

# ILAMON BANRISA THANGKHIEW

## Textile Designer

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Ilamon is a textile designer who works closely with the tribal artisans and weavers of Meghalaya, India to preserve the skills, uplift the craft and diversify products. With a keen eye for detail, she works sensitively with material and colours hands-on by combining the traditional and contemporary aesthetics to weave textiles using back-strap loom and frame loom to create surfaces and fabrics for interiors and spaces. She's committed to make a meaningful impact and contribute positively to society.

## EDUCATION

### **Masters of Arts (MA) in Textiles | 2023- present**

Royal College of Art, London, UK

### **Bachelors of Design(B. Des) in Textile and Apparel Design | 2017-2022**

National Institute of Design, Andhra Pradesh, India

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Heirloom Naga, Nagaland | Textile designer | March 2021-2022**

- Developing mood boards, colour palette, sketches to conceptualize new designs for home furnishing collections and accessories for the European and US markets.
- Conducting Trend forecast, market studies to ensure relevance and competitiveness but also staying true to the brand identity.
- Interpreting project briefs and representing ideas accurately.
- Collaborating with the teams throughout the design process, overseeing prototyping and sampling phases. Regular follow up with weavers, address any issues or any adjustments as needed to align with design specifications.
- Ensuring that the project and deliverables are completed in time.
- Product photography and styling. Experimenting with different layouts, compositions and materials to enhance product presentation.

### **Urta Design | Freelance Textile Designer | Sept-Oct 2021 and Aug- Sept 2023**

- Designed a bespoke handwoven curtains and throws for a prestigious spa project at Vivanta by Taj.
- Developed headboard designs for a resort in Nagaland and created a variety of color schemes and design options for client selection.
- Worked accurately to the clients brief while managing design, production, budget and timelines effectively.

### **Samsung PRISM, India | User Experience | Sept - Nov 2020**

- Collaborated with a diverse group of designers and experts from Samsung team for making smartwatch experience more engaging through market studies and trends to identify opportunities.
- Played a key role in ideation and brainstorming activities, contributing innovative ideas and solutions to address user needs and preferences.
- Led the presentation to showcase the concept to the Samsung team. Gathered insights and feedback to further work into the development process.
- Using CAD and visuals in the presentations to enhance the presentation experience, capturing the attention and engagement of stakeholders during meetings and discussions.

## **The Ramie Project | Textile Designer | June 2019 - present**

- Conducted fieldwork research on material development processes and identifying opportunities
- Engaged with the plantation communities and the the govt authorities for sourcing materials and provided training on fibre extraction techniques, strengthen collabaration and knowledge sharing.
- Developed yarn and fibre samples for a wide range of innovative possibilities.
- Produced samples using various techniques which demonstrates versatility in the material and design interventions that intersects with craftsmanship at different levels.
- Implemented strategies for reusing waste fibres and yarns to create new surfaces and products contributing to sustainability efforts and waste reduction.

## **Textiles of Meghalaya | Craft Documentation | Textile Researcher | April - June 2019**

- Conducted fieldwork research on the traditional textile practices on Eri and mulberry silk process, weaving and natural dyeing.
- Documented all the insights and findings through photography, written report to preserve the indigenous knowlege and cultural heritage.
- Collaborated with the local artisans and communities to gain insights in their practice and tracing back history.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### **Sutr Santati Then. Now. Next| National Museum, New Delhi, India | Aug 2022- Sept 2022**

#### **“Celebrating India through the continuum of Indian Heritage textiles”**

- Showcased her Textile art work called “ Hynniewskum Hynniewtrep” as part of the travelling exhibition. Woven from the local Ramie fibres, this piece symbolises the deep-rooted spiritual belief of the Khasi tribe of Meghalaya, India.
- <https://www.thevoiceoffashion.com/fabric-of-india/zehn-decolonising-textiles-/sutr-santati-india-now-through-textiles-5186>
- <https://theshillongtimes.com/2022/08/22/she-weaves-peak-story-earns-delhi-show-space/>

### **Northeast Edit Found. Curated. Edited| Shillong, India | Feb 2021**

- The exhibition showcased the craftsmanship of artist and designers hailing from Northeast India. She was the youngest designer featuring her work of a Woven textile screen and a ramie lampshade.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Reprsenting Meghalaya for the exhibition at Calais, France | October 2022**

- Selected by the State Government, Meghalaya India as part of the delegations to attend the exhibition Meghalaya Ramie Project at the Lace and Fashion Museum in Calais.

### **Archdigest India | 12 July 2022**

- Designed ramie lamp shade crafted from repurposed waste fibres and yarns which was featured in the AD Magazine.
- <https://www.architecturaldigest.in/story/restored-assam-type-home-shillong-that-takes-cues-from-the-aesthetic-of-the-land/>

### **Prime Awards | Shillong, India 2021**

#### **The Ateliers Meghalaya Program supported by the Meghalayan Age Limited (MAL).**

- She has been honoured with an award for her initiatives in working with Ramie fibre and engaging with the local community using sustainable practices and community development for Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

## VOLOUNTEER

### **Covid-19 Face-Mask mission | Shillong, India 2020**

- She played a role in the production, distribution and collaborated with a team to meet the target of face masks during the lockdown period, supporting the government, frontline workers, and private sector organizations. She seamlessly stitched masks with meticulous attention to detail to ensure quality and efficacy.

### **Chittrakatha Design Olympics | Andhra Pradesh, India, 2019**

- She was part of the hospitality team designated for hosting the El-palmeral studio from Spain to provide essential support services. Her role involves from scheduling their day, travelling and ensuring seamless executions for the workshops and contributing to a positive and efficient experiences.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **IT** | Ms Office
- **Digital tools** | Adobe Software Photoshop, Indesign, illustrator, Procreate, Audacity
- **Weaving** | Proficient in weaving techniques in the traditional backstrap loom, table loom and frame loom. Warp and weft manipulation, creating varied textures and patterns. Contributing to the weaving community through collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
- **Dyeing** | Skilled in dyeing techniques and proficiency in working with natural dyes obtained through local foraging.
- **Photography** | Wellversed in capturing and styling the products for photoshoot and photo editing
- **Print** | Screen print techniques, Block prints and digital print
- **Knitting** | **Crochet** | **Sewing** | **Surface manipulation**

**LANGUAGES** | English, Khasi and Hindi