

# New York Art Life Presents Janette Oh Who Rewrites Couture's Rulebook: Where Scrap Fabric Sparks a Style Uprising

CHELSEA, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, May 2, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a world where the environmental impact of fashion casts a shadow, Janette Oh is a game-changer, redesigning waste into high-end fashion that combines cutting-edge creativity with environmental responsibility. The mastermind behind im5thanku studio, Oh reimagines luxury in terms of precision as opposed to excess and stories embroidered into each thread. Her work—a physical conversation between weakness and resilience, disorder and exactness—forces the industry to face its profligate tendencies while demonstrating sustainability and refinement are complementary. New York Art Life is honored to highlight Oh's path from luxury brand partner to circular design pioneer, a path that weaves innovation, morality, and feeling into each stitch. Janette Oh's design aesthetic was tempered in the fire of high fashion.



Janette Oh

Working alongside giants such as Michael Kors, Proenza Schouler, and 3.1 Phillip Lim, she perfected her control of texture, structure, and silhouette. At Michael Kors, she perfected knitwear construction, balancing drape and density to produce clothes that were both luxurious and deliberate. Proenza Schouler taught her about experimental manipulation of textiles, where surfaces were used as canvases for reinterpreting traditional fabrics. While that was happening, 3.1 Phillip Lim showed how knitwear could move beyond utility to become sculptural art. Those moments were the culmination of Oh's conviction that true luxury is about thinking—it's about how materials are sourced, how stories are stitched into seams, and how wearability coexists with innovation. "Luxury is no longer about

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*Janette Oh*

exclusivity," she describes. It's about process and narrative." This philosophy currently drives her

solo practice, where yarns from industry turn into sculptural forms, and fabrics in layers whisper tales of recycling. When Oh starts with im5thanku studio, she begins visioning possibility in the unseen. Fabric scraps, damaged fibers, and industrial scraps are taken apart, built up, and remade into works that reconcile tension, movement, and emotional connection.

Her designs—be it a cascading Olympic sportswear set for Nike's Millrose Games Atelier or a hand-assembled sculptural knit—encourage wearers to engage in "objects of emotional and ecological accountability." One of her innovations is in accepting material limitations as a strength. Rigidity becomes structure; breakability becomes delicate artistry. "What appears to be a constraint can redefine the story of a piece," she says. For instance, on working with an artist in the Liquid Arrangement: Provider installation recontextualized the textile waste into fluid, immersive forms, while Site: Living Room Hours intertwined digital and physical design to produce environments in which sensory experiences touched. Oh's practice flourishes in crossover. As creative director of Epoche Movement, she intertwined texture art and soundscapes to deconstruct societal prejudices, making the raw fabrics reflect the collision of hate and compassion.

Group shows such as Site 003: Grass Stain compelled her to reimagine her work in the context of group conversations, enabling juxtapositions with other artists to intensify themes of memory and care.

Her partnerships don't stop at galleries. Collaborating with designers Keith and Tae Park on narratives of sportswear, Oh discovered how nuanced details—a seam direction, a contrast of texture—could contain deep stories. "Sportswear is not just about performance," she thinks. "It's a stage for cultural expression." Oh's most radical deed is in her cyclical design habits. In transforming scrap fabric into haute couture statements, she upends an industry that is fixated on disposability. "Value shouldn't be controlled by trend cycles," she contends.

"It's about depth—of artistry, craftsmanship, and the hands that shape each piece." Her pop-up experiences, such as typographic symphonies of texture, defy passive consumption. Visitors walk through environments where digital abstraction converges with material reality, leading them to reflect on their own consumption patterns. For Oh, these works are not installations but "invitations to engage with fashion as a language of emotion."

Janette Oh's designs are manifestos—sewed statements that sustainability and creativity cannot be separated. Every garment, whether gracing an Olympian or gallery walls, pulses with subdued urgency, inviting onlookers to rethink a thread's journey. Her own work exceeds the ephemeral realm of trends, gaining strength through sensual specifics: a frayed hemline remembering, a knit sculptural question about consumption.

As Oh herself describes, "Fashion is a threshold between past and future." Her own contribution exists in such thresholds, wherein materiality is reflective of cultural shift. Reducing waste to marvel, she sews together not only clothing but the garment of a world more mindful.

Janette Oh's story—from high-end ateliers to eco-rebellion—personifies our mandate to highlight leaders transforming global discussion. Watch out for more of the stories of artists who combine creativity, conscience, and community into each fiber.

[New York Art Life Magazine](#), based in the heart of Chelsea, Manhattan, is dedicated to celebrating innovators and visionaries in the art world. Every week, within its studios, NYAL conducts exclusive interviews with artists who have significantly contributed to their fields through innovation and unique perspectives. These interviews highlight creative journeys and acknowledge artistic influence. New York Art Life values every individual behind artistic production and strives to bring their stories to the forefront. The NYAL team scouts talent across disciplines, leveraging its network of galleries, theaters, and museums to showcase diverse expressions, from traditional fine arts to avant-garde performances. By fostering connections within the art community, New York Art Life Magazine plays a pivotal role in sustaining the cultural landscape.

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