is currently under development to enable these products to be resold. Any product that can't be resold is partly recycled into new material.

CANDIDATE

VESTIAIRE COLLECTIVE

Founded in 2009, Vestiaire Collective has been an early actor in the resale landscape, mainly within the high-end second-hand fashion. The company scaled fast and is now known as one of the most trusted resell platforms in the industry. Vestiaire aims to change how people access fashion through its mobile and online platform, its highly curated pre-loved catalog, and garment authentication process.

How does Vestiaire Collective apply circular economy principles?

At the core of Vestiaire Collective's business model is the belief that high-quality garments are meant to be used more and by more people.

By actively circulating high-quality products, Vestiaire Collective is contributing to a circular fashion industry in which fewer products are required to generate revenue while continuing to satisfy the needs of fashion consumers.

To further accelerate the transition towards circular business models, the company also offers a Resale-as-a-Service program, enabling brands to enter the resale space. Vestiaire Collective demonstrates that current fashion products can be sold and re-sold, generating multiple streams of revenue throughout their use-phases.

The Climate Action Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

Climate change is more and more visible. It is increasingly the focus of government and institutional agendas, as well as being a concern of citizens who observe its detrimental effects, from extreme weather events to wildfires or drought.

The fashion industry and in particular the fast fashion's activities currently contribute to this growing problem. In 2015, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from textile production totalled 1.2 billion tons of CO₂ – more than those of all international flights and maritime shipping combined.

At the same time, the industry has the opportunity to be part of the solution to climate change and is increasingly dedicating attention, resources and creativity to not only minimise its negative impacts but actively work towards a net-zero ambition.

With increasing action on regenerative production practices, alternative materials, low-emitting logistics, avoidance of fossil-based resources and the adoption of related innovations, the fashion business should now focus on decoupling economic value from the consumption of finite resources. The outcomes will not only be decreased atmospheric GHG emissions but healthier soils, higher biodiversity, more resilient ecosystems, cleaner water and increased carbon sequestration. The Climate Action Award is dedicated to fashion brands, suppliers, organisations and stakeholders that work to address greenhouse gas emissions, find innovative solutions for the sector and drive solutions-focused climate change strategies. Special consideration was given to those projects addressing the most urgent issues impacting climate change: intensive farming, deforestation, and industrial production.

CANDIDATE

LA SOLEDAD - GUCCI

La Soledad is a farm located in Uruguay, managed by Mrs. Gabriela Bordabehere, farmer and entrepreneur, who became a reference point in the sector. Defying the prejudice that animal herding in the Pampa, the home of the legendary Gauchos, is exclusively a male job, she took the reins of the farm, determined to lead it into the future. Her farm adopts regenerative agriculture practices, known to improve soil performance, stock carbon and protect biodiversity, while eliminating the use of synthetic agrochemicals, enhancing animal welfare, and supporting farmers' livelihood.

La Soledad is part of the NATIVA™ Regenerative Agriculture Program with Gucci in partnership with Chargeurs Luxury Fibers. The wool produced is made available for Gucci's collections as part of the House's nature-positive approach, inaugurated through the 'Natural Climate Solutions Portfolio', which outlines a series of key initiatives aimed at restoring biodiversity and protecting nature.

[How does La Soledad's work address climate change?](#)

Intensive farming is one of the main activities responsible for human-based emissions, leading to climate change. Raising domesticated animals in a traditional agricultural production system generates nearly 15% of total global greenhouse gas emissions and is a large contributor to environmental degradation, in the form of deforestation, biodiversity loss and water pollution.

La Soledad has eliminated synthetic agrochemical inputs and has enhanced the nutrient cycle within the farm to improve soil health and enable it to better sequester carbon, retain water and support biodiversity, while creating a thriving natural ecosystem.

Regenerative agricultural systems are focused on improving the soil, as there lies the source of healthier systems for animals and farmers. Since economic sustainability represents an important pillar, this project supports the livelihoods of farmers by helping them achieve better land performance and diversify their income.

In partnership with NATIVA™ and Gucci, acting as an enabler for stronger partnerships within its supply chain, La Soledad is also working to re-introduce native forests in Uruguay and implement several measures to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, including using renewable energy to power its facilities and planting trees to sequester carbon. To imitate what nature does so well, the farm is transforming its organic waste into soil amendments thus providing an additional source of value, while significantly reducing farm emissions.

CANDIDATE

RADICIGROUP

RadiciGroup is an Italian manufacturer of chemical intermediates, high-performance polymers and advanced textile solutions. Polyamide production is vertically integrated and focused on fashion and sportswear, as well as automotive, medical, furniture and workwear textile sectors.

RadiciGroup's technical expertise is rooted in decades of sustainability research and development, supported by the internal innovation centre, working to design products with a reduced environmental impact. The resulting product portfolio includes biobased, recycled, durable, recyclable and biodegradable materials, with a full product life cycle approach, and a strong focus on conscious choices.

In 2019 Radici InNova, a consortium for research and innovation, was created within RadiciGroup to support the company's sustainable growth and strategic decision-making.

In 2022, RadiciGroup is introducing BENYCE, a new sustainable product range of Polyamide 6 yarn for the textile industry: an eco-designed polymer that will consent a lower impact and, thanks to a proprietary technology shows a reduction of more than half the environmental impact in terms of GWP compared to worldwide standard Polyamide 6. This new solution halves (-58%) the emissions of CO₂ if compared to standard nylon polymer, based on a world average.

How does RadiciGroup's work address climate change?

BENYCE is the result of a long research project at the level of chemical intermediates, to reduce their CO₂ emissions and, in addition, it is advantaged by the reduction of the impact of the different stages of production through the use of renewable energy.

Investing in energy efficiency, reducing consumption and increasing the amount of renewable energy are crucial actions to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mitigate climate change. In RadiciGroup, the consumption of renewable electricity has grown by 30% between 2019 and 2021: today 52% of electric energy used in its plants worldwide is renewable, representing a direct reduction in their direct GHG emissions of 74% between 2011 and 2021.

Yarns are specifically engineered to enhance garments' wearability, performance and durability, thus extending the life cycle and use cycles of fashion products. Recyclability and durability are key factors for fashion sustainability and the Group invests in the manufacture of products made with recycled materials and recyclable at their end of life, also solution-dyed to reduce the water and energy needed for dyeing. RadiciGroup believes that the basis of every sustainable choice is to measure its impacts. This is always true for plants, products and processes.

CANDIDATE

SEA FOREST

Sea Forest is an Australian environmental technology company, founded in 2018 with the goal of decarbonising the production of livestock products', including wool and leather.

The focus is on Asparagopsis, a common red seaweed native to the waters of Tasmania, that, when included in very low quantities (0,2%) as a feed supplement, can reduce ruminant livestock's methane emissions by up to 98% . It works thanks to bioactive compounds that inhibit the enzymatic pathway producing methane at the last stage of ruminants' digestion.

