A FIVE-DAY CREATIVE INTENSIVE

Fashion, Textiles & Adornment

Almaty, Kazakhstan · 2027

A short creative voyage of discovery.

Meet Kazakhstan's makers, listen to their stories and explore the materials and traditions that shape their work. Return with fresh perspectives and new sources of inspiration for your own creative practice.

Developed with the Union of
Ethnodesigners of Kazakhstan

Bring your curiosity.

You don't need advanced craft skills to take part.

ATLAS&NATION

QAZAQSTAN ETNODIZAINERLER ODAGY

WHY COME?

Fresh inspiration, with something to build on.

An image can spark a question. Meeting the person who made the work gives you somewhere to take it.

Look beyond the finished piece.

Explore the materials, tools and decisions behind the work. Ask why a maker chose a particular surface, shape or ornament, and discover the cultural context a photograph alone might leave out.

A way into unfamiliar creative traditions.

Developed with the Union of Ethnodesigners of Kazakhstan, the programme brings practitioner encounters and cultural visits into a structured week. You don't have to find every studio or arrange every introduction yourself.

What you could take home

01 **New starting points: materials, details and processes beyond your usual references.**

02 **Stories behind the work: a richer understanding of the makers' choices and the traditions they draw on.**

03 **First-hand observations: sketches, notes and photographs, where permitted, to revisit as your project develops.**

04 **Ideas to explore: new questions about colour, surface, form and how you approach your own** practice.

05 **Creative connections: conversations with makers and fellow creatives, giving you fresh perspectives beyond working on your own.**

06 **A next step for your practice: possibilities for a material experiment, design detail or project direction—something you can begin exploring when you return.**

You don't need to arrive with a project already planned. Bring your curiosity—and give your next idea room to emerge.

A welcome from Saltanat



Kazakh craftsmanship has been passed down through the centuries—a golden bridge between past and future. Our makers bring ancestral heritage into contemporary life, giving each creation its character through their skill and imagination.

As President of the Union of Ethnodesigners of Kazakhstan and the project lead in Kazakhstan, I am proud to introduce Fashion, Textiles & Adornment with Atlas & Nation.

Behind every felt textile, silver ornament and carefully worked detail is a unique story. I invite you to discover the people behind these creations, explore their traditions and experience the wonder of Kazakh craftsmanship.

Saltanat Zhaparova

President of the Union of Ethnodesigners of Kazakhstan

Қазақтың қолөнері ғасырлар бойы ұрпақтан ұрпаққа жалғасып келеді. Ол — өткен мен болашақты байланыстыратын алтын көпір. Шеберлеріміз ата-баба мұрасын заманауи өмірмен ұштастырып, әр туындыға өз шеберлігі мен қиялы арқылы ерекше сипат береді.

Қазақстан этнодизайнерлер одағының президенті және жобаның Қазақстандағы жетекшісі ретінде Atlas & Nation ұйымымен бірге «Сән, тоқыма және әшекей» бағдарламасын таныстыруды мақтан тұтамын.

Әрбір киіз бұйымның, күміс әшекейдің және мұқият жасалған бөлшектің артында өзіндік тарих жатыр. Сіздерді осы туындыларды жасаған адамдармен танысуға, олардың дәстүрлерін зерделеуге және қазақ қолөнерінің ғажайып әлемін ашуға шақырамын.

Салтанат Жапарова

Қазақстан этнодизайнерлер одағының президенті

Meet the makers...

Five practices. Five perspectives on how inherited knowledge can continue to shape contemporary work.



Anargul Narbotanova
Анаркүл Нарботанова

Contemporary ethno-fashion / Заманауи этно-сән

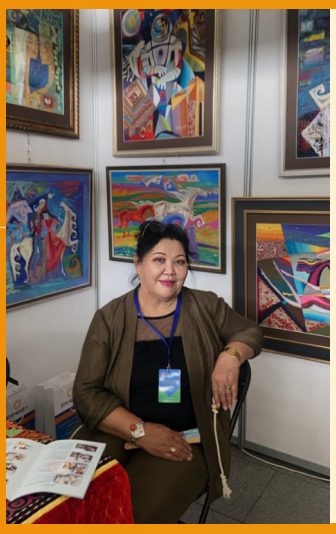
How can an inherited visual language become something you wear today? Anargul explores that question through contemporary ethno-fashion and wool clothing. Material, silhouette and ornament bring traditional references into modern dress. Her practice offers a starting point for considering how cultural knowledge can inform new designs—and how your own references might develop into something distinctly yours.



Bakytzhan Qasymzhanova
Бақытжан Қасымжанова

Felt-making / Киіз басу

At Bakytzhan's Ak Kiyiz studio, felt becomes a material for exploring surface, ornament and wearable form. Her practice brings attention to the relationship between wool, process and design: how a textile takes shape, and how its surface becomes part of the finished piece. For creatives, this opens a useful question: what possibilities emerge when you begin with the material itself?



