

Press Information Belgian Spirit – Fashion: *Dress Code* exhibition

[Belgian Spirit](#), set up in 2011, is an initiative of the three Belgian Regions of Brussels, Flanders & Wallonia. Belgian Spirit promotes Belgian architecture, design and fashion in Asia through [Business of Design Week](#) (BoDW) in Hong Kong and other events. The goal is to create and develop long-term collaborations between Belgian designers and their Asian counterparts and clients.

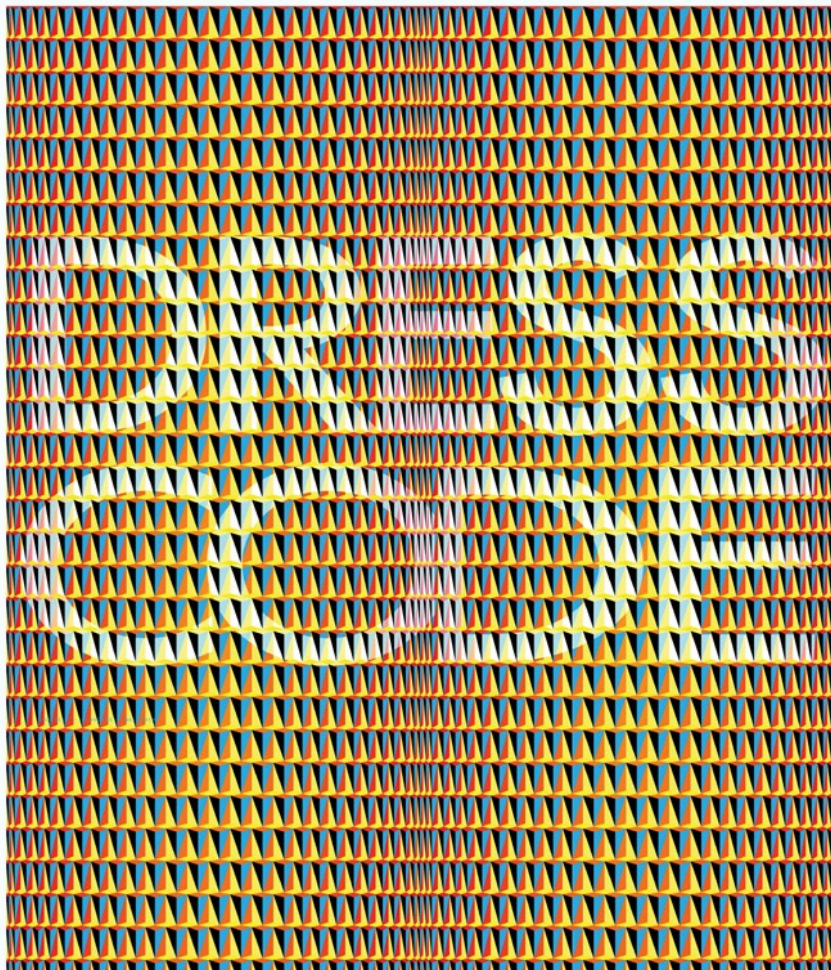
As partner country of BoDW 2013 Belgian Spirit will organize a series of events and activities in December 2013.

For its fashion track, Belgian Spirit organizes DRESS CODE, a Belgian fashion exhibition in partnership with the Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI). The exhibition is curated by Charles Kaisin.

Members of VTC Group VTC 機構成員







HKDI Gallery and Belgian Spirit present DRESS CODE 時裝密碼 by Charles Kaisin

04.12.13-31.03.14
at d-mart

HKDI and IVE (Lee Wai Lee)

3 King Ling Road

Tseung Kwan O, NT, HK

10AM - 8PM

(Closed on Tuesdays, Public Holidays and 22/12, 29/12 and 5/1/2014)

www.hkdi.edu.hk/hkdi_gallery

www.belgianspirit.be

www.charleskaisin.com

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**BELGIAN
SPIRIT**
BRUSSELS - FLANDERS - WALLONIA

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Dress Code

An exhibition about Belgian fashion.