The animal's energy expenditure is redirected from the digestion process to growth, meaning it requires less feed as input and produces less methane in output. Sea Forest is the first company to cultivate Asparagopsis at a commercial scale, through marine and land-based aquaculture. The cultivation of Asparagopsis has direct benefits too since photosynthesis consumes CO₂ and contributes to the ocean's de-acidification.

Sea Forest, in collaboration with local leading institutions in scientific research and education, has developed innovative cultivation methodologies and brought them to a commercial scale.

How does Sea Forest's work address climate change?

Livestock contributes to around 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This is largely due to biogenic emissions of methane, which have a global warming effect 28 times higher than CO₂. While it's important to promote sustainable lifestyles, such as decreasing red meat consumption and the use of animal-products, finding solutions that can minimise the negative effects of existing livestock systems is an urgent challenge. Sea Forest provides a way to minimise the impact of existing livestock through seaweed-added feed.

Carbon dioxide not only remains trapped in the atmosphere – known as the greenhouse effect – but is absorbed by the ocean, causing acidification, a serious threat for shell-forming organisms and marine ecosystems. Seaweed cultivation, as long as it is controlled and based on native species, is an effective solution to absorb CO₂ from the ocean without being detrimental for biodiversity.

The Craft & Italian Artisanship Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

Despite continuous change and innovation, fashion will always champion local craftsmanship and artisanship which protect the values of heritage and respect the history, uniqueness, quality, and durability of the produced goods. Keeping these best practices and artisanal craft alive contribute to society and culture while considering environmental and social responsibility.

The Craft & Italian Artisanship Award honours attention to fabrics and techniques from the past, as well as valuing the resilience of such business models when approaching the future. It intends to recognise dedicated efforts in Italy which encourage research and development around local design, materials, and production processes, often certified by traceability or innovation patents. Special consideration has been made to Made in Italy best practices and heritage, not only limited to the Fashion industry but to the Italian way of life and traditions.

CANDIDATE

BOTTEGA FOR BOTTEGAS BY BOTTEGA VENETA

Founded in 1966 in the Italian region of Veneto, Bottega Veneta is a leader in the luxury leather goods category. All Bottega Veneta products are designed and produced in Italy. Their faithfulness to Italian roots, material and craftsmanship is reflected in its name: Bottega means workshop, and workshops are where collective creation takes place.

The House has gained its trusted reputation over the course of more than 50 years, in part due to its signature Intrecciato: a handcrafted weave of intertwined leather strips.

[How does Bottega Veneta maintain and encourage craftsmanship and artisanship?](#)

Sustainability in and beyond fashion, is strongly linked to a products' quality and durability. The heritage of Made in Italy revolves around these concepts and is dependent on the welfare and development of communities working to realise both raw materials and finished goods. Bottega Veneta products exemplify Italian craftsmanship and artisanship thanks to their careful material sourcing and considered production methods.

The facilitation of training opportunities is also an important part of Bottega Veneta. In these programs, Bottega Veneta spreads their expertise to younger generations at different levels of education. These activations preserve Italian Artisanship, stressing the paramount importance of the traditions and knowledge associated.

In December 2021, Bottega Veneta kicked off a dedicated "Bottega for Bottegas" project. This special range of activities supports and celebrates the creativity of Italian bottegas - small boutiques of artisans all over the country who sell their handmade products from instruments to olive oils.

Bottega Veneta showcased the work of twelve selected lifestyle businesses across Italy. In doing so, they leveraged their own brand visibility to communicate about these bottegas, spreading a distinctive message on the importance of Italian craft and artisanship to their audiences worldwide.

CANDIDATE

HAND IN HAND BY FENDI

FENDI is an Italian luxury Maison established in Rome in 1925 by Adele and Edoardo Fendi as a handbag and fur workshop by Adele and Edoardo Fendi. Today, FENDI has built its supply chain almost entirely in Italy, preserving, and representing Made in Italy at a worldwide level.

FENDI's will to embody Italian excellence, creativity and timeless style is showcased in 2015 by moving its headquarters to one of the most emblematic monuments in Rome: Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana, also known as 'Squared Colosseum', a jewel of 20th century Roman architecture, was built for the Universal Exhibition that was set to take place in Rome in 1942 yet never officially opened until 2015 by FENDI.

How does FENDI maintain and encourage craftsmanship and artisanship?

Over the years, FENDI has paid great attention to Italian artisanal heritage. Today, FENDI has numerous projects and ambitions, for example in connection with LVMH's, "Les Journées Particulières", all linked to preservation of Italian craftsmanship.

The new FENDI Factories inaugurating in autumn 2022 for shoes (in Fermo, Marche) and leather goods (in Capannuccia, Tuscany), new production poles symbolic of excellence, reconfirms the Roman luxury house's continuous investment in the Made in Italy and future generations, as well as its commitment towards corporate social responsibility.

On the educational side, FENDI supported craftsmanship education and training programs, such as Institute des Métiers d'Excellence, to enhance craftsmen's savoir-faire and ensure it is passed down to younger generations. With the constant will of preserving traditions and handmade abilities FENDI inaugurates in 2016 together with Sartoria Massoli, the Maria Antonietta Massoli fine tailoring Academy in Casperia, whose objective is to form a new generation of expert artisans, in May 2022 with the 'Adopt a School' educational project in collaboration with Altgamma and the Ostilio Ricci Institute in Marche region, and launched a special 'Dis-cycling project' in July 2022 with Istituo Marangoni in Florence through the mentorship of new york base artist Sarah Coleman.

With regards to product creation, FENDI puts efforts into rediscovering raw materials linked to specific Italian territories and production practices that celebrate artisanal skills and know-how of local craftsmen. Elaborating further, its recent "Hand in Hand" initiative called upon a diverse group of Italian artisans and workshops to re-interpret the iconic Baguette bag by applying local craft, transforming its

traditional construction into a veritable objet d'art. Artisans coming from the 20 different regions of Italy produced twenty limited-edition Baguette bags, each one conveying rare and site-specific fabrics, techniques and manual craftsmanship, the initiative is now at its second wave.

CANDIDATE

LIVING HERITAGE BY SERGIO ROSSI

The history of Italian footwear and accessories brand Sergio Rossi is bound to its roots in San Mauro Pascoli (FC), one of the Italian shoe districts. In this small village at the heart of Italy, in the early 1950s, the young designer and son of an artisan shoemaker Sergio Rossi started creating, producing, and selling his signature sandals.

Today, the brand that took his name has 100% of design taking place in Italy and almost 90% of production still realised by 150 artisans at the factory in San Mauro Pascoli, vertically integrated to cover all production stages, from cutting to seaming, lasting, and finishing around a thousand pairs of shoes a day.

How does Sergio Rossi maintain and encourage craftsmanship and artisanship?

