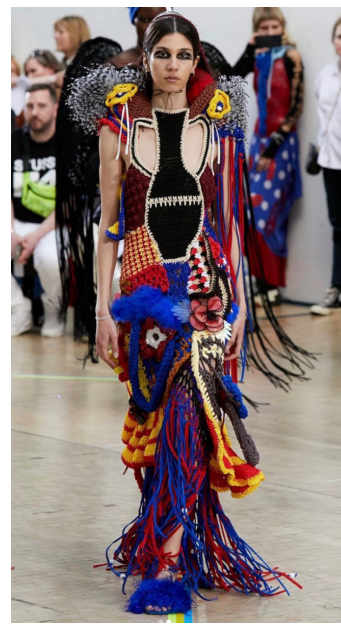


“*Non Ducor. Duco.*”

“I am not lead. I lead”

CR Rousseau
Oil on Canvas
48 x 48 inches
\$4400



Rationale from **Ivan Delogu, Fashion Designer, LVHM Scholar**

I've always been drawn to the idea of transforming humble materials into something beautiful and refined. After my placement year, I began collecting loads of 70s mosquito curtains. These curtains were originally found at the entrance of grocery shops, fish markets, bars, and butcheries, especially in southern Italy during the summer months. I was always fascinated by their unique design, which I found to be a reflection of contemporary southern Italian aesthetics. Using these curtains allowed me to create something visually powerful that evokes nostalgic memories of my upbringing and at the same time being sustainable.

Once I had collected enough curtains in different colors, I painstakingly wove them together one by one in order to create patterns inspired by traditional Sardinian rugs and the serigraphy art of Edina Altara, a Sardinian fashion illustrator. I then combined my curtain textile with crochet and traditional basketmaking techniques, as well as the use of *Poseidonia Oceanica*, also known as Neptune grass, directly sourced from Sardinian beaches last summer for my embroidered pieces. My research began with an exploration of the historical and contemporary existence of women in Sardinian society. I was particularly intrigued by the belief that Sardinia has always had a more matriarchal structure than the rest of Italy, especially among older generations. As someone who grew up in a predominantly female household, I felt a personal connection to this subject. The stories my grandmother told me about powerful women, halfway between sacred and profane, were a key inspiration for my project.

My goal was to re-establish the pivotal points of Sardinian identity by presenting real folkloristic elements that have shaped the island's aesthetics. The ancient agropastoral tradition of my region and my childhood memories of growing up in the Barbagia area were the foundation of my work and by creating characters that represent different aspects of womanhood, I hope to showcase the diversity and complexity of women's experiences in Sardinia and beyond.

The Visual Interpretation **CR Rousseau, Abstract Artist**

Ivan's fashion moments bring so much flavor. Using bold colors and simplified shapes, the predominate feature is a female figure in powerful stance. She stands upon the reddish-brown earth of Sardinia, layered with dirt, blood/life and sea water. Her coffee pot pours upward, sharing its ritual with the sky that wraps into the symbol of a simple flower that grows with its connection to light and love. This figure is inspired by Ivan's Sardinian symbols and traditions.

The vase is decorated with traditional Sardinian motifs. You may notice a fish shape, also a symbol of Sardinia, (sardines are thought to be named after Sardinia as they were once in abundance there). A sardine is often associated with fertility and abundance. The fish is also a symbol of the sea, which is an important part of the Sardinian culture. The sketch of an eye is a playful nod to Ivan's good humor... “the CSM tutor is watching so be fashion 24/7”.

There are many other symbols in this painting, that all point to a celebration of Sardinian culture and the power of women. The simple color palette and strong graphic elements of this abstract work are a joyful and thought-provoking combination. This painting honors Ivan's cultural background and his inspired talent for fashion.