

# DESIGN ORGANISATION TRAINING

Catalogue 2018

**D.O.T**  
HAITI

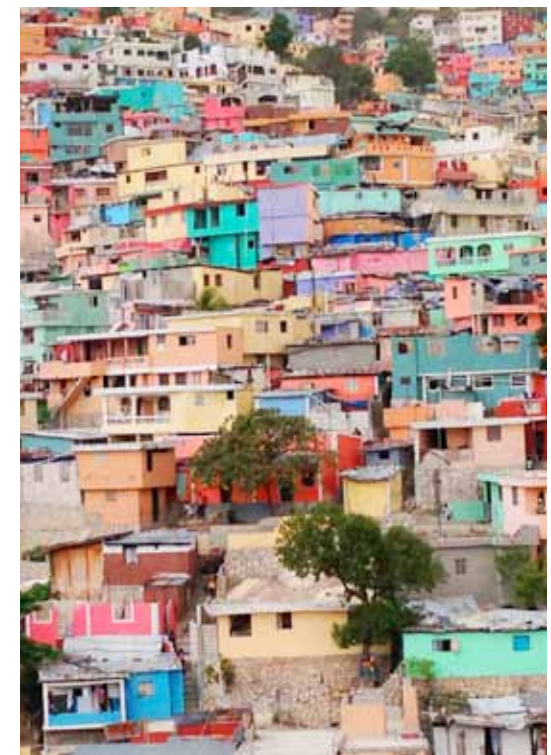
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# HAITI

Haiti boasts a vibrant artistic scene and a rich creative heritage. Whether it's delicate hats in Labiche or bright papier-mâché masks in Jacmel - each region offers beautiful handcrafted goods take many different shapes, colours and textures.

In Port-au-Prince, the Design, Organization and Training (D.O.T) center serves as a social enterprise, showcasing Haiti's esteemed artisanal sector. The center works closely with Haitian craftspeople with the following skills: horn, bone, wood and stone carving, fer découpé, papier-mâché, beadwork, paper beads, hat-making and patchwork quilting. Based on this skillset, D.O.T's fashion partners have primarily focused on producing jewellery and accessories in Haiti, and are now expanding into homeware. The D.O.T team provides technical expertise and assistance in managing production and quality control as well as facilitating capacity building workshops. When needed, D.O.T brings in international experts, such as hat-blocking masters from NY or bag-making artisans from Tuscany, to improve and hone existing skills to meet market demand.







# D.O.T

Design, Organization and Training (D.O.T) is a center dedicated to contemporary quality artisanal production and design, located in the Tabarre commune of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Created in 2015 by Donna Karan, Parsons School of Design and Paula Coles, D.O.T helps bridge Haiti's multitude of traditional artisan techniques with the modernity and design innovation required to succeed in today's global marketplace.

D.O.T has over 5000 square foot dedicated to design and training and is constantly working to take Haitian craftsmanship to the next level. D.O.T has invested in over 200 new tools to enhance production and is continually pushing the limits of artisanal creation in Haiti, thanks to the help of a professional in-house design team that provides trainings and workshops in several disciplines.

D.O.T promotes collaborations and partnerships between artisans, brands, non-profit organisations and academia to lead product development and training workshops. Currently D.O.T's artisan network extends to include the following skill sets: fer découpé, leather, hat-making, beading, pottery, stitching, woodwork, horn and bone carving, wood and stone sculpting, and much more. Since 2015, D.O.T has been supported by the Ethical Fashion Initiative, a USAID-funded project that connects artisans from developing countries with global lifestyle brands.

The following pages represent a large selection of D.O.T's products, according to each skill. Designs can also be modified, with the showcased goods serving as inspiration to develop new products.





# FER DÉCOUPÉ

Fer découpé is a metalwork technique whereby artisans inventively recycle discarded metal drums to create beautiful art pieces with a rustic and original look. The steel is manipulated using hammering and chiselling techniques and transformed into accessories and homeware, which can also be painted to create colourful and fun designs.











# HORN AND BONE SCULPTING

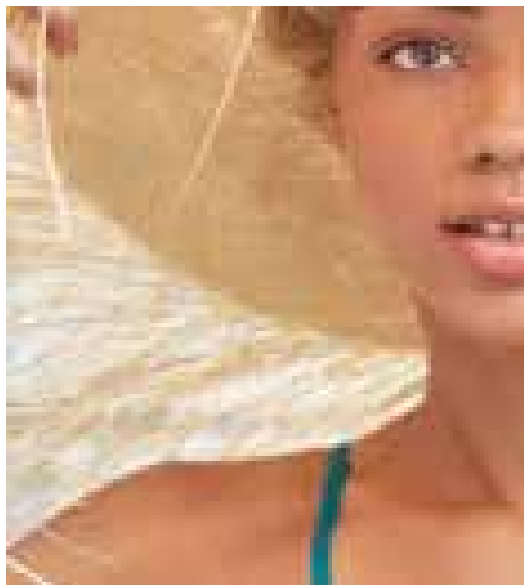
Horn and bone carving is a technique that is used to create unusual art forms and accessories, such as bracelets, pendants, zippers and small containers. To work horn, the material is first made malleable through heating and then moulded and cut into various shapes before being finished and polished. Horn and bone pieces can also be glued together to create checker boards and more complex items.