Considering initiatives which celebrate and champion the work and achievements of artisan shoemakers to inspire current and future generations of creative designers, Sergio Rossi chose to honour the brand's historical roots in this way helps to share knowledge and build new design capabilities.

In 2017, the brand launched the "Living Heritage" Project, an archive intended as a tribute to the local artisanal tradition and to the founder's vision. Since then, almost 6,000 historical models from all over the world have been collected and restored, to showcase the entire history of Sergio Rossi's creations.

The initiative allowed both for the creation of a physical historic archive, with an exhibition space of products and iconography open for consultation and research projects; and the launch of a digital platform with more than 17, 000 records - drawings, look books, advertising, and editorial images - spanning over 70 years of history.

The Bicester Collection Award for Emerging Designers

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

The fashion industry has always been driven by creativity and innovation; benefitting from ideas which push boundaries and inspire change. Yet, emerging designers entering the industry may find it difficult to access the global platforms necessary to showcase their creativity and bring new possibilities to light.

The Bicester Collection Award for Emerging Designers celebrates the emerging talents of individuals and small brands who, despite their smaller scale, are striving to create significant positive impact in the global fashion community, delivering a message that combines design, innovation, and responsibility. Recipients of the award will receive crucial support and resources to grow their businesses, benefitting from access to The Bicester Collection's global platform.

The finalists of The Bicester Collection Award for Emerging Designers are distinguished candidates, prove to have structured their wide-ranging sustainable business activities while demonstrating resilience and inspiring positive change across the industry. Special recognition was therefore given to those businesses who decided to embed practices generating a positive impact in their product portfolio from day one, and choosing to address at least one of the most pressing environmental challenges facing the fashion industry.

CANDIDATE

NKWO

Nkwo Onwuka is a psychologist, sustainability expert, and the founder of NKWO, a Nigeria-based artisanal brand, whose focus has been on textile waste reduction, support for communities, and tradition preservation since 2012.

NKWO identified two critical challenges in Nigeria: the lack of adequate waste management systems and the progressive disappearance of local textile artisanship. Nkwo Onwuka decided to address these by designing ready-to-wear pieces from existing clothes and materials, crafted using traditional West African weaving, beading, hand-dyeing, and embroidery.

Furthermore, material research led her to invent a new African fabric, using an innovative technique of stripping and sewing waste fabrics rooted in the long African tradition of weaving, called Dakala™ Cloth.

What sustainability issues does NKWO address by design?

NKWO addresses textile waste, driving environmental conservation, preserving traditional craft skills, and helping to alleviate poverty. Therefore, she engages with different dimensions of sustainability.

The impact of clothing waste is particularly devastating for African countries, where second-hand clothing is increasingly imported. In the capital of Ghana, Accra Metropolitan Assembly picks up around 70 metric tons of imported clothing waste from Kantamanto market six days a week. A lack of capacity to collect and recover textiles leads to clothing being disposed of informally – meaning it is burned and the ashes are swept into the gutters, where it makes its way to the sea; or it is brought to 'informal' dumpsites. The affordability of fast fashion has both disrupted the African fashion market and its textile manufacturing tradition.

Nkwo Onwuka explores ways in which textile waste, excess stock fabric and old clothes could be prevented from ending up in landfill or being incinerated. Artisanal and limited-edition pieces are created from post-consumer textile and plastic waste, too.

Through her work, she also upskills women from vulnerable communities. These women learn to create fashion items from existing products and materials and weave on traditional looms to produce responsible fashion with a distinctly African feel.

CANDIDATE

THEMOIRÈ

Founded in 2019 by Francesca Monaco and Salar Bicheranloo, THEMOIRÈ is a brand born from the desire to promote a low impact way of doing fashion. Having its supply chain predominantly based in the Milan area, THEMOIRÈ combines knowledge of historical Italian artisanship with the adoption of innovative materials that have potential for lower environmental impact across all its collections.

What sustainability issues does THEMOIRÈ address by design?

THEMOIRÈ promotes the adoption of animal-free materials and bio-based innovations, showcasing alternative, low-emission solutions to conventional options. From the adoption of nopal cactus fabric and pineapple fibres, to fibres created from apple by-products, THEMOIRÈ seeks to promote a new fashion concept which delivers aesthetics, performance, and lower environmental impact.

In addition, the brand re-envisioned the old artisanship model of Made in Italy in a new modern concept, with collections that outlast the ephemeral seasonal cycles of the fashion industry.

Last, its initiative “Together by THEMOIRÈ”, aims to create a stronger dialogue between different artisan communities across the world. The project is run once a year and enhances the craftsmanship of vulnerable communities by using the proceeds to support local development.

CANDIDATE

TORLOWEI

TORLOWEI – founded in May 2017 by Patience TORLOWEI and her daughter Mojisola Adegbile – is a lingerie, ready-to-wear label, based in Lagos, Nigeria.

TORLOWEI’s designs are rooted in the manipulation of textiles, combined with the use of jewel tones and abstract shapes influenced by her Nigerian heritage.

TORLOWEI’s collections are created to be timeless and long lasting, passed down from generation to generation and with a dedicated attention to fabrics’ innovation. In fact, her Esther dress is now part of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, as a masterpiece that illustrates the issues affecting the African continent, both from an environmental and social development perspective.

TORLOWEI seeks to become the premiere Black-owned lifestyle brand from Africa, known for both its attention towards the environment – innovative and sustainable fabrics and packaging, designed to last – as well as its ethical practices and strong economic impact on artisanal communities across the continent.

What sustainability issues does THEMOIRÈ address by design?

The raw materials used in TORLOWEI’s designs are made using 80% biodegradable fibres (silk, Tencel, organic cotton). The remaining 20% are gradually being replaced with recycled and innovative alternatives to synthetic fibres. In addition, pieces are designed to be timeless and long-lasting in order to reduce environmental impact. With regards to production processes and manufacturing, TORLOWEI is progressively incorporating a circular approach by providing repair services and ensuring traceability through the entire value chain from yarn to finished product.

TORLOWEI commits to living wages and an anti-discrimination work environment, as well as to dedicated social campaigns such as providing young girls with access to safe, reusable, and hygienic sanitary products in a commitment to end period poverty.

The Equity and Inclusivity Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

The Equity and Inclusivity Award seeks to award positive actions taken by key players of the fashion industry to remove prejudices and stereotypes and shorten cultural gaps, providing equal access and opportunity for all.

The Award, therefore, intends to highlight the value of a Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) strategy as a component of a business' broader sustainability path, via dedicated strategies, programs and practices. Many aspects of anti-discrimination were considered, such as the presence of a team accountable for strategy development and a dedicated budget, to ensure the equitable advancement of each person, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, community, preferences.

