

CLARE LOUISE FROST

ISTANBUL | NEW YORK



Clare Louise Frost started her own line in 2011 in Istanbul with her first collection of hand stitched, original print kimonos. Quickly expanding to small collections of handmade clothing, accessories, home goods, and textiles to the trade, the focus of her work is a wide and ranging exploration of interests and color and places, and the hand processes that express her ideas best. Being lucky as to have so many teachers – masters of their crafts, block printers, embroiderers, weavers, antique textile experts and lovers – many of them women - Clare hopes to learn always and have work always exploring the endless varieties of pattern and color and texture that our hands can make.

In 2006, Clare started working in textiles – specifically Anatolian flatweaves - as an assistant to photographer, self-taught ethnographer, and antique textile collector Josephine Powell in Istanbul. Josephine instilled in her an appreciation of and an endless curiosity about traditional textiles and the people who made them. Later, working for antique textiles expert and textile designer Elizabeth Hewitt, of Tulu Textiles, Clare first travelled to India and Uzbekistan, deepening her excitement about the infinite possibilities of color, texture, and handwork today. Hired in 2011 by Zardozi, an Afghan non-profit, to teach courses to women, helping them improve their design skills in their own handwork, Clare also started to commission talented women in Kabul to produce her own designs.

After nine years living in her beloved Istanbul, Clare is now based in New York. She continues to work in India and in Afghanistan to design and produce her work, and is thrilled to bring her favorite things from Turkey and beyond to New York. Selling mostly to interior designers, Clare sources Turkish rugs and produces hand-painted Iznik tiles, as well as bringing new and old ceramics, textiles, jewellery, and more treasures to her studio in Brooklyn. Sharing these finds in Open House/Open Studios is a great joy.

Besides working in New York, Clare works with Castello di Potentino, a vineyard and historic property in rural Tuscany, on their site-specific design line. She has also been known to be very happy working in the vines on their award-winning wines.

When she's lucky, Clare also works as a screen actor and a model.

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