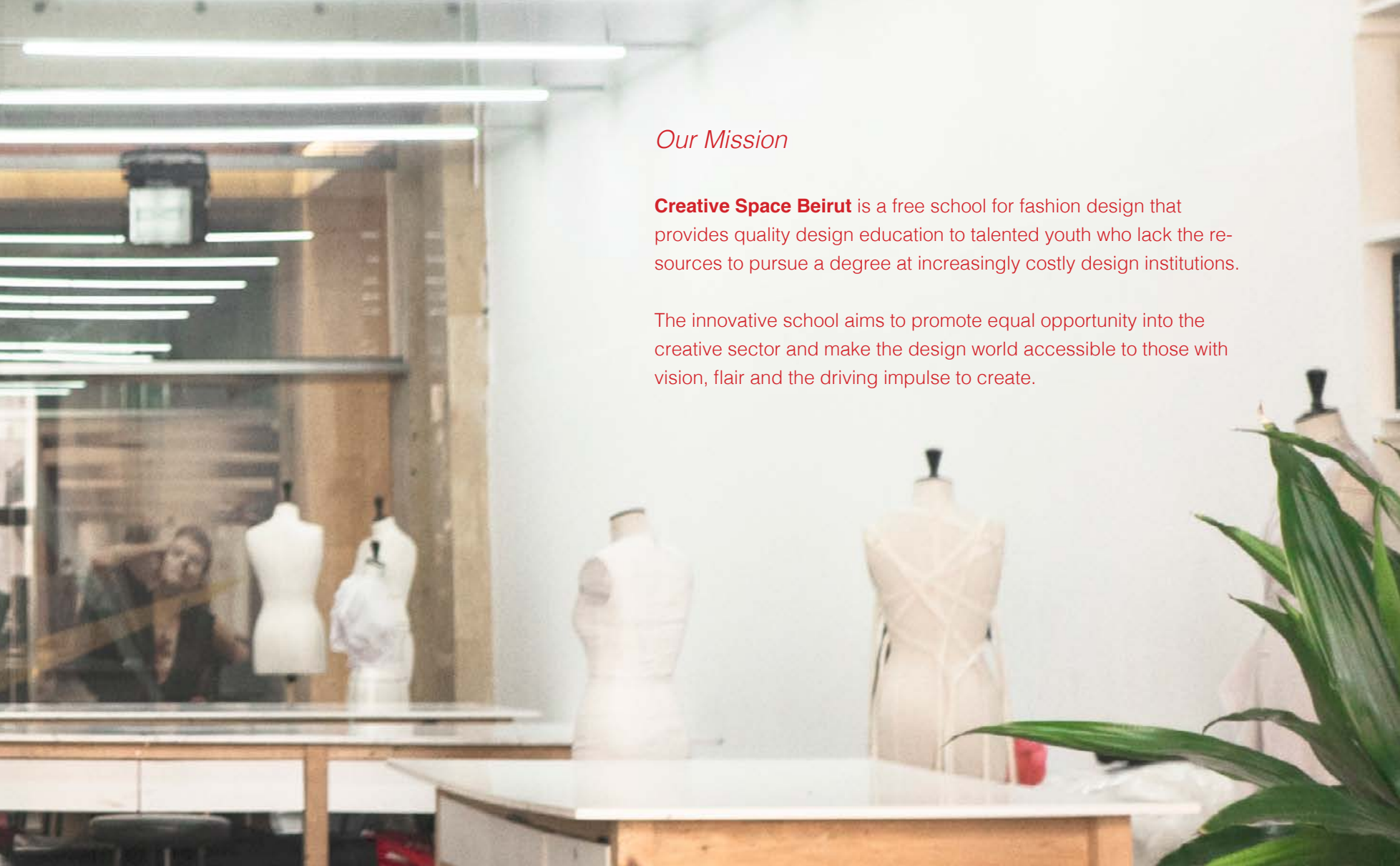


creative space beirut




The hands
are the
work
organs
of the
heart.



Our Mission

Creative Space Beirut is a free school for fashion design that provides quality design education to talented youth who lack the resources to pursue a degree at increasingly costly design institutions.

The innovative school aims to promote equal opportunity into the creative sector and make the design world accessible to those with vision, flair and the driving impulse to create.