The Groundbreaker Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

Innovation within the fashion industry takes many forms: from land management practices and the substitution of harmful substances used in textile treatments, to new materials, production processes, and the way in which garments are designed embedding sustainability since the creative phase. Current business practices and technologies significantly contributed to the impact the fashion industry has on the environment. Innovative solutions are needed across the whole value chain of fashion organisations to help them reduce such impact and ensure that businesses operate within planetary boundaries.

The Groundbreaker Award intends to recognise the work of start-ups, fashion brands and suppliers on the creation of innovative solutions that address critical pain points within the fashion industry, such as intensive farming practices, the use of toxic chemicals across the supply chain and the reliance on fossil-based as well as natural material that contribute to land degradation. The award focuses not only on the innovative elements of the solution itself but also on the possibility of applying such innovations at scale and creating positive environmental and social impact. Special focus has been given to innovations focusing on natural or bio-based solutions to replace conventional technologies that degrade land and deplete natural resources.

CANDIDATE

BANANATEX

Bananatex is a durable, technical fabric made entirely from naturally grown Abacà banana plants. Cultivated in the Philippine highlands within a natural ecosystem of sustainable mixed agriculture and forestry, the plant is self-sufficient and requires no pesticides, fertilisers nor freshwater. As such, Bananatex is a high-performance plant-based alternative to synthetic materials that offers a concrete solution to decrease plastic pollution and the reliance on fossil-based fabrics.

How is Bananatex providing ground-breaking solutions for the fashion industry?

Since the development of petroleum-based polymers, synthetic materials have taken the fashion industry by storm in the form of polyester, polyamide, and polyurethane – just to name a few – causing significant concerns in terms of plastic pollution and the reliance on fossil fuels as a primary source.

Bananatex brings to the market a fully plant-based high-performing fabric as an alternative to synthetic materials. Being fully conscious of the implication that such material could have on the local ecosystem where Abacà is grown, Bananatex ensures that all plants are cultivated with a mixed agriculture and forestry approach contributing to reforestation in areas once eroded due to monocultural palm plantations, whilst enhancing biodiversity and the economic prosperity of its farmers. Also, through its sustainable farming approach, Bananatex shows high consideration for the conditions of the communities where the raw material originated and contributes to its positive development, through the lenses of biodiversity and economic prosperity.

In December 2021, Bananatex received the Cradle-to-Cradle gold certificate as confirmation that the material is safe, circular and responsibly made.

Bananatex is already commercially available and used in various partnership for example with swiss backpack brand Qwstion, or global major brands.

CANDIDATE

DEMETRA AND GUCCI OFF THE GRID BY GUCCI

Founded in 1921 in Florence, Gucci is one of the most globally recognized luxury brands. Through Gucci Equilibrium, the House has committed to generate positive change for people and our planet, by reducing its environmental impact and protecting nature, while also championing inclusivity and respect.

Following two years of in-house research, Gucci developed Demetra, an animal-free material primarily coming from bio-based and renewable resources, made of a mix of wood pulp compound, biobased polyurethane, and viscose from responsibly managed forest sources. With the intention to keep its carbon footprint to the minimum, all materials have been chosen because of their lower production emissions, when compared to conventional ones. Additionally, as part of the House's commitment to supporting circular economy and through an extension of its Gucci-Up program, Demetra scraps produced during the manufacturing process will be upcycled and reused.

Demetra also became part of the materials of the Gucci Off The Grid collection, created to strengthen the House's responsibility towards a more circular economy.

How is Demetra providing ground-breaking solutions for the fashion industry?

Materials represents one of the most significant greenhouse gas emission drivers within a company's carbon footprint. Yet fossil-based alternatives to materials, such as leather, risk shifting the emissions-related environmental burden onto plastic pollution.

Produced entirely in Italy in Gucci's factory, the new material is created using the same expertise and processes for tanning thereby achieving characteristics that give Demetra a distinctive, pliable, and resilient performance, with a supple and luxurious finish.

A key element of Demetra is its immediate scalability, allowing for faster go-to-market and considerable impact reduction due to high quantity adoption. Gucci intends to offer Demetra to all brands of the Kering Group; first for commercially available collections and later to open the purchase of the material to the whole industry in the true spirit of pre-competitive collaboration.

CANDIDATE

GROUNDED INDIGO BY ALBINI_NEXT AND STONY CREEK COLORS

ALBINI_next is an innovation hub specialised in the development of sustainable solutions on materials and production processes, part of the Albini group, a family-run shirting fabric manufacturer, founded in Italy in 1876. Stony Creek Colors is a US-based manufacturer of traceable, plant-based dyes developed from their proprietary seed genetics and safe extraction processes and grown in partnership with family farms as regenerative rotational crops.

ALBINI_next collaborated with Stony Creek Colors to introduce 100% plant-based indigo into a "Grounded Indigo" fabric collection.

How is the ALBINI_next and Stony Creek Colors partnership providing a ground-breaking solution for the fashion industry?

Synthetic dyeing processes have serious environmental consequences due to the harmful petrochemicals used, the amount of water required and the carbon equivalent emissions they generate. New dyeing solutions are therefore a key lever to help fashion companies achieve their sustainability objectives.

"Grounded Indigo" is a project launched by ALBINI_next to replace the use of synthetic indigo with a more sustainable, yet still high-performing, plant-based solution. Through, this collaboration, ALBINI_next was able to incorporate a completely natural indigo dye from the Stony Creek Colors' "indigofera" plant varieties, cultivated with regenerative farming practices into their fabric collection composed by BIOFUSION Cotton. These regenerative practices are based on the concept of crop rotations, which improve the soil fertility, boost crop yields and help store carbon in the ground.

The "Grounded Indigo" solution offers a high performing plant-based indigo alternative to environmentally harmful synthetic dyes. If applied at scale, such a solution could have a significant positive impact on companies' chemical pollution burden, water usage, and carbon emissions. Albini Group is already commercially offering this solution to its clients through a dedicated collection of fabrics.

The Human Rights Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

In recent years, a few inequalities allegations have emerged within the fashion industry's global production system: from its consumption of natural resources to the impact on minorities and vulnerable communities, to worker health and safety. The fashion system is currently investigating solutions to tackle and mitigate any negative impacts.

Human rights are essential to achieving sustainable development that leaves no one behind and is central to all its dimensions. This essential pillar of sustainability is reflected in the transformative ambitions of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the principles and standards of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This Award recognises those who have placed the defence of human rights at the centre of their individual efforts or corporate equality strategy. In fashion supply chains, these efforts lead to the protection of workers' rights and the maintenance of adequate standards in terms of working hours, fair remuneration of work, health and safety – both at individual workers' and communities' levels.

A special recognition is attributed to those who continuously challenge the status quo, drive actions that improve human rights, and support open discussions.

CANDIDATE

COOPERATIVA ALICE

Founded in 1992, Cooperativa Alice is the promoter of "Ethicae Rei", the first Italian supply chain guaranteed by the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO).