The origin of clothing is functional. We dress ourselves to protect our bodies against the elements. Each season calls for different fabrics.

From the creation of a piece of clothing, we want to differentiate ourselves by the choice of shape, the fabric, the colour and the manner in which we wear it. Fashion evolves with the seasons. Thanks to or despite of the media, we are influenced by this continuous renewal. The seasons are expanding: spring/summer and autumn/winter are now joined by resort collections, pre-collections, capsule collections, and guest collections...

For each and every one of us, fashion is a way to stand out. While previously clothing was a manner to determine social status, today the wearing of a 'name' has become a reference point, an expression of culture or cult. Brand cults have created a universe in which the simple fact of buying or wearing a particular brand brings the feeling of belonging to a group.

There remains one last category where clothing confirms identity to meet personal expectations: made-to-measure, the unique piece.

As a child you learn the emotional value of a piece of clothing: the scarf my grandmother knitted, emotion and added value through the realization of the making process.

Charles Kaisin



Casual

Ready-to-wear and accessories

« Belgian fashion doesn't exist.

Belgium is a small, complex country, but Belgian fashion is large and generous.

You find the poetic aesthetics of Dries van Noten alongside the fragile toughness of Ann Demeulemeester. The colourful exuberance of Walter van Beirendonck alongside the sharp tailoring of Raf Simons. The flowing draperies of Jean-Paul Knott alongside the crazy creations of Jean-Paul Lespagnard.

You find the arty passion of A.F. Vandevorst beside the conceptual witticisms of Martin Margiela. The beautiful knits of Christian Wijnants alongside the ephemeral, girl-like silhouettes of Veronique Branquinho.

And even now, we're only at ten. Because Annemie Verbeke, Sofie D'Hoore and Elvis Pompilio... also make Belgian fashion.

What binds these designers is a strong signature that makes their pieces timeless. I'm going to reveal a secret: Belgian fashion doesn't exist. Because fashion is temporal and transitory. What our designers make is wearable art, which over the years and seasons will never 'go out of fashion'.

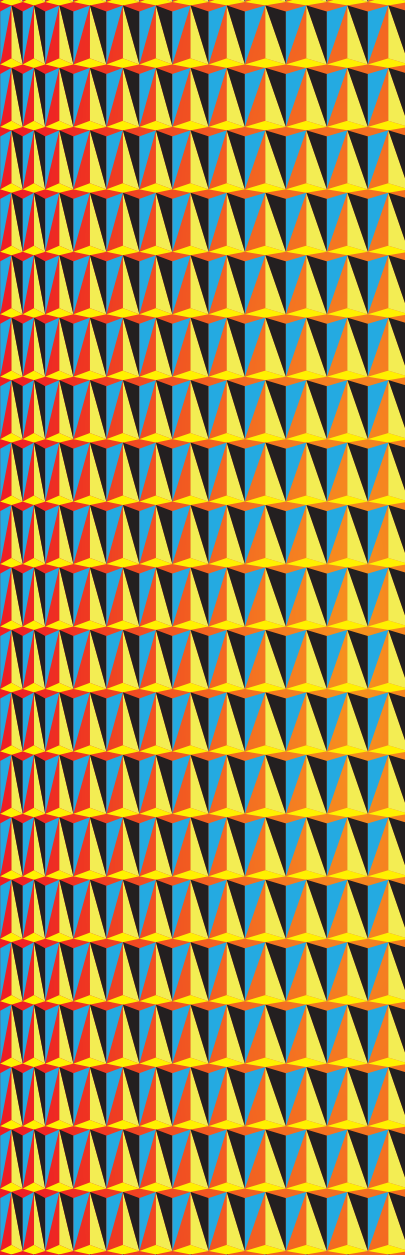
Call it slow fashion to be savoured in small mouthfuls, which is appreciated by an ever-growing group of like-minded fans around the world.