A photograph showing a person wearing a vibrant red dress. Another person, seen from the side and wearing glasses, is adjusting the fabric of the dress. The background is dark, making the red dress stand out.

Our Students

Creative Space Beirut students come from diverse backgrounds, commuting to our studio from all corners of Lebanon, including Palestinian refugee camps, Tripoli, Saida, and the Armenian quarter of Bourj Hammoud.

Our students share a talent and aptitude for design and demonstrate a commitment to hard work. However, they do not have the financial means to pursue an education or career in fashion design. Our school offers these talented young individuals a unique opportunity for free design education and industry experience.

Our Method

At Creative Space Beirut, we encourage peer-to-peer learning and create individualized paths of study where our students produce their own work under the mentorship of a team of local and international artists and designers. Our curriculum turns away from compartmentalized classes, embedding essential technical skills into the creative process to encourage a holistic understanding of design. We are adamant about providing our students with thorough industry experience.

Throughout their enrolment, our students are provided with courses on business and marketing. They collaborate with boutiques and private clients and engage in various forms of production, from photo shoots and fashion shows to producing collections in volume. Through this progressive method, we have created an innovative space that fosters dialogue between our diverse students, nurtures their talent and helps turn their passions into solid skills and provides them with the ability to navigate the industry.

Upon graduation, Creative Space Beirut assists alumni in networking and career opportunities, providing a platform for our students' careers in the creative industries, acting as a foot up into the competitive fashion world. We are proud that our alumni have all taken steps forward in their professional paths since graduating from our program. Some success stories include continuing education with masters in Milan on scholarship, launching a brand under our umbrella, collaborating with boutiques and gaining valuable industry experience, and being employed as an instructor and production manager at our school.

Creative Space Beirut was founded in June 2011 by Parsons the New School for Design graduate, Sarah Hermez, and her former professor, seasoned designer Caroline Simonelli.





Hand-embroidered illustration.
Ahmed Amer 2018 Thesis Collection.



Hand-painted. Hazem Kais
2018 Thesis Collection.





Roni Helou S/S 2018



Location

Creative Space Beirut is currently located in Khan El Joukh, Beirut Souks, as part of a project by Solidere bringing together local designers and creative initiatives in a collaborative hub.

Two adjacent spaces host the school, a fabric depot, production house and boutique selling csb ready to wear, SECOND st. and related brands.

The two spaces engender the consolidation of a dynamic ecosystem in which students, alumni and other players from within the larger design community engage in a system of collaboration and support in a lively and productive environment.



To date, our students' work has been exhibited in the following venues:

Santiago

(Beirut, May 2018)

A collection of dresses was designed exclusively for Santiago by Creative Space Beirut alumni and students and launched at the Santiago boutique with the dresses displayed in motion in a curated dance sequence.

Foch Square

(Beirut, November 2017)

A live fashion show was curated displaying the thesis collections of the graduating class, as well as selected pieces from 1st and 2nd year student collections. The show was followed by a one week static exhibition at the Creative Space Beirut studios downtown as part of Khan El Joukh's launch.

Dar El-Nimer for Arts and Culture

(Beirut, December 2016)

Creative Space Beirut displayed the work of its first five graduating students in a live fashion show. The private show was followed by a two day static exhibition open to the public.

Villa Audi

(Beirut, November 2015)

The exhibition (Weaving the Sea) displayed the results of collaborations that brought together craftsmen and designers from the different shores of the Mediterranean. Students worked with Spanish textile artist Carlos Salvador to create an elaborate patchwork coat.

4 Concept Store

(Kuwait, October 2015)

Creative Space Beirut collaborated with the concept store 4, based in Kuwait, in which each student created individual collections. After exhibiting their collections, 4 provided one student with a grant to create an exclusive winter collection for its prestigious store.

Contemporary Art Platform

(Kuwait, October 2014)

This was the school's first regional exhibition outside Lebanon, which also included the launch of csb ready-to-wear. Creative Space Beirut collaborated with a local PR company to organize a fundraising event.

La Grande Brasserie du Levant

(Beirut, July 2014)

Creative Space Beirut took part in a group exhibition (Creativity and Regeneration) displaying the various design and art initiatives that were born and bred in Mar Mikhael in an effort to promote local work.

