



Durga Shanthakumar

Hand Embroider, Embroidery Designer

📍 London, UK

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Languages

English (Native)

About

Durga Shanthakumar is a bespoke hand embroider from London, specialising in haute couture, costume and interiors. Recently graduated from the Royal School of Needlework, she also has a foundation degree in fashion & textiles and a level 3 qualification in fashion design. The focal point of her work is the variety of colour and contemporary materials she uses. The vibrant, sparkly work Durga creates captures her personality and mostly celebrates different moments of her life. Her approach involves using materials and techniques that allow her to portray the chosen theme to enable the viewer to recognise, connect and experience the emotions related to the inspiration. What makes her work unique is how she uses colours in different ways, the way it flows and mingles together to create something abstract and new.

BRANDS WORKED WITH

- Hermione de Paula
- CHANEL and The Princes Foundation in Partnership with le19M
- Atelier Tammam
- Jack Irving
- Alexander McQueen
- Hand & Lock
- H&M

Experience



● Hand embroider

Hermione de Paula | Jan 2024 - Apr 2024

- Experimental embroidery
- Creating metal 3D flowers with embellishment
- Producing hand-embroidered pieces for interiors
- Mending garments by hand sewing repairs
- Keeping the studio tidy

● Hand Embroiderer

CHANEL and The Princes Foundation in Partnership with le19M | Jan 2023 - Jul 2023

- Awarded a full scholarship to attend the CHANEL & Prince's Foundation Métiers d'Art Embroidery Fellowship in Partnership with Le19M - a six month postgraduate level programme based between Le19M, Paris and CHANEL Métiers d'art Training Atelier, Highgrove.

- Completed a Level 1 and 2 advanced 'History of Fashion' hand embroidery training with Ecole Lesage at Le19M in Paris.
- Working within Maison Lemarié ateliers with Creative Director mentorship, learning their specialist flower making, pleating and plumery skills.
- Recived mentoring from the Directors and Assistants at Maison Lemarié.
- Enhancing hand embroider skills, precision, and creating a range of concepts.
- Creating a haute couture embroidered piece inspired by Highgrove Gardens and flowers from Sri Lanka and India.



● Hand Embroider

Atelier Tammam | Mar 2022 - Sep 2022

- Hand embroiderer
- Researching how hand embroidery can be sustainable
- Creating embroidery samples
- Producing hand embroidered pieces for the LFW2023 collection
- Assisting my colleagues with hand sewing, general studio tasks, LFW backstage

● Studio Intern

Jack Irving | Feb 2022 - Feb 2022

- Assisting on Jack Irving 2022 collection Quixotic by helping with garments and accessories construction, multitasking in a fast-paced environment,

keeping the studio neat and clean, helping with errands, working in a team by giving ideas and helping backstage for the fashion show.



- **Special Project Assistant**

Alexander McQueen | Jun 2021 - Jun 2021

Creating bespoke handcrafted gifts for VIP clients and working in a fast-paced environment and with a team to meet required deadlines.



- **Hand & Lock Prize 2020**

Hand & Lock | Nov 2020 - Nov 2020

Finalist for the Hand & Lock Prize 2020



- **Sales Associate**

H&M | Jun 2017 - Oct 2018

Education & Training

2018 - 2021

- **Royal School of Needlework**

BA hand embroidery for fashion, textiles and interiors,

2017 - 2018

- **Ravensbourne University London**

Foundation degree,