
Feather work: JANAÏNA MILHEIRO

Photography: LINUS RICARD

Model: KATHARINA DIEDRICH

Fashion designer, collaboration: CHRISTINE PHUNG (PAGES 32 AND 34)

Dancing feathers

In the workshop, feathers dance in our hands. We assemble them, we tie them, we cut them, we sort them, we weave them, we glue them, we embroider them, we move them, we heat them, we curl them, we gild them, we fold them, we paint them, we pierce them. We transform plumage into textile: lace, mesh, guipure, weaving, fringes. We metamorphosise feathers to invent birds of fashion, birds for women.

In these pages, the flight of our birds is balletic: they walk, jump, turn, race and pirouette. We drape and envelop the body of our dancer with feather textiles that will help her find weightlessness and flexibility. The rigid feathers are articulated with metallic elements; they fold and unfold to the voluminous sound of crumpled paper.

Fluid, soft and openwork, the guipures of feathers float, follow the dancer's breaths and describe her movements. Adorned with pearls and ennobled, they sway while ballasting the garment and gently click amongst themselves. Meanwhile, very small and finely cut, other feathers are deposited on tulle and imitate a light Chantilly lace.















In her Parisian workshop, Janaína Milheiro creates and custom-makes feather textiles and pieces for the luxury fashion and home decoration industries. Surrounded by craftsmen and designers, she develops and invents new skills to propose a very personal, innovative vision of feathers. This experimental, technical approach results in extremely visual pieces that often have unexpected uses. Trained in both handcrafted and industrial textile techniques, she proposes unlikely laces made of feathers, silkies woven with feathers, feather flockings and also three-dimensional grid, windows display or actual sculptures in feathers... Since 2011, she has collaborated with passionate clients that include collectors, interior designers and highly demanding fashion houses or famous luxury brands.

CONTACT@JANAINA-MILHEIRO.COM / WWW.JANAINA-MILHEIRO.COM / INSTAGRAM.COM/JANAINAMILHEIRO/

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