Be warned: once you go Belgian, you never go back.»

Nica Broucke, Elle België



Just So



Jasbir Sandhu is a Singaporean artist jeweler born in 1958. Mathematician by formation, she worked as a Corporate IT director in International firms. Three years ago, she turns a page and studies jewelry at the 'Institute des Arts et Métiers' in Brussels. She has since developed a collection of necklaces, bracelets, pendants and pins pertaining to identity.

It's not surprising that Jasbir Sandhu is passionate about identity, taking into consideration her path of life as a woman of Sikh origin, living in Belgium, mother of a girl from Thailand and having travelled widely for her profession.

Since last year, the JustSo collection is developed covering 45 countries worldwide. Like fine lace, contours of countries are laser cut with high precision. One can thus wear the country from where one comes from and identifies with. It's history, culture and memories form an integral part of our personal identity. The country of our birth is like an architecture which structures us. A line, traced in metal, runs the whole length of its border. This border contains us, in the sense that it embraces and carries us like a mother.

Belgium, for example, worn as a necklace in surgical steel or as a pin in precious metal. The collection of Jasbir Sandhu will be deployed globally. Thus, like an immense puzzle, each part of this dream world can be worn like a jewel as well as a gesture of assertion and membership. On gold pins, a diamond is placed to represent a city, for example the place of birth.

The metal plates are cut using laser technology, to ensure geographical exactitude and precision results. Satellite images for military charts are used to model and define the shape of each country. Jasbir Sandhu says that Belgium like Singapore, had moving borders during a very long time.

Jasbir Sandhu collaborates with an interior architect (president of the Union of Belgium Designers - UDB) Mr. Jean Louis De Ridder, who has launched via his company Axia (www.axia.be) the collection J*S - JustSo.

The jewels are available in surgical steel, gold, silver and diamonds. They are already collected in Singapore, London, Bern, Geneva and Munich.

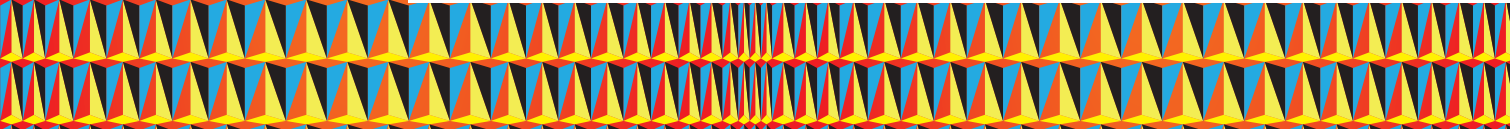




Photo Catwalligatures

www.jsjustso.com

BELGIAN SPIRIT

Belgian Spirit is an initiative of the three Belgian regions of Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia.

Belgian Spirit presents the best of Belgian design and fashion at Business of Design Week in Hong Kong.

This exhibition is organized in cooperation with Hong Kong Design Institute and Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Lee Wai Lee)

www.belgianspirit.be



www.hkdi.edu.hk/hkdi_gallery

Members of VTC Group VTC 機構成員



DRESS CODE

Curator & scenography: Charles Kaisin
Assisted by Linda Van Waesberge

www.charleskaisin.com

4 DECEMBER 2013 TO 31 MARCH 2014

Hong Kong Design Institute and Hong Kong Institute of
Vocational Education (Lee Wai Lee)
10 am to 8 pm

www.hkdi.edu.hk

Thank you Béa Ercolini, Betty De Stefano, Gaelle Mourieras,
Hugo Cociani, Julien Den Doncker, Louise Steyaert,
Mounir Youssef Hammouch, Nadjin Zoubir, Nica Broucke,
Pascale Aublin, Pascale Mussart, Pierre Marcolini