Bsous Silk Museum

(Beirut, July 2013)

Creative Space Beirut received a grant to bring artist Denise Maroney from New York to teach a silk workshop to its students. The results of the workshop, including a collaborative silk embroidery piece and silk painted scarves, were exhibited at the Silk Museum in Bsous.

Bokja Design Studio

(Beirut, June 2013)

Creative Space Beirut exhibited their 2013 collaborative collection at Bokja Design Studio. The exhibition was the final show of the week.

6:05 at depechemode

(Beirut, August 2012)

Creative Space Beirut displayed its items in an exhibition at a concept store 6:05 Depeche Mode to experiment with working in a retail environment.

Beirut Art Center

(Beirut, March 2012)

This weeklong exhibition was the first Creative Space Beirut show in a gallery space after the pilot project. Items were sold in a silent auction. The exhibition brought upwards of 300 attendees.

Saifi Urban Gardens

(Beirut, August 2011)

The pilot took place over three months in an underground studio in Saifi Urban Gardens, and included five preliminary students. In three months, a collaborative collection was created and displayed in an exhibition. All of the thirty pieces were sold.

Communication and PR

Creative Space Beirut has been featured extensively in both Lebanese and international media outlets, including Vogue Arabia, Marie Claire magazine, Al Jazeera News, Brownbook magazine and PopSugar.

marie claire

قلوب مصممة

تكون صناعة قلوبها من اليد المصممة، بما اليد المصممة، إلهاماتة طوي وحموة الحيات
الكسب الفكرة (كلها) تخفي خلفها قلبها من القوي بعد قليل بعد طويان الليل.
ميراثها من أمها المدة، أول مسانين.

LIFE

The little place that could

I found the location on the first floor of an old brick building located among the vibrant village of the Westside and they made what looks like a tiny room to my. I received everything and everything was ready, everything needed on the floor, ready to go. The whole work environment was there and ready to go. The location was in a place that was quiet, and the location was in a place that was quiet.

CREATIVE is a free fashion design school that welcomes skilled individuals from all corners of Lebanon. In 2011, Sarah Hermès, a fashion design graduate from the American University of Beirut, founded the initiative. Lebanese-American designer Sarah Hermès found the location on the first floor of an old brick building located among the vibrant village of the Westside and they made what looks like a tiny room to my. I received everything and everything was ready, everything needed on the floor, ready to go. The whole work environment was there and ready to go. The location was in a place that was quiet, and the location was in a place that was quiet.

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ALMONITOR

Lebanon's first free fashion school

Creative Space Beirut (CSB), Lebanon's first free fashion school, is inconspicuously housed in a run-of-the-mill, well-worn apartment building located in a corner of the raucous neighborhood of Mar Mikhael — the capital's capital of cool, government-led with characteristic bars and eateries, home to many an engaging art and design studio. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) supports CSB, but its on average, more than its capital modesty beyond the beautiful facade it offers.

TEDx

Free Education Is In Fashion

Sarah built a free fashion design school when she was 25. Why free? Because it takes all of us to design the world around us. And because it's the best way to bring down social walls and weave together new threads across the fabric of society.

agenda culture

The Creative Space, bien plus que de la mode, un véritable conte de fée

Une exposition inédite de robes créées par cinq jeunes femmes palestiniennes, israéliennes et américaines plus nombreuses et plus que les autres, se déroula les 17, 18 et 19 août dans le "Creative Space" au San Urban Garden à Gemmayze. Toutes ont le talent et la envie de devenir un jour de grandes couturières, mais elles n'ont pas eu les moyens ni l'opportunité de se lancer si Sara Hermès ne leur en avait donné la possibilité.

mod culture

الموضة والثقافة

European Union

THE DAILY STAR

Fashion design instruction on tap at The Creative Space

DEBUT Hand-painted fabrics, Italian satin, one-of-a-kind couture creations. Eman Azzad, 19, made her first runway show using her mother's scraps to design clothes as a child in Burj al-Barajneh refugee camp.

Always and her four classmates are participating in the inaugural program of The Creative Space, an educational initiative founded and run by Lebanese-American fashion designer Sarah Hermès that aims to empower Lebanon's diverse youth through fashion and "creates designers" in the process.

