

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONDON, UK – Acclaimed Nepalese-born British designer Sanyukta Shrestha is set to unveil her visionary Spring/Summer 2026 collection, **"The Newars, 1901,"** during London Fashion Week on **September 19, 2025** at the historic **1901 Ballroom** Andaz London Liverpool Street.

This highly anticipated collection is an imaginative exploration of identity, resilience, and heritage. It is built on a central narrative: what happens when a Newar woman from Kathmandu steps into the heart of the British Empire in 1901? The collection reimagines the encounter between the sacred artistry of Nepal's Kathmandu Valley and the high romanticism of Victorian London.

"Holding the show in this historic ballroom is no accident; it is a perfect time capsule," says Shrestha. "I wanted to arrive in the Victorian era, bringing my ancestors, their skills, and their stories with me. This is about placing our sacred symbols onto the canvas of a Western silhouette."

Vogue Business Contributing Editor Sujata Assomull delivered a powerful Instagram commentary on the Sanyukta Shrestha for London Fashion Week showcase, highlighting a crucial shift in the industry:

"South Asian design talent is no longer the exception on global runways, it's part of the conversation..."

As September kicks off Fashion Week worldwide, these words underscore the significance of Shrestha's upcoming SS26 showcase.

The collection features dramatic silhouettes and a deliberate color palette of **red**, **white**, **black**, **and gold**, creating a beautiful canvas for regal Victorian dresses that carry the symbolic meaning of Newari cultural clothing. Key pieces include the hand-embroidered **Kumari Gown**, the hand-printed **Ranjana Coat**, and a new luxury handbag line. Crafted from innovative biodegradable fruit leather (agro-waste) and sustainably sourced surplus leathers, these bags feature hand carved brass Vajra handles that symbolise indestructible force and turn each bag into "personal armour." Models will embody this imagined dialogue of eras, styled with Victorian braids interwoven with the Newari *sachika*, a silk tassel symbolizing life force and ancestral connection.

"The Newars, 1901" is a declaration that heritage is a living language and a celebration of the human hand. Fabrics are woven with ancestral techniques, and every accessory is hand-sculpted.

Beyond its aesthetic narrative, the collection is a testament to the brand's commitment to sustainability and ethical craftsmanship. The line uses eco-friendly materials like hand-spun hemp and bamboo. By working with Fair-Trade certified artisans in Nepal, the brand promotes a circular economy and preserves ancestral skills.

Following the runway, "The Newars, 1901" Exhibition will be open to the public from **September 19–22**, **2025**, at the Andaz London Liverpool Street. A digital showcase will also premiere on the official London Fashion Week schedule on **September 22**, **2025**.



ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Sanyukta Shrestha is a multi-award-winning Nepalese-born British designer celebrated as a pioneer of sustainable luxury. She was among the first to introduce sustainability to the bridal industry in 2011, a move that earned her media recognition as the "Green Goddess" and "the dawn of the sustainable movement." Her design philosophy is rooted in a deep respect for people and the planet. She exclusively uses handcrafted, cruelty-free techniques, preserving 1,000-year-old Nepalese craftsmanship and empowering women in developing countries since 1998. This ethical approach is evident in her zero-waste policy, transparent supply chain, and minimal carbon footprint. A London Fashion Week on-schedule designer, Shrestha's luxurious creations have graced prestigious red carpets like the Oscars, BAFTA, and Cannes, and have been worn by celebrities including supermodel Candice Swanepoel, Fifth Harmony, and Bethany Antonia. Her lasting impact is cemented by one of her gowns being preserved in The Fashion Museum, making her the first designer of Nepali origin to be documented in its history.

ABOUT THE VENUE

Part of Hyatt's Unbound Collection, <u>Andaz London</u> Liverpool Street blends Victorian heritage with modern East London culture. The crown jewel of the hotel, the 1901 Ballroom, is an architectural masterpiece built in the pivotal year 1901 as part of the original Great Eastern Hotel. Featuring a magnificent stained-glass dome and ornate plasterwork, the ballroom was once the stage for grand Edwardian banquets and society gatherings. Reborn as part of Andaz London, space continues to celebrate its storied past while embracing a contemporary identity.

ABOUT HYATT HOTELS CORPORATION

Hyatt Hotels Corporation, headquartered in Chicago, is a leading global hospitality company with a portfolio of more than 1,350 hotels and all-inclusive properties across 79 countries. Guided by its purpose to care for people so they can be their best, Hyatt's offerings span iconic brands including Park Hyatt®, Alila®, Andaz®, Thompson Hotels®, Grand Hyatt®, Hyatt Regency®, and The Unbound Collection by Hyatt®. Subsidiaries of the company operate the World of Hyatt® loyalty program, ALG Vacations®, and other hospitality services. For more information, please visit www.hyatt.com.

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