

London-based label Aciela introduces its latest collection as part of the Hong Kong Fashion Fest and the 2025 Fashion Summit, one of Asia's leading platforms for sustainable design.



Representing the UK as this edition's partner country, the brand joined an international line-up of designers at the Hong Kong Palace Museum, invited to interpret the theme "Illuminate the Art of Sustainable Fashion".

The collection, comprising ten looks, explores fashion as a living, interdependent ecosystem, where empathy extends across all species, inviting audiences to rethink the connection between design and the natural world. This is what Aciela's Creative Director, **Jennifer Droguett**, refers to as the "More than Human" philosophy, where design, beyond satisfying human needs, takes into account every being.

Droguett has long turned to visionary female artists for inspiration. This season, she found in the surrealist worlds of Leonora Carrington the grounding powers of Mother Earth. "Carrington's creatures always look interconnected as part of a living ecosystem," she says.

Unfolding against an immersive short film layered with fluid ink patterns and a soundscape of natural field recordings, the show introduced sculptural silhouettes, amplified shoulders and sinuous lines that evoked the otherworldly figures inhabiting Carrington's imagination, while the palette shifted between warm earthy tones and deeper spectral hues.

Textures collide, from fluid drapes to densely worked jacquards, creating looks that appear to move between states. A flame-like headpiece and ruffles that spill across structured trousers nod to the artist's dreamlike figures, bringing Droguett's imagined ecosystem into physical form.

The collection expands the label's long standing mission to minimise its environmental impact by engaging more deeply with the ecosystems it inhabits. Droguett transforms pre and post-consumer waste into new materials through textile regeneration, creating adaptable garments shaped through zero-waste practices and low-waste pattern cutting.

One example is a triangle coat with detachable sleeves, crafted using the full width of its velvet fabric, entirely sourced as deadstock from furnishing company Yarn Collective. Another is an adaptable zero waste sweatshirt, embroidered with printed flowers, made from offcuts of previous collections.

Droguett also explores the possibilities of transformable garments. Take, for instance, a top that becomes a bag through a fastening with buttons made from corozo, a material derived from an ivory-like nut and often used as a sustainable alternative to plastic.

The fabric was developed as part of her ongoing collaboration with textile designer Alice Timmis. It combines raffia and recycled British iinouilio yarns – obtained from old woollen jumpers – to create an experimental jacquard rendered in a speckled, paint-like pattern with rich textural and chromatic nuance.

The finale unfolded as a choreographed moment. A model entered in print halterneck dress with a long back train, crafted from vintage silk donated by artist Allegra Hicks. Two models followed in nude, recycled cotton jersey bodysuits and lifted the train, which unfolded into two separate tops. As they slipped them on, they became attached to the lead model's dress, completing the look as a connected trio. The three walked together, a striking expression of interconnectedness and interdependence.



The collection also introduced embellishments and jewellery made with fungi bio sequins and wooden beads, naturally dyed with pigments such as logwood, lac, Brazilwood, turmeric, spirulina, chlorella and madder, in collaboration with CQ Studio.

Meanwhile, shoes and accessories were revived through upcycling and paired with fabric offcuts and bio-based leather alternatives like Piñatex and Desserto, crafted into the shapes of a pink dolphin, a toucan and an orchid, iconic symbols of Colombian biodiversity and a nod to Anciela's heritage.

Credits

Anciela @anciela_london

Creative Direction: Jennifer Droguett @jennifer_droguett

Production & Photography: Fashion Summit Hong Kong @fashionsummithk

Nails: Left by Aliens @leftbyaliens

Bio sequins: CQ studio @c.q.studio

Location: Hong Kong Palace Museum

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