Concentrating hard, Azzad manipulates the fabric of the garment she is making, gathering it, stitching it down so it holds and collects, adding shape and detail. This design and the four others taking shape on dress forms around the workshop are more than simple sewing projects. In just two weeks time they will be part of the collection that will catapult Beirut's newest designers onto the fashion scene.

It has been a steep learning curve for these girls who have...

L'Orient LE JOUR

Un atelier de « design » mêle à Gemmayze mode, créativité et brassage social

Le quartier de Gemmayze abrite depuis le 1er juin The Creative Space, un atelier de design et de confection un peu particulier. Depuis deux mois environ, Sarah Hermès accueille cinq jeunes femmes de manière...

Forget pretty things: Designing solutions to Lebanon's social ills

Lebanon's design community is urged to "reexamine the process of creating solutions" to social problems beyond the angst of fashion.

"The problem with Lebanon [is that people] put a Band-Aid over a broken leg," agrees Sarah Hermès, founder of the Creative Space, an NGO working to provide fashion design education to underserved Lebanese. Palestinian and Syrian young people living in Lebanon. "Things don't get fixed, just covered up."

"Forget pretty things"

Last month, during the fourth annual Beirut Design Week (BDW), the design community's increasing impetus to address these discrepancies came to a head. At workshops, lectures, exhibition and on-airing sessions, designers and laypeople alike were urged by Design Week founder (Beirut) to "forget pretty things". Instead, they were tasked with using design thinking to tackle Beirut's problems and develop sustainable processes for addressing them...

BROWNBOOK

Fashion therapy

Creative Space the non-profit school using fashion design as a medium to break down social barriers. It offers free education and the chance to take a one step further.

M Le magazine du Monde

Le style insolent de Creative Space Beirut

Plusieurs étudiants de Creative Space Beirut (CSB), l'école de mode ouverte il y a deux ans dans le quartier tranquille de Mar Mikhael et dont la formation est gratuite...



Fundraising

Creative Space Beirut is currently funded predominantly through student-based scholarships sponsored by generous individuals who believe in the importance of free creative education.

In order to reach our goal of self-sustainability, we have implemented a multi-faceted fundraising strategy.

DRESS TO KILL



Exhibitions:

The students' designs are sold at yearly exhibitions.

Events:

We collaborate with various venues and partners to host fundraising parties.

In-house Brands:

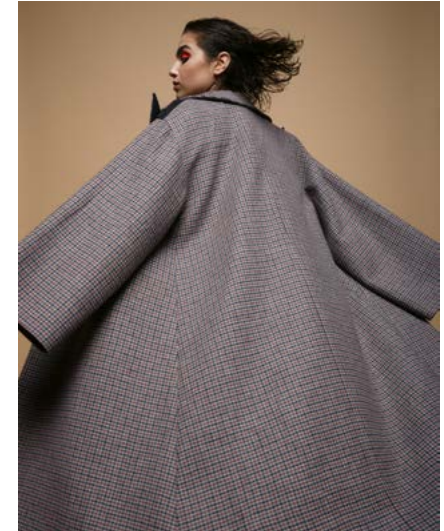
These brands are supported by the Creative Space Beirut through the provision of a platform and resources. Each brand donates a percentage of its profits to the educational program.



csb ready to wear is a brand designed by the Creative Space Beirut team, including mentors and students.



SECOND ST is a separate entity that engages in a mutually beneficial trade off model with Creative Space Beirut through the sharing of a space and supplies. The brand is run by Tracy Moussi, Sarah Hermez and George Rouhana.



Roni Helou is the namesake brand of Creative Space Beirut alumni Roni Helou. The brand is managed by Creative Space Beirut's team, and is run through our platform of brands.

Our growth is made possible through the support of generous individual sponsors and international partnerships. Fabric stores and fashion designers, Donna Karan, Derek Lam, Diane Von Furstenberg and Milia M, Deviations and Warde Fabrics have donated textiles for students to use.

In addition, Parsons The New School for Design continues to support our initiative through fabric donations and media exposure.

info@creativespacebeirut.com

Downtown, Gold Souks, Block D, Units 102 and 104
+961 81 326 773

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