

Handmade Stories is a project inspired by local culture, the handmade, creative education and the power of the imagination... It is about how much heart people can invest, opening up a path toward a rare and unusual artistic experience.

In 2012, I made my way to Phoundindaeng Youth Center, a not-for-profit education centre for local children and youth, originally set up by a network of volunteers in 2007. I first became involved with the centre as a designer and developed a low-cost branding system comprising of a set of rubber stamps.

Following my first design intervention, a series of creative workshops slowly followed. With playfulness in mind, some friends and I intervened at a very small local scale to trigger something, like a spark.

We had 180 students, ranging approximately from age 7 to 18. All coming from the nearby villages in VangVieng district situated at about 180km from the capital city Vientiane. Most of them were familiar with drawing, girls and even boys were particularly skilled with detailed needle work commonly practiced by local ethnic communities. We encouraged their creative mind by giving them complete freedom to explore with different materials while simultaneously using their existing

skills and aesthetic sense that seem naturally so inherent to Lao people.

Behind each piece of work is a little creative mind and soul... The beauty stems from the sense of freedom and the wonderful imperfections that can not be imitated. It is an art that feels honest and real. The dedication showed as the young participants sat, carefully making and sewing in the dark, long after the sun had disappeared behind the Lao mountain range.

This kind of experience is not something that can be easily acquired in Laos. In a country where basic education still remains a challenge, creative education can only seem like a luxury. And yet, the biggest misunderstanding about creativity is that it is optional or secondary. This project is a modest attempt to introduce creativity as an equal right to all individuals. Because we are all born creative and with plenty of imagination. I would like the next generation of Lao people to be able to live in a world of their own making.

By nurturing the seed of creativity and by promoting values linked to local livelihoods and cultures, Handmade Stories seeks to creatively empower future generations ahead.

Sales will benefit Phoudindaeng Youth Centre and its future activities.





LIKE A CLOUD (AMULET)

COTTON, PLASTIC
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND

11 x 7.5 cm



SECRET WORLD (BROOCH)

JERSEY, COTTON, PLASTIC
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND





SOKDEE (HAIR PIN)

JERSEY, COTTON, PLASTIC
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND

4 x 10 cm









LOVE (BROOCH)

JERSEY, COTTON, PLASTIC, METAL
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

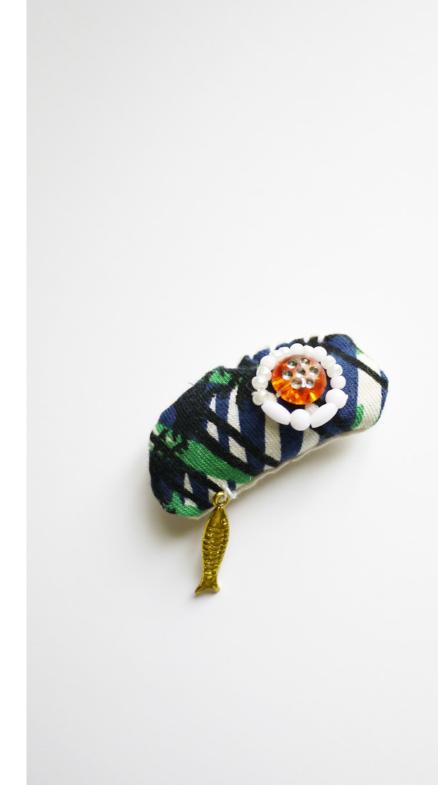
ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND



PAA (HAIR PIN)

JERSEY, COTTON, PLASTIC
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND





FRIEND (HAIR BAND)

COTTON, PLASTIC, ELASTIC
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND







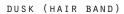
SKY (BROOCH)

JERSEY, COTTON, PLASTIC, METAL TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND

11 x 6.5 cm





COTTON, PLASTIC
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND

5 x 6 cm







TOMORROW (HAIR BAND)

COTTON, PLASTIC, ELASTIC
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND

3 x 3 cm



HARVEST (BROOCH)

COTTON, PLASTIC, METAL
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND





NIGHT DREAM (BROOCH)

JERSEY, COTTON, PLASTIC, METAL
TEXTILE FROM NOMA T.D. JAPAN
PIECES FROM LAOS

ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY BY HAND

3 x 16 cm





different people meet, then, one day...

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