

HENRIETTA LUDGATE

BIOGRAPHY

Scottish luxury womenswear label, Henrietta Ludgate, which has already garnered an impressive number of awards from highly respected institutions and built a formidable reputation amongst high end retailers, is designed by rising Scottish talent Henrietta Mackay-Ludgate. Henrietta, a graduate of Central St. Martins School of Art, began her fashion career working as a stylist and costume designer before moving on to work for acclaimed British talent Osman Yousefzada, running his London studio.

On launching her own label, Henrietta's priority was to imbue her stunning sculptural designs with a distinctive sense of her Scottish heritage. Whether through the fabrics, cuts or colours this idea of work inspired by her unique Highland background runs through all of her designs. An ethos of supporting British craftsmanship is central to her work, with fabrics sourced from within the British Isles and all pieces produced locally. Henrietta continues to work from her design studio in the Scottish highlands, which runs in conjunction with the London showroom.

A champion of slow fashion, Henrietta's minimalist silhouette remains hauntingly elegant and distinctive while at the same time retaining an undeniable modernity. She draws inspiration from Elsa Schiaparelli, most importantly her vision of fashion as a type of architecture, and her beliefs that clothing should be 'closely connected to the frame of the body'.

Following on from her Autumn/Winter 09 show at Glasgow Fashion week, Henrietta was awarded the Ethical Fashion Forum's 'Fashion Innovation Award', for London Fashion Week Spring Summer 2010. The award was judged by leading industry experts Roland Mouret, Dolly Jones, Dylis Williams, Yasmin Sewell and Anna Orsini. To complement the collection Henrietta also created a short film to be screened during London Fashion Week. (available to view on the video page).

Following on from this successful first season in London, Henrietta Ludgate opened their first showroom in London's Covent Garden in October 2009. Since then Henrietta has split her time between overseeing the burgeoning success of the brand in London and designing the Autumn/Winter 2010 collection in her Highland studio. Drawing on the darker side of the Scottish landscape that inspires her, the collection includes elements of Celtic folklore interpreted in her signature minimalist and flattering cuts worked in thick, luxurious English cashmere, Scottish wools and Yorkshire wool jersey. The collection has already won critical appraisal and seen Henrietta Ludgate nominated for the British Council's Young Creative Fashion Entrepreneur of the Year Award.