



Fiona Bennett, hat designer - a Berlin story

Fiona Bennett, born 1966 in Brighton/England, is not only the most successful but also the most extraordinary milliner in Germany and beyond German borders. Her hats adorned the cover of Vogue, all the major fashion magazines refine their photo shoots with her creations. Celebrities worldwide contribute Fiona Bennett models, exclusive department stores around the globe carry her second line "Kiss by Fiona Bennett". But what are the facts, figures and statistics when you can tell a story.

As Fiona Bennett made their education to milliner, Berlin was divided by a wall. She has spent most of her life there, a child of this strange island West Berlin, a place like no other at that time. The Berlin Wall fell, it opened unknown not expected rooms, it was a new city, conquer the creative as always front of it. Fiona Bennett moved into an old soap factory in the former east district „Mitte“ and there she created her own cosmos. Hats, which were always more than decor, wearable art pieces which are like the beginning of a story, make the moods and the world a little more beautiful. Her studio was in a dusty backyard, it should not be a hiding place, it was a melting pot of artists and many wild ideas. Vivienne Westwood was there, she took the designer as a lecturer at the University of Arts.

The backyards of the city were gradually plastered fresh, the Berlin center showed a new face. There Fiona Bennett opened her first shop in 1999, the showcase of a delicate secret behind the floating hats, like dream images in a showcase wall. Galleries moved to the area, small extraordinary boutiques, trendy restaurants, the obstinacy of Berlin had acquired a touch of glamor. Everyone passed by at Fiona Bennett's shop, to carry home unique creations in black and white striped hatboxes: Christina Aguilera, Katie Holmes, Brad Pitt, Veruschka ... The German nobility had already long discovered her creations to be well advised at weddings and other social occasions.

As the small, fine district degenerated into a mass of hype, the time of good secrets was over. The store closed, "Kiss" was born. Along with her fashion manager Emmy Urban, Fiona Bennett created a second-line, casual, affordable, warm felt and knitting for the winter. Ready for large editions, designed and also knitted by hand in Berlin. The fashion world is warming their ears, the Kiss by Fiona Bennett creations are available in Asia, Europe and USA. At Beginning of 2015 the first summer collection of „Kiss“ will be available.

Since 2012 there is a new platform for the entire universe of Fiona Bennett. Together with her partner Hans Boehme they set a statement at an old arterial road that knows quite different stories. The Potsdamer Straße, east-west axis with real local flavor: old-established Turkish supermarkets, sex shops, snack bars, a variety theater. But also: newly awakened Art Boulevard with genuine suspense. In the middle of it: the Fiona Bennett paradise hat store. Large windows, an invitation. A showcase workshop, so that everyone can know what is behind the wonderful creations. And how important for the designer, she gives craft a future. In front of the public the milliners create flowers, bows, magic that graces the hats. Each hat and decor for a hat by Fiona Bennett is handmade. And the entire work lives from her endless creativity. Dissimilar techniques, unusual materials, she creates her own patterns and fabrics. Every collection is a journey into unknown territory for Fiona Bennett. She has been folded origami figures made of silk for a collection or shaped cowboy hats from Sinamay, hats were completely surface coated with feathers. She refined classical forms with her own charm, takes the strict appearance of men hats and takes pompous severity off at hats for the big show. With lightness and playful joy she has dusted off the headgear. Nevertheless, their creations preserve the dignity and the natural pride that accompanies true beauty. You are not disguised, but dressed. Anyone - who is smart enough to wear a hat by Fiona Bennett.

In the 2013 in German published book with the German title „Vom Locken der Federn“ by Fiona Bennett & Eva Sichelschmidt, you can dive into the world of Fiona Bennett in a journey through three Berlin decades.