Kalemhan Rakhmetbaikyzy
Кәлемхан Рахметбайқызы

Biz keste embroidery / Біз кесте

Kalemhan remembers her mother teaching her to hold a needle. That connection between making and family runs through her biz keste embroidery: each stitch carries its own rhythm, patience and feeling. For her, passing the craft forward means sharing more than a technique. It means keeping alive the cultural understanding and care behind it.

Meet the makers...

Five practices. Five perspectives on how inherited knowledge can continue to shape contemporary work.



Yernur Azatuly Karibayev

Ернұр Азатұлы Қарибаев

Jewellery and adornment / Зергерлік өнер және әшекей бұйымдар

Yernur connects his practice to Kazakhstan's equestrian heritage, where saddlery and its adornment formed part of everyday life. Working with wood, leather and silver, he brings traditional ornament into contemporary designs. His practice reflects a strong commitment to passing this knowledge forward, so future generations can continue to make with it.



Salima Usibaliyeva

Сәлима Үсібәлиева

Örmek weaving / Өрмек тоқу

Salima's work begins with sketches and weaving charts she develops herself. She chooses coloured threads, weaves the patterned strips, then cuts, assembles and sews them into contemporary pieces. Her research into örmek began around 2005, helping her revive a practice that once furnished homes and clothed families. She continues to explore how that inherited knowledge can find new uses.



Nurdos Aliaskarov

Нұрдос Әлиасқаров

Nomadic contemporary jewellery / Көшпенді мәдениеттен шабыт алған заманауи зергерлік өнер

Nurdos brings Kazakhstan's nomadic heritage into contemporary jewellery, creating handmade pieces in silver, gemstones and enamel. Founder of Nurdos Jewellery, he has exhibited across Asia and Europe. His distinctive approach offers a fresh perspective on how cultural traditions can inspire modern adornment.

THE EXPERIENCE

Five days of looking, *listening and making.*

01

Day 1 · Dress, identity and contemporary fashion

Begin with Kazakh dress, textiles and ornament through a museum or cultural visit. Meet Anargul to explore how traditional visual references find expression in contemporary ethno-fashion, then record the details that catch your attention.

02

Day 2 · Felt, embroidery and surface

Spend time with Bakytzhan and Kalemhan, exploring felt-making and biz keste embroidery. Look closely at how texture, colour and pattern develop through process, with practical activities shaped around the sessions.

03

Day 3 · Contemporary art and cultural encounters

Explore Almaty's contemporary art, followed by a cultural field experience selected for the season and group. Use observation, sketching and permitted photography to gather references from the places and practices you encounter.

04

Day 4 · Jewellery, ornament and the body

Explore Yernur's approach to jewellery and adornment. Examine how materials, construction and Kazakh ornament relate to accessories, clothing and contemporary design.

05

Day 5 · Weaving, traditional dress and new interpretations

Meet Salima to explore örmek weaving and its relationship to clothing and textile construction. Close the week with a contemporary jewellery studio visit or a traditional-dress and styling experience, according to the final group and programme.

The programme is provisional. Contributors, venues, timings and practical activities remain subject to confirmation. One cultural field experience and one closing format will be selected. Arrival and departure days are separate from the five programme days.

Plan your visit
Curiosity is a good place to begin.

For people working or studying in fashion, textiles, jewellery, styling, costume, art, photography and other creative disciplines—or anyone interested in how materials and cultural knowledge become creative work.

You might be developing a project, searching for a new direction or simply wanting to spend time looking and learning beyond your usual surroundings.

Different ways to take part

Some sessions involve selected hands-on activities; others centre on demonstrations, conversation and observation. You don't need advanced craft skills, and you don't need to produce a finished collection during the week.

Looking closely, with care

The makers' knowledge and work have their own histories and authorship. We encourage questions, thoughtful documentation and attention to credit and permission when carrying references into your own practice.

2027 programme dates

01	7–11 June 2027
02	12–16 July 2027
03	9–13 August 2027
04	6–10 September 2027
05	6–10 December 2027

These are the five programme days. Allow separate arrival and departure days.

£1,995 per person
Almaty, Kazakhstan · Planned group size: 8–10 participants · Ages 18+
International flights excluded.

Full accommodation, meal and transport details will be provided before bookings open. Please check the final booking information before making travel arrangements.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Give your next idea somewhere new to begin.

If a week of maker encounters, material exploration and fresh perspectives sounds like what your practice needs, we'd love to hear from you.

Register your interest

Tell us which 2027 dates interest you. Receive programme updates, full package details and booking information.

Free and non-binding.
No payment is required.

atlas-nation.com/fashion-textiles-adornment/

Begin exploring today.

Our free Creative Workbook helps you gather inspiration, explore ideas and develop a direction for your next project—in fashion, textiles, art, jewellery and beyond.

Download the free Creative Workbook

Visit the Intensive page and select the workbook.
Enter your email to access the PDF.

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