

STEVEN CRISTOFARO

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Product and Materials Developer, Researcher and, Technical Designer | Specialising in Sustainable Performance Apparel, Accessories and, Materials.

Employment History

Product Development and Garment Tech Assistant – PANGAIA (*Aug 2023 - Present*)

PANGAIA is a community of changemakers, including scientists, technologists, and designers, all dedicated to safeguarding our environment. Sustainability and innovation are at the heart of everything we do.

As a part of this remarkable team, my role is to support product development and technical processes across all categories—Menswear, Womenswear, Kids, and Accessories. It's a dynamic position working cross-functionally with design, merchandising, R&D, Impact and Production. I am in daily communication with suppliers across the world managing timelines, risk assessing and problem solving. I help make sure that the PLM is up to date and is maintained as a point of truth alongside other vital documents. I have taken the lead on wearer trials, documenting the feedback and utilising it to improve our products during the development phases. I support the organising and running of fit sessions meticulously measuring and recording product details and coordinating them with our valued vendors to ensure seamless deliveries.

Product Developer – RÆBURN (*Feb 2022 - Aug 2023*)

RÆBURN is a pioneering fashion brand renowned for its responsible and intelligent design ethos. With a focus on repurposing surplus materials, their collaborative studio in East London produces award-winning, handcrafted and globally manufactured products that embody high concept, accessibility, and sustainability across menswear, womenswear, luggage, and accessories.

As a Product Developer at RÆBURN, my role was to lead and support the development of menswear, womenswear, and accessories for the RÆBURN brand as well as our ÆGENCY client projects. Working closely with the Head of Product, Garment Tech, Design, and Production Team I ensured that product specifications, construction, and fit met the highest quality standards. I collaborated with suppliers and manufacturers worldwide, providing feedback and guidance to achieve responsible design and production practices. I also sourced and developed materials and trims, and tracked new developments until scaled and commercially usable. I led the creation of a new materials toolbox and also presented it to clients for agency projects.

Circular Economy Coordinator - TYF Adventure (*Feb 2021 - Feb 2022*)

During my time at TYF, I managed a Circular Economy project, transforming part of a retail space into a community hub and repair centre. I Initiated Reuse Projects and developed creative commercial solutions to promote Reuse, Repair, and Repurposing. I created customer experiences and a community around sustainability and circularity. I designed and delivered circular economy workshops and events.

Product Developer and Designer (Freelance) - Guapa Co. *(Feb 2019 - Feb 2022)*

During my time at Guapa, I supported the design and development of a new sustainable range of packs and accessories whilst assisting in the company's rebranding efforts, growing the online presence, and showcasing the brand and our products at fashion events.

I created concept design decks including initial designs for clients and supported in the management of development and production of luggage and accessories for well-known brands.

Product Manager - Get The Boys a Lift *(June 2019 - Jan 2022)*

During my time at GTBAL, I built and delivered a broad merchandise range that aligned with the organisation's message, whilst focusing on designs and sustainability. I developed the online and in-store customer experience, managing branding and internal systems and addressed and improved sustainability issues during the company's growth phase.

Development and Production Intern - Hiut Denim Co. *(Sept 2018 - Feb 2019)*

When interning at Hiut I assisted the production team and gained insights into different aspects of the business. I participated in director meetings and learned about the company's development and production processes whilst assisting in the cutting room.

Education

Professional Diploma in Graphic Design *(Jan 2020 - July 2020)*

Shaw Academy, UK. Grade: Distinction.

Textile Engineering Research Project *(Sept 2017 - Dec 2017)*

The Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, School of Fashion and Textiles, HK.

MSc Advanced Textiles *(Sept 2015 - Sept 2016)*

University of Leeds, School of Design, UK. Grade: Distinction

Dissertation: Development of an Alternative Textile Composite Structure for Winter Surfing Wetsuits with Improved Thermal Insulation Properties.

BSc (Honours) Surf Science and Technology *(Sept 2011 - July 2014)*

University of Plymouth, Centre of Sustainability, UK. Grade: 2:1

Dissertation: The Effects of Dehydration on a Surfers Upper Body Anaerobic Paddle Performance.

Interests

Outdoor adventure! Exploring, experiencing new things, and pushing myself. Surfing, Cycling, Running, swimming, and climbing. Anything customised. Specialty Coffee. Personal development and learning about new technologies. Side projects include designing, making, and customising gear. 3D printing and exploring 3D design.