

Stories in Print

Language of the Birds' artsy aesthetics and cut-above quality are some of the reasons this Hawai'i-inspired brand continues to soar.

Ālewa Heights print on serving tray, \$69



SHE GOT IT FROM HER MOMMA. “I was around big, bold patterns growing up,” says Language of the Birds designer and owner Tsia Carson. “My mom worked at Huk-A-Poo in the ‘70s. The American brand was known for its disco-loud novelty shirts that everyone from Hawai’i to New York was wearing.”

In her mid-20s, Carson would hunt New York thrift shops for fashions dotted with vibrant hibiscuses and swaying palm trees—donations she imagined were from honeymooners who visited Hawai’i. She spent 25 years running a design firm with her husband. But now, with her own fashion design company, the punchy prints she obsesses over are her own. Language of the Birds’ bold patterns are the crux of every collection. Island-inspired graphics paired with energetic hues result in more modern aloha, less tacky tropical, pieces in streamlined shapes. Case in point: the Ālewa Heights and Kalama collections that feature notable O’ahu landmarks in reimagined ways.

“There’s a narrative behind every one of my prints. I do research and scrutinize the print [to ensure it] represents Hawai’i’s unique culture and history in an innovative fashion, whether it’s on a jumpsuit or table tray,” she says.

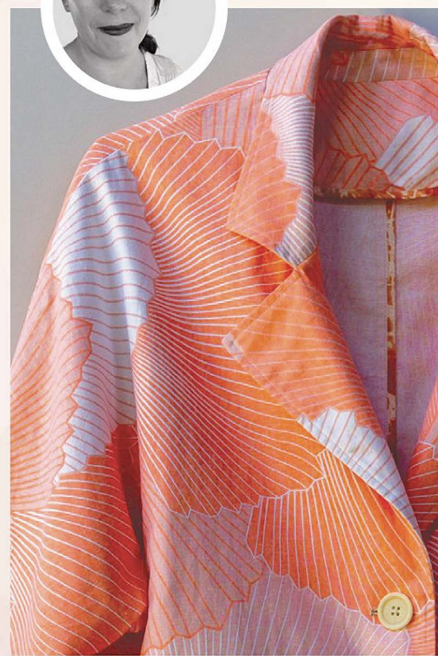
As alluring as the prints may be, we would be remiss if we didn’t celebrate the label’s unwavering commitment to fit and function—practices Carson inherited from her mother, who “created a line of luxury hats favored by the editors of *Vogue* and *W* magazines,” Carson recalls. “Her devotion to quality, excellence and sophistication earned her a reputation for being a remarkable designer.”

The apple didn’t fall far from the tree. Fans praise Carson’s thoughtful construction of her roomy jumpers, which can be adjusted for a loose or slim fit with waist straps, flattering all body types. The cut of her lightweight A-line dress strikes a balance of playful and practical. Her linen jacket has finished seams, interior fac-

ings—details that prolong the life of a garment—and six pockets “to put your hand sanitizers and masks in,” says Carson, addressing the times we live in today, which, for her, turned out to have a silver lining.

While sheltering in place, Carson contacted the Rhode Island School of Design Museum to correct the creation date on one of her mother’s hats. “I chatted with a curator and was surprised she knew my work as well. She owned a dress from my very first season. It was as if this small act I did in my mother’s memory completed an electrical circuit and everything was illuminated.”

→ ofthebirds.com



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LANGUAGE OF THE BIRDS

Far left: Westbeth print jumpsuit, \$380; above: Palmyra print linen jacket, \$450.

N/O/W

IN HAWAII



FLIGHT OF FANCY

A chance visit to Honolulu and a fortuitous encounter with Hawai'i's celebrated *mu'umu'u* turned out to be a life-changer for designer **Tsia Carson**. Not only did it encourage the Manhattan native and her family to spend a year on O'ahu, it also inspired her to create her clothing line, **Language of the Birds**. After two collections that invoked the prints of island yesteryear, Carson's latest outing gives a peek at her New York upbringing—and that's a *very* good thing. No where is Gotham's influence more evident than in the Paperbag dress in Westbeth (\$288), a boldly graphic black-and-white print that pays homage to the famed Westbeth Artists Community in Greenwich Village. But don't think this season is all minimal. Now splitting her time between Honolulu and the Hudson Valley, Carson has included a jazzy print and even Oxford chambray in a variety of cuts, which will have fans flocking to style haven La Muse en masse. 1154 Nu'uauu Ave., Chinatown, O'ahu, 536.0818, ofthebirds.com —Kai Andersen

FROCK AND AWE
For its latest collection, Language of the Birds goes abstract with its new Paperbag dress in Westbeth (\$288).