Flanders Investment & Trade
Government of Flanders - Belgium



Wallonie - Bruxelles
Design Mode



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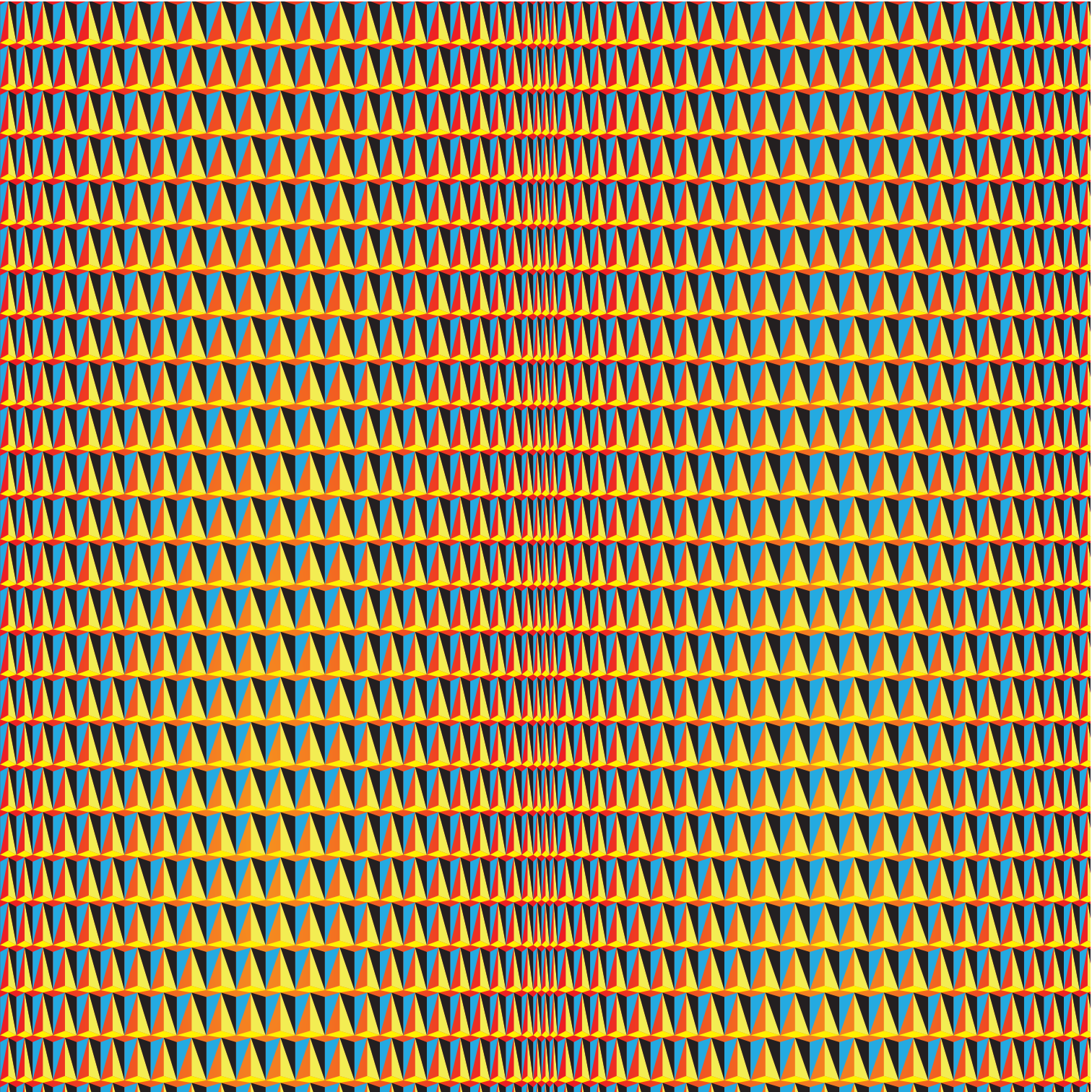
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S P I R I T**

BRUSSELS - FLANDERS - WALLONIA

比利時設計風格

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