

From The Land Where Ships Travel to the Stars

Zhakan Studio presents a short self-funded fashion film — created in partnership with NWSPK, Compulsory, and composer and sound designer AETHON — and presented as part of the BFC Discovery Lab. This project offers a personal reflection on Kazakh cultural heritage and Kazakhstan's history, including its lesser-known legacy as a key site of Soviet space exploration.

Bridging two sensibilities — Kazakhstan's nuanced eye for colour and elegant ornamentation, and London's exploratory energy — the film opens a dialogue between tradition and modernity, the personal and the shared.

References to brutalist architecture and industrial expansion — drawn from Kazakhstan's 20th-century visual and social landscape — serve as a backdrop to the emotional terrain carried through both the film and the collection. These visual cues are mirrored in the sound design, which blends raw textural elements with influences from the rise of electronic and house music in post-independence Kazakhstan — connecting local histories to a wider global culture.

Guided by an ethos of minimal waste and resource-led decision-making, the collection engages with a centuries-long Kazakh tradition of gifting and preserving fabric. Sourced from family archives and local markets in Kazakhstan, 2–3 metre cuts of vibrant satins and printed panels are reimaged through Zhakan Studio's London-based practice.

Every seam and silhouette reflects a mindful tension between scarcity and intention. At Zhakan Studio, any material — regardless of monetary value — is treated as gold. Once it enters the studio, it becomes an active participant in shaping stories.

*From the Land Where Ships Travel to the Stars is a heartfelt offering to
London's legacy of independent spirit and creative authenticity.
London, Feb 2026*