

Stylish shoes are turning Japanese

Designer makes footwear out of vintage kimono fabric

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AN INSPIRED shoe designer is expanding her business to international proportions thanks to her unique and colourful creations.

Henrietta Samuels, 28, from Swiss Avenue, Chelmsford, adds a unique twist to her passion for shoes, as all of her handmade bespoke shoes are made out of vintage Japanese kimono fabric, inspired from a trip to Japan several years ago.

She then set up her own label two-and-a-half years ago and has made over 100 personalised shoes from hand to date.

Speaking from her studio, Henrietta said: "From a young age I have always had a passion for shoes and I have always been interested in their design and how they are made."

Designers

"I have worked with some really great footwear designers, including Georgina Goodman, and I decided to utilise the theme of recycling and use an environmentally sustainable way of making some beautifully crafted shoes, so all of my materials are completely recyclable."

Prices start at £300 for a pair of



IN THE STUDIO: Henrietta at work on some new shoes

shoes and they have been showcased on stage by the likes of Marcia Barrett from 70s pop band Boney M.

Henrietta gets most of her commission for wedding shoes and her colourful creations are now world famous thanks to numerous fashion shows.

She said: "About 50 to 60 per cent of my business is international and I am looking to branch out from using kimono fabrics by using other vintage relics."

"I really love what I do and I do tend to have an emotional attachment to all of the shoes I make, so a lot of care goes into them."

■ For more information about having your very own pair made, log on to www.hettyrose.co.uk



NEVER TOO MANY SHOES: Henrietta Rose with her creations