It counts on a network of social enterprises currently employing 55 professional workers from difficult backgrounds – female survivors of violence, migrants and asylum seekers, people with disabilities and incarcerated people – together with artisans and sustainability experts.

Its production units are specialised in tailoring, footwear, corporate gadgets, mechanical embroidery, and screen-printing.

How does Cooperativa Alice promote and directly defend human rights in fashion?

Cooperativa Alice is committed to leveraging the traditions of Made in Italy to ensure pathways for re-entering society to those whose freedom is restricted, during and after incarceration, at the same time enhancing and preserving artisanship.

During its almost 30 years of history, with a specific reference to SDG #8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth" and the ten principles of Fair Trade by WFTO, Cooperative Alice supported more than 450 women in the rehabilitation process, thanks to 11,000+ hours of training, lowering recidivism to almost zero and empowering individuals to independence and self-care through craftsmanship.

Openly, it is also promoting the activation of a new ecosystem, working with brands and designers to disseminate a paradigm shift, where beautifully crafted pieces also convey positive social impact by creating work opportunities for disadvantaged people, enhancing their effective inclusion in the workforce.

CANDIDATE

DR. RUBANA HUQ

Dr. Rubana Huq is a Bangladeshi businesswoman, university academic, and poet who has played a critical role in the fashion industry in her country.

After being Managing Director, she is currently the chairperson of Mohammadi Group, a Bangladeshi fashion and media conglomerate. Between 2019 and 2021 she was the first female elected as President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers Export Association (BGMEA).

In February 2022, she was appointed vice-chancellor of the Asian University for Women (AUW) and, as industry representative, today she is Executive Committee and Board of Directors member of RSC, the Sustainability Council and safety monitoring body of Bangladeshi ready-made garments industry.

How does Dr. Rubana Huq promote and defend human rights in fashion?

Besides being a leading female entrepreneur in Bangladesh for over three decades, in her capacity as president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers Export Association she played a critical role in getting the organisation to adopt the “Go Human, Go Green” campaign with seven pledges to support garment workers, the community and the environment, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Besides advocating for Bangladeshi industry innovation and culture export, the pledges appeal to workers’ education, physical and mental health, workers’ children’ educational opportunities, and sustainability, with direct assessment of Sustainable Development Goals achievements.

She initiated the process and signed the final agreement on Ready-made garments Sustainability Council (RSC), an unprecedented private national tripartite initiative to promote workplace safety in Bangladesh.

The RSC brings together local and global stakeholders, industry, and workers representatives to carry on the work of the Bangladesh Accord for Fire and Building Safety that was established after the Rana Plaza tragedy.

CANDIDATE

MADE FOR A WOMAN

Made For A Woman is a fashion brand commercialising handmade limited quantity dresses and accessories, as well as a social entrepreneurship project supporting marginalised women, and showcasing their stories and talents.

Founded in 2019 by Eileen Akbaraly, an Italian Indian designer and entrepreneur born in 1994 in Madagascar, where she grew up, Made For A Woman became a point of reference for local women artisans, most of whom were former survivors of domestic violence, abuse, addictions or former convicts.

How does Made For A Woman (M4W) promote and defend human rights in fashion?

M4W shares the Fair-Trade community’s vision based on justice, equity and sustainable development to allow everyone, worldwide, to reach their human potential through decent and dignified work. The brand is committed to guaranteeing equitable salaries, together with women empowerment opportunities. It works with 145 women from marginalised and disadvantaged backgrounds, granting them decent incomes and proper working and living conditions; this commitment is verified by the World Fair Trade Organization. In fact, all its suppliers are also Business Social Compliance Initiative accredited, meaning they meet the industry standards that ensure that workers are treated ethically and legally.

The empowerment of local women artisans’ empowerment and the brand’s corporate social responsibility are also communicated to consumers with the goal for its business model to become scalable by other social entrepreneurship ventures in developing countries.

Made For A Woman addresses not only social and environmental sustainability through its materials’ choices, promoting respect towards the biodiversity of Madagascar and using Raphia to value and give dignity to a traditional Malagasy weaving craft.

The Woolmark Company Award for Innovation

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

Wool is a 100% natural, renewable and biodegradable fibre that has inspired the creativity of generations of designers and whose quality can only exist thanks to the ongoing dedication and care provided by tens of thousands of woolgrowers.

Including grazing animals such as sheep in farming systems promote regenerative agricultural practices, which results in positive outcomes for nature by enriching the soil, increasing biodiversity and improving water cycle. In turn, the luxurious wool produced comes from an animal that is helping regenerate the earth.

The Woolmark Company Award for Innovation is dedicated to brands, suppliers and organisations actively working to make the wool textile sector more responsible and resilient to current sustainability challenges, activating the entire value chain.

The Woolmark Company remains devoted to the sector's sustainable development, working to produce a high quality premium that is optimal for circular, traceable products.

CANDIDATE

REDA

As one of the leaders in pure Merino wool production, Reda's story began more than two centuries ago in Valle Mosso, Biella, later becoming the centre of the wool industry. The specialised craftsmanship tradition of this territory and the precious know-how of its people represent valuable assets for Reda.

While investing in keeping this industrial heritage alive and well-functioning, Reda promotes innovative research and development, such as the work resulting in the launch of the Active Lifeproof membrane, a patented waterproof lining made of biodegradable polymers, or the creative solutions of Rewoolution, their activewear clothing line, and Lanieri, the digital tailor for bespoke suits e-commerce.

Reda has full control over its supply chain, which is traceable and certified, with a specific ethical code in place for suppliers. Providing customers with this reliable data is one of Reda's commitments.

In 2020, Reda became the first Italian textile company to obtain the B Corp certification, committing itself to create shared value and pursue common benefit purposes, from natural resources protection to responsible operations and community give-back.

How does Reda make the wool sector more responsible and resilient?

When developing a sustainability strategy, companies must carefully plan their roadmap of actions considering an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) set of scopes. Adopting a sustainability governance model is key to obtaining relevant results in an effective and efficient manner, ensuring the consistency with internal and external stakeholders' needs.

Through research, field projects, best practices promotion, knowledge transfer and capability building Reda contributes to the wool sector's responsible and ethical development.

In addition to that, being a Benefit Corporation (B Corp), Reda has modified its statutory obligations and committed to higher standards of purpose, accountability, and transparency. B Corps act to create a material positive impact on society and the environment, while the board commits to pursue sustainability goals along shareholders' financial interests. They must annually report on their results and progress towards general public benefit.

CANDIDATE

SEASE

Sease was founded in 2018 by Franco and Giacomo Loro Piana and combines their family heritage of high-quality and elegance with a contemporary, functional and environmentally-aware lifestyle.

Sease's products are engineered following a sustainable protocol on raw materials selected to be organic, recycled, and biobased. The brand's supply chain is mostly vertically integrated and Made in Italy through a network of suppliers enrol efficiency best practice in terms of resources, upcycling waste and chemical reduction.

