



Eva de Laat, Head MEC by Santoni: MEC by Santoni

Eva de Laat is the Head of the Material Experience Center (MEC) powered by Santoni Shanghai and co-founder of Studio Eva x Carola. With over 20 years of experience in the innovative textile and performance field, she has worked with world-class brands to create innovative concepts, textiles, and sports apparel challenging the usual function and aesthetic of conventional designs. Her focus is on building human-centric products that last. MEC is currently in the launching phase of a new material platform "materialliance", finding solutions and rethinking systems for today's challenging supply chain.



Hao Ding, Business & Marketing Manager EMEA: Covation Biomaterials
Hold Executive MBA degree, master degree of Science, and certified on
Business Sustainability Management. More than 18 years experiences in
chemicals, plastics, textile, fashion industries with different roles including
R&D, sales & marketing, business management. Leading the projects on the
sustainable solutions & high added value solutions developments. Expertise
on business development and downstream market development. Engage and
commit on sustainability topics.



Noah Tager, Designer: COACH

Noah Tager is a young fashion designer from Brooklyn, New York. He currently works for the Men's Ready-to-Wear Team at COACH, and prior to that, he studied Menswear Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology. At FIT, he was an active member of the University's Sustainability Council, helping spur initiatives and policies that helped further FIT's commitment to all environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainability. He continues to incorporate this passion for sustainable and transparent textile design into his work today.





Borre Akkersdijk, Co-founder: BYBORRE

Borre Akkersdijk is a Dutch textile designer and the co-founder and creative director of textile innovation studio BYBORRE. He started what became the foundation of BYBORRE in October 2010, initially consulting for brands such as Nike and Louis Vuitton before deciding to focus solely on the development of his now signature 3D knitted fabrics. In 2012, he was awarded Young Designer of the Year at the Dutch Design Awards. Research into the future of fashion and integrated technology resulted in presentations at South by Southwest, Bejing Designweek and Salone del Mobile Milano and publications in Wired magazine and Fast Company Magazine.



Karen Pearson, Professor/Chair: Fashion Institute of Technology

Karen Pearson, PhD is a Professor and Chair of Science and Mathematics at FIT and Chair of FIT's Sustainability Council. Her scholarly work relates to the creation of a science-learning environment for students that focuses on research and problem solving while engaging students in discussions and examples that address current topics impacting our world through the eyes of chemistry. Including the development classroom activities and faculty development models targeted better preparing graduates for design-related STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) jobs in a marketplace that is increasingly demanding sustainable design knowledge.



Sarah Schlenger, R&D Commercialization Manager, Americas

Sarah has 15 years of experience in textile science, animal husbandry and agriculture. Sarah works across the Americas to execute commercialisation of joint developments with brands.