

ABOUT

With a background in fashion and fine art, Erin Shaw holds a degree from the Massachusetts College of Art & Design, where she majored in fibers. Shaw looks back to her roots and draws inspiration from personal experiences. She takes historic references that highlight the empowerment of women in societies and invokes symbolism to celebrate “women as warriors in a modern-day ‘tribe.’” The motif of the tree (“family tree, roots, time”) is a recurring theme throughout her work. With a vast imagination and a New York-hardened work ethic, she follows in the footsteps of generations of craftspeople. Family history and stories passed down, continue to inspire the direction of her work. Her interest in the creation of other worlds, is the promise of homespun myths and handmade folktales to be told for generations to come.

In her recent body of work, despite all appearances to the contrary—no animals were harmed in the making of these ferocious headdresses. Rather, artist Erin Shaw creates one of kind wearable sculptures that send us back in time to a more primitive era. Like ancient relics from a pre-industrial age, Shaw’s work is wrought from rudimentary elements such as raw-wool, wood, bark and leaves. Her approach to material focuses on couture craft, she takes traditional techniques such as felting, knit, crochet and weaving with other embellishments like beading, and thoughtfully combines technique into treasure. With references to indigenous cultures and otherworldly forms, Shaw’s collection combines roughly hewn shapes and raw textures with a natural, subdued air of primal earthy exquisiteness.