

Before founding her self-titled womenswear label in 2011, Martina Spetlova studied chemistry in Prague. Upon arriving at Central Saint Martins, the experimentation continued. Along with her structured silhouettes and use of colour blocking, the designer has gained recognition by developing her own textile: woven leather.

Spetlova plays with androgyny on the runway, and, since being picked up by Dover Street Market this year, her garments have found popularity with both men and women, although she has no plans to launch a menswear line. "Selling in Dover Street Market really means continuing the production journey, finding a way to make the perfect product," she says. "It's never easy, and I'm always keen to talk to people who have more experience and knowledge. It's all about the quality of the details!"

Her next venture is accessories, and, of course, we can expect woven leather in the range, with Martina Spetlova handbags as soon as next autumn.

SomethingAboutWEAVING...

"I've always experimented with weaving. The first experiment was with leather strips through knitwear. Slowly, I've been developing the technique. It's a lengthy process, as it's all made by hand. A jacket takes one skilled person more than a day to make. There are lots of stages to making the textiles: preparing templates, cutting samples, weaving. Then the panels are cleaned and ready to be sewn together."

SomethingAboutUNISEX...

"My pieces have always had a slight unisex quality in terms of shape, and I'm open to people of both sexes wearing them. Stylists like Tomas C Toth, with whom I've been collaborating on the last few collections, seem to pick up on that. My garments are flexible for those who dare."

SomethingAboutCOLOUR...

"I've been reading up on colour theory, looking at Josef Albers' Interaction Of Colour, among other books, and experimenting with how colours interact and patterns are perceived when placed next to each other. For example, grey satin tape would pick up the colours of the different background leathers, changing its appearance to the eye." JLB

Weaving magic



**Martina
Spetlova**

Fashion designer



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