

Sustainability has always been important to me, though it was more of a necessity in the early 1990's than an environmental cause. After a decade of production work, weaving 30-60 yards of handwoven fabric per week, and cutting it into garments to be sold at craft fairs, I amassed a very large collection of scrap left over handwoven fabric, all carefully stored in my attic.

With the birth of two children in my 30's, traveling to sell my work became prohibitive, and weaving new yardage and creating new production work seemed pointless and expensive. I am above all a creative person, and not having the income for raw materials or outlets for my handwoven garments (selling on the internet was not a thing in the early 1990's) I began to explore ways to use the massive collection of left over scraps stored in the attic.

I could in fact create new cloth from the old leftovers, and create innovative and fun garments, without threading a loom. I developed a technique for piecing garments together, using a fusible backing and bias tubes stitched over the joins. While attending a conference in Ohio in 2000, my first time away from my children for any length of time, I met the editor of Handwoven Magazine, who was impressed with my work and the lectures I gave. I was invited to submit an article for the next publication, and I built the *Slice and Dice* vest, featured here, documenting the steps. That article changed the trajectory of my career. I went on to become the contributing features editor for Handwoven Magazine and wrote articles, columns and essays for the next 35 issues.

In 2005, I was asked, as the judge for the fashion show at a weaving conference in Wisconsin, to provide a couple of works for the fashion show finale. With little time to prepare, weaving new cloth wasn't realistic, but piecing together old scraps allowed me to make two graphic and substantial garments, *Peacock Fantasy* and *Cocoon*, that were worthy of a fashion show finale.

My son attended County College of Morris as a theater major in 2009, and was featured in a production of *Once on this Island*. I was asked to help costume the show, and the God of Water wore *Peacock Fantasy* on stage.

-Daryl Lancaster