PHOTO BY MEREDITH HEUER



Orange July Hot "Watteau" Maxi Dress (\$490) by Language of the Birds; Yellow Daisy necklace (\$138) by J. Crew; Leopard hinge bracelet (\$99) by J. Crew; Yellow Block "Dalias" platform (\$80) by Aldo; Yellow "Lilikoi" Tote (\$150) by Kaypee Soh



Vintage Floral "Shift" Dress (\$800) by Kini Zamora; Floral top handle box bag (\$3.150) by Nancy Gonzales; Red Beaded Tassel Earrings (\$395) by Oscar De La Renta; Multi "Colamauci" Sandal (\$100) by Aldo Shoes; Island Pearl Choker Necklace (\$79.99) by Macy's; Ka'u pincushion/gladiolus/roses Neckpiece (Price upon Request) by OkikaFloral



エレガンスをキーワードに
ウエストラインのチラ見せにトライ

4

帽子 Janessa Leone
Hat 170ドル A / サ
ングラス Sonic Boom
Glasses 170 ドル E
/ トップ Cirrus Crop
Top 119ドル A / パン
ツ「Allison Izu」Hotel
& Smith in Stretch
Olive Twill 138ドル
F / ショルダーバッ
グ「Porter」Tanker
Khaki Shoulder Bag
220ドル G



▲カジュアルでもお出かけでも活
躍。足元をすっきり見せるベーシッ
クなサンダルは必須アイテム。



Stylist: Reise Kochi, Model: Momoko Metzker, Hair & Make: Vanessa Li

A We are Iconic 1236 Waimanu St | B fishcake 307C Kaman St. | C La Muse 1156
Nuuanu Ave | D Bamboo Sky 1016 Kapahulu Ave suite 100 | E Clips Hawaii 822
Kahaka St | F Nordstrom 1519 Kapiolani Blvd | G Mono 2013 S. King St | H Ten
Tomorrow www.tentomorrow.com | I Gillia www.giliaclothing.com

39 Hawaiist



▲レザーキャリアーとお揃いのバイ
ザーには、大きめのサングラスで。



▶ヨガマットを二つのベルトに
通すだけのファッション性と実
用性を兼ねたレザーキャリアー。



夏の日差しをおしゃれに防ぐ
レザー使いが決め手の小物たち

3

バイザー「Reise Kochi」
Leather Visor 129ドル、レ
ザーキャリアー Leather/
Elastic Towel Carrier, 139
ドル B / トップス「Ten
Tomorrow」Riley Crop
Button-down 88ドル/ブ
ラレット「Gillia」Bralette
39ドル I / パンツ Motel
Summer Pant 130ドル D
/ サングラス Minor Panic
Crystal Glasses 150ドル E



▲差し色のオレンジが
スタイルに遊び心をブ
ラス。



▶シンプルになりが
ちなホワイトには、
大ぶりのシルバーリ
ングを合わせて。



2

印象的なクラッチを手にすれば
スタイルあるファッションの完成

ワンピース「Language
of the Birds」Tofino
Paperbag Dress 365
ドル G / ベルト「Reise
Kochi」Cross-body
Belt 95ドル B / バッ
グ「Shop Samudra」
Tropical Gangster 65
ドル E



1

スタイリスト Reise Kochi
地元ファッションエディターによる

Hawaii Fashion

2015年夏のトレンドをスクープ
最旬のファッションコーデを伝授!

トレンドカラーは白!
ホワイトを意識して
シンプルかつ大胆に

トップ「Finders
Keepers」Peace
Keeper Shirt 128ド
ル/パンツ「Finders
Keepers」New Line
Pant 143ドル A / リ
ング「M33Ms」Triple
Rivet Ring 220ドル
B / バッグ「Reise
Kochi」Mini Chevy
189ドル G



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Tofino Paperbag
dress, \$362



BEST LOCAL PRINTS

Hawai'i resident Tsia Carson moved to the Islands from New York last year, and her beautiful, contemporary line of resortwear, **Language of the Birds**, is a perfect, sophisticated blend of the aesthetics of the two places. Think eye-catching prints in an East Coast-style with loose and open cuts ideal for the tropics. Carson, who has a background in user-experience design and brand planning, made the move to fashion design last year, crafting the sleek, modern silhouettes herself, and teaming up with New York-based textile designer Gina Gregario for the standout patterns, which include bright firecracker and rustic village-inspired prints. Plus, Language of the Birds pieces are ethically produced, without the use of foreign sweatshops: The pieces are cut and sewn in New York, and the fabrics are hand silk-screened in Rhode Island. Available at La Muse, 1156 Nu'uana Ave., ofthebirds.com

Pon Pon shorts, \$48



Best NEW BEACH LINEUP

Meet Guava Shop's new beach apparel collection, **Pon Pon**. Reason one why we love it so much: It's light as the wind, soft as a baby's bum and its fresh colors are simply yummy. Ok, maybe that's more than one. But we dream of wearing these perennial sellers 24 hours a day. Of course, we know it's not groundbreaking that someone in Hawai'i creates beach attire, but Guava owners Liz House and Kai Cost live the coastal lifestyle on O'ahu's North Shore and understand what styles, materials and colors really bring home

the happy post-beach vibe. They have always wanted something fun and sexy that could take them from the sand to a stool at their favorite pau hana stop.

By using a shibori tie-dye treatment, which brings in texture and colorful noise to each piece, flowy maxi dresses, mini shorts, summery frocks and relaxed rompers get splashed with vibrant watercolor patterns in ocean blue, key-lime green, and, of course, guava pink. *Hale'iwa Store Lots, 637-9670*

PHOTOS: COURTESY LANGUAGE OF THE BIRDS; PON PON SHORTS, DAVID CROXFORD