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PHOTO BY JONATHAN DENNIS AND STYLIST CYNTHIA ALTORISO

Summer, on Spring

Eco-model and activist Summer Rayne Oakes sees bold expression and simple classics living in harmony this season.

By **Zoe Helene**

At 9 p.m., following an all-day photo shoot, eco-model and activist Summer Rayne Oakes found time to talk to OSM style correspondent Zoe Helene about Source4Style, her matchmaking site for sustainable textiles, and her new film *eXtinction*, playing at festivals nationwide. →

What drove your decision to produce and star in *eXtinction*?

I am a realistic optimist. I acknowledge the fact that we are going to lose a lot of things in our lives. That is now inevitable. *eXtinction* talks about some of the most pressing issues, things that are happening now—not thousands of years from now, but within our lifetimes. There are so many ways we can create a better life, but we can't be too airy-fairy about it. Clayton Haskell, the director, captures this brilliantly in the movie.

What's the bottom line?

It's not preventable, but that doesn't mean you can't try. At the end of the day, trying to help is more meaningful.

Tell us about Source4Style.

The timing was right. I approached my partner, fair trade ecopreneur Benita Singh, to start a marketplace that directly connects designers with artisan suppliers. Most designers don't know how to (or don't have time to) access the supply world, and most suppliers lack the resources or know-how to reach designers. With Source4Style, we're connecting earth-conscious designers and artisan sources all over the world. Everything is carefully selected from 23 countries (we're growing fast!). All of our suppliers fulfill at least one of five sustainability criteria.

What inspires you?

I try to make fashion relevant to people who might not otherwise find it of interest. Meeting the challenges helps me grow as a human being, and that alone gets me up in the morning. I like to challenge my thought systems. ■

ZOE HELENE, an award-winning designer and sustainability pro-activist, is developing Cosmic Sister, a collective venue for kindred-spirit women. cosmicsister.com

RESOURCES

- summerrayneoakes.com
- extinctionfilm.tumblr.com
- source4style.com



Summer's Spring Forecast

Summer Rayne Oakes says new sustainable dyeing techniques are bringing fresh, bright color to the runways this spring.

1 “I’m seeing a lot of carry-over from the season before, so a lot of artisan fabrics and color. African textiles, batiks, items with indigenous flare, and by ‘indigenous’ I mean culturally relevant. That’s continuing.”
One Shoulder in #1 Stunna in authentic Ghanaian cotton wax from Akosombo Textile Limited. shopafia.com

2 “Then there’s this other side that’s very clean and idealist. Not bohemian, necessarily, but classic, simple, clean.”
Organic Cotton Box Top in Dark Oatmeal and Organic Linen Drawstring Pant from Eileen Fisher. eileenfisher.com

3 “Innovation in textile printing processes like digital printing and air dyeing (a new way to dye and print fabric without using water) enables new expression.”
Design by Costello Tagliapietra. costellotagliapietra.com



PHOTO BY RANDY BROOKE

Accessories in Bloom

By **Zoe Helene**

Spring's earth-friendly fashion accessories are inspired by nature—the finest designer—with fresh, eco-femme jewel tones, blossom colors and glorious greens.



Artisan Impact 14K Rose Gold Ring With Green Lemon Quartz

\$866 artisanimpact.com, etsy.com ([artisanimpact](http://artisanimpact.com))

This stunning rose gold ring, featuring inlaid green lemon quartz, is handmade by Oded & Ilan.

Doloris Petunia Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friendship Cuff

\$500 dolorispetunia.com

Los Angeles-based designer Courtney Price designed this custom-fitted cuff from fine vintage and Swarovski crystals following her motto: one-of-a-kind is the new black.



Sohandloom Depot Orange Cocktail Clutch

\$115 sheilaodessey.com

Sheila Odessey weaves natural cotton yarn and recycled pop-culture plastic bags into artful clutches. This orange is big on runways this season.

ICU Eyewear Citron Stained Bamboo Temple Reader

\$62.95 icueyewear.com

These stylish "readers" are made from reclaimed plastic, recycled metal and sustainable bamboo.