Sease believes quality to be the pre-condition for sustainability. It means having durable products, realised with the best natural fibres and produced by a short chain of suppliers.

How does Sease make the wool sector more responsible and resilient?

Australian Merino wool has long been a fibre of choice for Sease. Praised for both its technical and environmental benefits, Merino wool allows the brand to develop highly functional garments that are gentle on the planet.

Sease is also investing in two relevant projects: Sopravvisana wool and black sheep wool.

The first is a 100% Italian native wool, obtained from Visso sheep bred on the Apennine mountains in the Marche region. Promoting its usage allowed the creation of an entirely Made in Italy supply chain, reducing transport-related greenhouse gas emissions and economically supporting a region strongly affected by the earthquake in 2016.

The second is a naturally brown colored wool, whose unique and intense shade has been used by Sease to create a full collection that does not require any dyeing process, thus avoiding the related consumption of water and chemicals.

These elements help tackle some of the most urgent issues related to the environmental impact of textiles, such as the increased production of garments that end up in landfills, contaminating soil and water basins, the microplastics release by synthetic fibres at every washing cycle, the greenhouse gas emissions generated by transporting materials around the globe.

CANDIDATE

THE SCHNEIDER GROUP

The Schneider Group is a family company founded in Sydney in 1922, working across five continents to source the best wool, cashmere, silk and natural fibres, and process them in their facilities. The Group manages over twenty farms producing organic (GOTS) and Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) certified wool; vertical integration is a valuable asset to ensure the supply of sustainable, traceable materials.

How does The Schneider Group make the wool sector more responsible and resilient?

In the wool sector, traceability is key to provide high-quality information to brands and final customers. Letting the highest number of wool growers access the related schemes and protocols is beneficial to the entire industry and boosts the scalability of sustainable solutions.

The Schneider Group has worked toward this goal, developing the Authentico Integrity Scheme, a cost-effective traceability protocol to guarantee the application of best practices and respect of international quality standards. Authentico's final goal is to increase the sector's transparency and sustainability, both making solutions accessible for growers worldwide and making their efforts visible to brands.

The Schneider Group has invested in the sector's resilience and sustainable development, also through the organisation of annual conferences, called Wool Connect, from this year, Natural Fiber Connect, creating the space for capacity building, knowledge sharing and projects' scalability.

Other streams of work are on regenerative agriculture projects in Argentina and Australia; animal welfare best practices dissemination, in collaboration with Humane Society International and Four Paws; and supply chain traceability together with Textile Genesis.

The Oceans Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

The ocean covers 70% of the Earth's surface and exchanges heat, moisture and carbon with the atmosphere, driving our weather patterns, it acts as a global climate controller, absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. Human-induced activities are impacting our wider environment putting pressure on this system.

The textile industry is known to be a major contributor to the issue of ocean plastic pollution, associated with negative environmental and health implications. Around half a million tons of plastic microfibers, shed during the washing of synthetic fabrics, end up in the ocean annually.

Additionally, while there is little data on the volume of substances of concern used across the industry, it is recognised that textile production discharges high volumes of water containing hazardous chemicals into the environment; 20% of industrial water pollution globally is attributable to the dyeing and treatment of textiles.

Restoring ocean health is vital to achieving many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals as humankind and all its expressions, including the fashion industry, will need the ocean to provide a stable climate, resources and livelihoods.

The Oceans Award recognizes the importance of the health of the oceans and marine ecosystems for the entire fashion sector. It seeks to highlight the industry's efforts and accountability in protecting and improving marine ecosystems and resources, reducing their exploitation and raising awareness of their paramount relevance so that future generations can thrive.

Special recognition was given to projects tackling plastics pollution, one of the most pressing threats to ocean health.

CANDIDATE

SEA BEYOND BY PRADA GROUP

Prada Group is a prominent player in the luxury goods industry, with a strong pioneering vision and sustainability strategy, fuelling the company's growth process for many years. The Group mapped and shared its materiality analysis, highlighting climate action and supply chain responsible management as two of its top priority topics. Since 2014, Prada has invested in the reduction of GHG emissions through the generation and procurement of renewable electricity, as well as energy efficiency solutions for its production sites and buildings. From 2019 on, the Group has been progressively replacing all collection's presence of virgin nylon into recycled, so far to more than one million metres of recycled nylon used.

Hỏi đợc Prada Group act tđ protect the ocean and marine ecosystems?

The ocean is experiencing multiple threats, from plastics pollution to overfishing, unsustainable tourism to water acidification, affecting all marine ecosystems and the lives of coastal communities.

In 2019, Prada Group, together with the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, launched Sea Beyond, an educational program for ocean preservation. Since 2021, this program is officially linked to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Educating young generations on this complex and game-changing topic is of paramount importance to activate their energy and enable change. Over the years, Sea Beyond has trained more than 600 international secondary school students, from 9 different countries, including Italy, Mexico, South Africa, and Brazil. In 2021, launching the second edition of the project, two initiatives were added: the Kindergarten of the Lagoon in Venice, a program of outdoor lessons for children in preschool, and an educational path designed for Prada Group's more than 13,000 employees.

Prada supports Sea Beyond with part of proceeds from the sales of Prada Re-Nylon, its collection made with ECONYL®, a recycled nylon yarn created from recycling discarded plastics collected from the ocean and landfills sites across the globe, and recyclable an indefinite number of times without affecting its quality. Recycling materials allows resources to be kept within the economy, reducing waste and pollution and generating positive effects on the overall system.

CANDIDATE

SEA2SEE

Sea2see designs and produces high-quality optical frames and sunglasses, made exclusively in Italy, as well as watches in Switzerland, entirely made with recycled marine plastics collected by coastal communities and thousands of fishermen.

Statistically, around half of the global population should wear optical glasses, making eyewear products one of the most widely spread around the globe. This sector is now experiencing an accelerated rise in its attention to sustainability, as a fundamental lever for ethical innovation.

H^ow does Sea2See act to protect oceans and marine ecosystems?

Plastic pollution impacts all marine ecosystems and oceans contain huge amounts of it; scientists calculated that at least 13 million tons of plastics enter the ocean each year. Furthermore, plastic does not disintegrate like natural products, it decomposes into microplastics that get ingested by animals and go up the food chain.

Products must be designed in a way that they never become waste and pollution from the outset, including eliminating micro-plastic leakage. At the same time, existing plastic in the ocean needs to be collected and used, thus reducing its detrimental impact on ecosystems.

Since 2016, Sea2see has been the pioneer in the field, creating a scalable solution with a social and environmental impact, to offer products made from 100% recycled marine plastics, initially collected by fisherman in Spain and France and now contributing to improve the lives of coastal communities in Ghana and Senegal, and soon in other regions, including Sri Lanka.

