

Remembering Marina Yee: Pioneer of Sustainable Fashion

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Marina Yee, a founding member of the celebrated Belgian design collective Antwerp Six, passed away at the age of 67 on 1 November 2025.

>Born in Antwerp in 1958, Yee studied fashion at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp and emerged alongside other avant-garde voices in the 1980s.

Unlike some of her contemporaries, Marie Yee charted a quieter, more introspective path. One that deeply informed by craftsmanship, reuse and ethical practice.

Beyond the Runway: A Different Direction

While the Antwerp Six are often celebrated for avant-garde silhouettes and bold fashion shows, Marina Yee's journey took a deliberately alternative route. Overall distanced herself from the seasonal fashion-industrial machine and embraced a slower, more mindful approach.

Yee's design methodology leaned heavily into **up-cycling**, **second-hand garments**, and materials that carried history. In her words, she liked taking "things that nobody wants that have been thrown out ... and turning them into something people don't recognise any more".

However 2018 comeback under the banner "M.Y. Project" in Tokyo marked a public resurgence—featuring a micro-collection of reconstructed coats, shirts and pieces made from archival and vintage textiles.

Return to Her Roots

Even as she made her mark, Marina Yee never embraced mass production or commercial scaling. Her work remained intimate, art-driven and rooted in values rather than trends.

In later years, she also turned to teaching—at institutions like the Royal Academy in Ghent and The Hague. Thereby encouraging younger designers to think deeply about materials, sustainability and creative integrity.

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