Sea2see's business model contributes to cleaning the coastal areas of plastic pollution, providing awareness and sources of income for the plastic collectors in coastal communities via the Sea2See Foundation, a Non-Profit which runs along the eyewear brand. Today, a multiple award-winning brand, the eyewear label has also proven that recycled marine plastic can be used to make stylish products of the same quality and design as the best non recycled frames. More than 4000 opticians are now sharing the Sea2See company's "seastainable values".

Using recycled plastics as a valuable raw material means avoiding the production of virgin plastic, which depends on fossil fuels. It also provides opportunities for communities whose economy strongly depend on fishing, now seriously affected by plastic pollution.

CANDIDATE

PANERAI OCEAN CONSERVATION AWARD BY PANERAI

Panerai is a global brand of high-end watches founded in Florence in 1860 and now part of the Richemont Group, merging Italian design with Swiss sector expertise.

In the XX century, Panerai supplied precision instruments to the Italian Navy, developing innovative patented solutions such as the first Radiomir prototype, for a secret program of underwater assault vehicles and operators. Here originates the brand's legacy connected to underwater exploration.

Panerai and UNESCO joined forces to develop an Ocean Literacy program, with three main actions: education, citizen science and industry involvement. Panerai's program is included in the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The Panerai Ocean Conservation Initiative offers a global educational and awareness-raising program which engages students on the importance of ocean stewardship, involving around 100 universities in the world, to develop ocean knowledge and put it into action.

H^ow does Panerai Ocean Conservation Initiative act to protect oceans and marine ecosystems?

Oceans are subject to raising cumulative impacts from human-based activities and are increasingly vulnerable to environmental threats. The preservation of oceans and their ecosystems needs the involvement of as many people as possible to build communities of ocean literacy professionals and communicators, acting based on science and with a responsible mindset.

Panerai promotes citizen science activities, enabling communities to engage with the ocean and be informed about its issues. To transform ocean knowledge into action, Panerai involved students and professors in selected degree courses – Sustainability, Marketing, Marine Science, Engineering and Biology – into plastic collection days organised in each country where the educational program took place.

The Philanthropy & Society Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

Sustainable development can be defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Philanthropy, by definition, is an active effort to promote human welfare, by acting for humanitarian purposes, aligning its economic and social impact.

The Award is designed to reward those individuals who have carried out social or charity projects, as well as companies that have created their own foundation for philanthropic purposes as an effort to improve human welfare.

The Award values the alignment between the projects’ economic and social impacts and recognises their potential for scalability. In this case, having clear objectives, a roadmap to achieve targets, and attributed roles within a formalised organisational chart were considered proxies for transparency, maturity, and robustness of the project’s mission.

The Award highlights the importance of clear and transparent communication: effectively disseminating its purpose, enabling positive replication, and creating advocacy for the philanthropic causes it seeks to promote.

CANDIDATE

GUCCI’S CHIME FOR CHANGE BY GUCCI

Italian high-end luxury fashion house Gucci commits to Philanthropy by acting directly on specific projects for local communities. In Italy, it works in favor of specific and established programs aimed at supporting women survivors of domestic violence and their children; for instance, “SOSTieni la libertà” project in Florence with Artemisia Association; Sportello Sociale “La Casa Accoglie” project in Rome with Casa Internazionale delle Donne; Progetto Ri-Nascita of SVS Donna Aiuta Donna in Milan.

At the same time, at a global scale, the Gucci Equilibrium platform continuously works to disseminate thought, conversation, and action about both people and the planet, and it has advanced the global narrative for gender equality.

Gucci’s commitment to social impact can be particularly appreciated through its CHIME FOR CHANGE campaign. This global campaign was launched in 2013 and has undertaken a series of concrete actions to advance gender equality, including fighting to end gender-based violence.

CHIME FOR CHANGE’s fundraising and public activation supports feminist organizations and movements led by and serving women of color, indigenous women and girls, young feminists, disabled women and girls, transgender and gender expansive women, and other groups who have been historically marginalised.

How does CHIME FOR CHANGE align its economic, philanthropic and social impact?

To date CHIME FOR CHANGE has raised more than 19 million USD to support gender equality projects and advocacy in 89 countries with 182 nonprofit partners and grassroots organizations, such as Equality Now, the Global Fund for Women, mothers2mothers, UN Women, and Ms. Foundation for Women.

More than 630.000 girls and women globally have benefited directly from CHIME FOR CHANGE projects, which have reached more than 3 million individuals.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, violence against women and girls globally escalated, and Gucci’s commitment to addressing gender equality intensified by activating campaigns such as #StandWithWomen, in partnership with the Kering Foundation to expand funding for non-profit organizations supporting women and girls worldwide.

CANDIDATE

THE APPAREL MADE-UPS & HOME FURNISHING SECTOR SKILL COUNCIL

AMH SSC is a non-profit organisation active in India since 2016 in skill development in the apparel, made-ups and home furnishings sector, with a focus on female empowerment. By 2021 it had trained over 1.7 million candidates from various backgrounds (95% being women), providing employment opportunities to the unemployed youth through free skill training initiatives.

The Council contributes directly to each step of the fashion skills development value chain, from developing national qualification packs to educating candidates and trainers and providing placement, up-skilling, and re-skilling opportunities to the unemployed, maintaining high standards of transparency and quality.

How does the AMH SSC align its economic, philanthropic, and social impact?

The AMH SSC actively involves the fashion industry and education bodies to provide quality free-of-cost skill training programs, enabling employment for underprivileged sections of the society.

It makes direct reference to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of No Poverty (SDG #1), Quality Education (SDG #4), Gender Equality (SDG #5), Decent work and economic growth (SDG #8), as well as SDG #17, Partnership for the Goals. Recent examples of their commitments are the recently launched project “DASTAK”, which aims to financially empower marginalised Kashmiri women – to give them livelihood opportunities via training in two vocational skills, hand embroidery and self-employed tailoring.

A similar training program on handloom and sustainable fabric was recently held at Duliajan Center (Dibrugarh district, Assam state, India) to ensure development of rural women and provide them with equal work opportunities and financial independence.

CANDIDATE

THE OTB FOUNDATION

Created in 2008 with the mission to contribute to act promptly and concretely where emergencies arise, The OTB Foundation – the non-profit organisation of the OTB group – has invested in almost 300 social projects worldwide, directly benefiting the lives of over 300.000 people.

The OTB Foundation operates by selecting projects that meet three specific selection criteria – innovation, direct social impact and sustainability – organised around three key areas of intervention: women, children and inclusion. In addition, their “rapid intervention” approach makes them particularly effective in emergency situations.

How does The OTB Foundation align its economic, philanthropic and social impact?

The OTB Foundation fights gender-based violence and offers concrete aid to women, supports organisations protecting and empowering the youth and sustains integration projects at international, national and local level, with the goal to improve people’s lives and guarantee equal opportunities. All of its selected initiatives are closely monitored at every stage, and carefully accounted for in terms of number of beneficiaries and cost management. Projects are supported directly, with minimum or zero administration costs, thanks to a lean structure and the leverage on OTB Group resources, if needed.

OTB Foundation was among the first to respond to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ (UNHCR) appeal to provide immediate support and long-term integration for Ukrainian refugees. To date, The OTB Foundation has provided 442 Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war with safe housing and 20 Ukrainian women have started professional experience at OTB Group and in other partner companies.

The Pioneer Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

This Award seeks to recognise the work of a pioneering entity that has taken unprecedented steps to advance sustainability in the fashion industry. It acknowledges those who have enacted direct strategic choices, taken operational risks, and acknowledged and overcome uncertainty.

The Award, therefore, intends to highlight the value of those businesses or organisations that have challenged a business-as-usual attitude and adopted sustainability ahead of the majority of the industry.

Special recognition was therefore given to a key actor that thrived in the market, leaving their mark on the fashion industry and its culture, without compromising on their foundational approach. In doing so, they have paved a path for others to be inspired by and build on.

The Social Impact Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

Transitioning businesses toward a sustainable future means to consider the planet and the people, addressing both environmental and social issues. This is true for all industries, and for fashion in particular it requires taking action in areas such as supply chain practices, workers' conditions, gender equality and minorities' participation.

This Award wants to recognise significant positive actions directed to change, solve or address social injustice and challenges, as well as those focusing on human development and strengthening of social capital.

Therefore, it highlights the value of businesses or organisations that, through strategic and operational efforts, are creating direct positive impact to society, in alignment with United Nations' Social Development Goals. These actions are intended to address the most urgent social issues for communities and maintain relationships with employees, wider stakeholders, and society at large.

Special recognition was therefore given to new and innovative practices related to inclusion, defined as ensuring a common sense of belonging to communities among heterogeneous groups, especially those at higher marginalisation risk to address the present situation, and foster future social cohesion.

CANDIDATE

ARA LUMIERE

Ara Lumiere is fashion brand working towards empowering acid and burn victim survivors through hand crafted apparel & head couture, founded by Kulsum Shadab Wahab, Executive Director of NGO Hothur Foundation.

Ara Lumiere stays at the forefront in supporting female survivors of acid attacks and domestic violence by providing a wide spectrum of services. From first aid and surgery, to training and job placement as textile artisans - members of a collective whose earnings are devoted to rehabilitation of the members.

The brand motto states that “incredibly beautiful, precious things can be born from the most difficult conditions.”

[Hỏi đões Ara Lumiere address social injustice?](#)

Indian statistics are displaying an all-time high number of acid attacks, whose most common effects are lifelong bodily disfigurement, psychological and social handicap. Ara Lumiere puts in place a number of activities, that span from first aid – adequate medical care and immediate support – to the efforts to let the victims regain confidence and self-expression. The victims' newer sense of acceptance and belonging leads to society inclusion, through active working contribution and art-therapy workshops.

All the proceeds are directed towards rehabilitating and supporting the survivors as they independently step back into society and each collection contains reference to a snippet of the survivors' struggle toward acceptance and empowerment. For example, some items are hand painted by the survivors during art therapy workshops.

To complement its key social focus, Ara Lumiere collections are also attentive to raw materials' environmental responsibility, with a nonviolent silk breeding and harvesting technique called “ahimsa”, that implies no animals suffering or death for production, and sustainable packaging solutions such as recycled paper and repurposed options.

CANDIDATE

NANNACAY

Nannacay - women's sisterhood in Quechua Aymara language, is a fashion brand and accessories family business. It started in 2014 in Rio de Janeiro by Marcia Kemp with the precise intention to help people in situations of social vulnerability through commercialisation of their handicraft.

Starting business with 13 artisans and prisoners in Peru, nowadays Nannacay employs over 300 artisans in the most remote regions of Brazil, Peru and Ecuador.

Artisan groups are organised in different states and provinces, reflecting the network's capillarity and the potential for impact in different and remote communities; handmade and uncluttered, the pieces are unique.

The brand's motto is "creative hands, transforming lives."

How does Nannacay address social injustice?

With a specific reference to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals #1, No Poverty, #2, Zero Hunger, #5, Gender Equality, and #10, Reduced Inequalities, Nannacay employs a community of artisans from Southern America in manufacturing bags and objects in fibers and textile with tribal roots to reflect the country's colourful, vibrant design and shapes.

As its network is predominantly feminine, in a continent where gender inequalities in the business world are large Nannacay has proven to be a positive factor in the lives of its artisans, both from an economic perspective – more than half of their network does not have other sources of income – as well as from an inclusion one – 100% of their artisans surveyed indicated an improvement of their own self-esteem.

Financial stability gained via working at Nannacay empowered artisans to become more self-affirmative and independent, despite their gender, age (40-49 on average) and education (on average, low level of schooling).

CANDIDATE

RUSSO DI CASANDRINO

Founded in 1962 and today at the V^o generation, operating in Italy, Russo di Casandrino is one of the leading representative of Italian heritage tanning, producing luxury articles with a vertical integration approach.

Russo di Casandrino operates in the town of Casandrino near Naples; Its main goal has always been the culture of sustainability (ethical, environmental and economic), with investments that now represent 4% of the company yearly turnover.

The company always considered its territory as key, starting from the choice of including the town's in the company name and, besides being recognised by the community as an employer of choice – also given its Fair Wage recognition (2021) – has settled a long-term outlook to inclusion, selecting projects in a long-term commitment for their future scalability.

How does Russo Di Casandrino address social injustice?

Russo di Casandrino is very active in social initiatives and collaborate with several institutions they worked over five years with the association FOQUS – Fondazione Quartieri Spagnoli in the "Argo" project to provide meaningful work opportunities for young people with special conditions.

Argo represents a gathering, protected and safe place for young people with a range of learning difficulties and mental health challenges. The project's purpose is to provide each individual with the fundamental abilities to thrive independently, in the world of school, at work and at home. Russo di Casandrino specifically involves the Argo team in the realisation of the colour cards presented at Lineapelle, one of the most important appointments for the leather sector.

The Visionary Award

ABOUT THIS PRIZE

In selecting, recognising and celebrating sustainability actions at a global scale, each and every award recognised elements of a tripartite description of sustainability – environmental, social and managerial, with a strong focus on one of the many aspects of this multi-faceted concept.

In addition to them, the Visionary Award appreciates those who approached the interconnectedness of sustainability ethics and practices, bypassing any compartmentalisation and enhancing positive side effects.

The Award, therefore, intends to highlight the value of a holistic approach, to be delivered to that protagonist of the global fashion industry who has displayed, over the years, full understanding of its many nuances, from environmental commitment to social dedication, from economical responsibility to ethical stance.

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