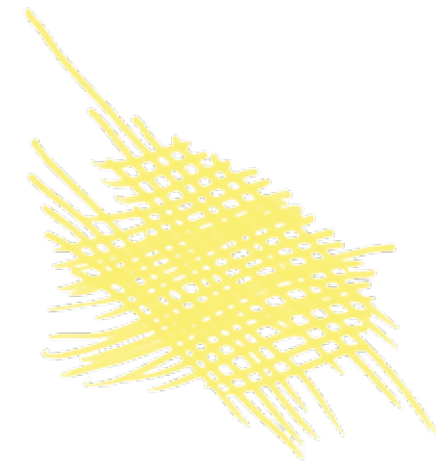






# HAT-MAKING

Hat-making is a traditional craft in Haiti, particularly in the South where villages are specialised in different weaving styles and skills to create various hat shapes. There are three types of fibre that are commonly used for hat-making: palm, coconut, and reeds. D.O.T have invested intensively in the hat-making community of Labiche, and the final products can now be embellished in the Port-au-Prince hub with hat-blocking.











# PAPIER-MÂCHÉ

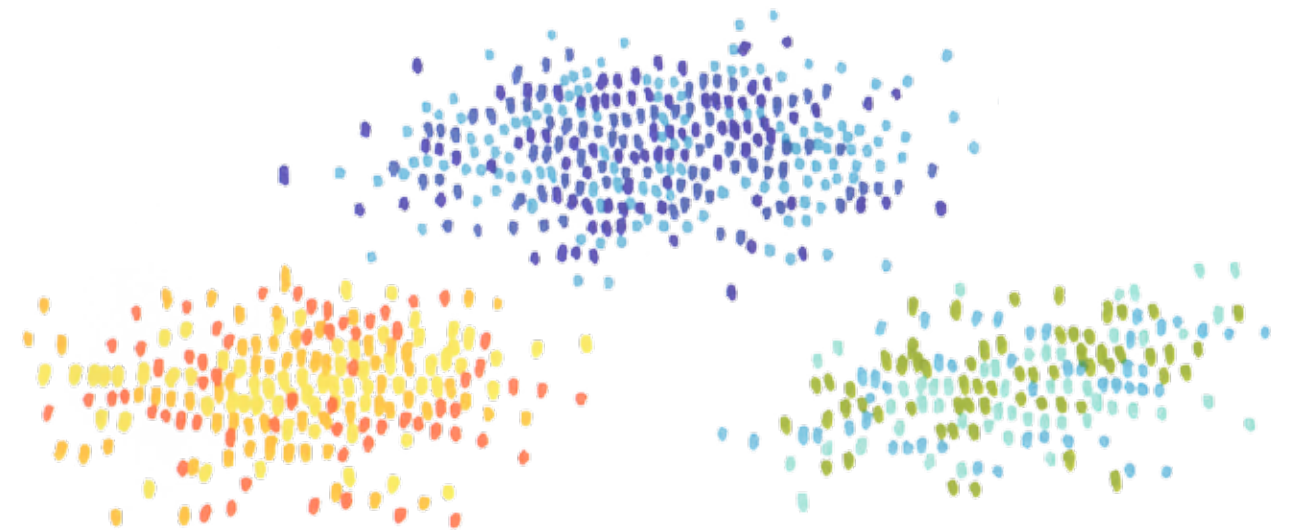
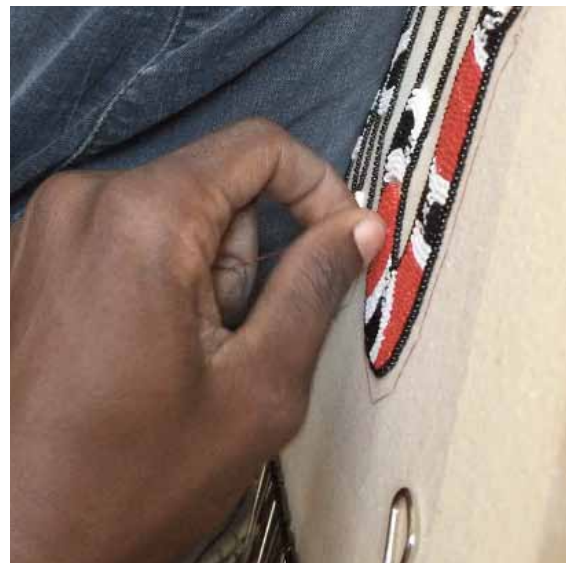
Papier-mâché is a common technique in Haiti's artisan communities, particularly in Jacmel, where the streets are famous for their shops and markets selling colourful papier-mâché pieces. Though typically used to create masks for carnivals, the hard material created using a malleable mixture of paper, glue and water can be used for a range of accessories, bowls and decorative pieces.











# BEADING

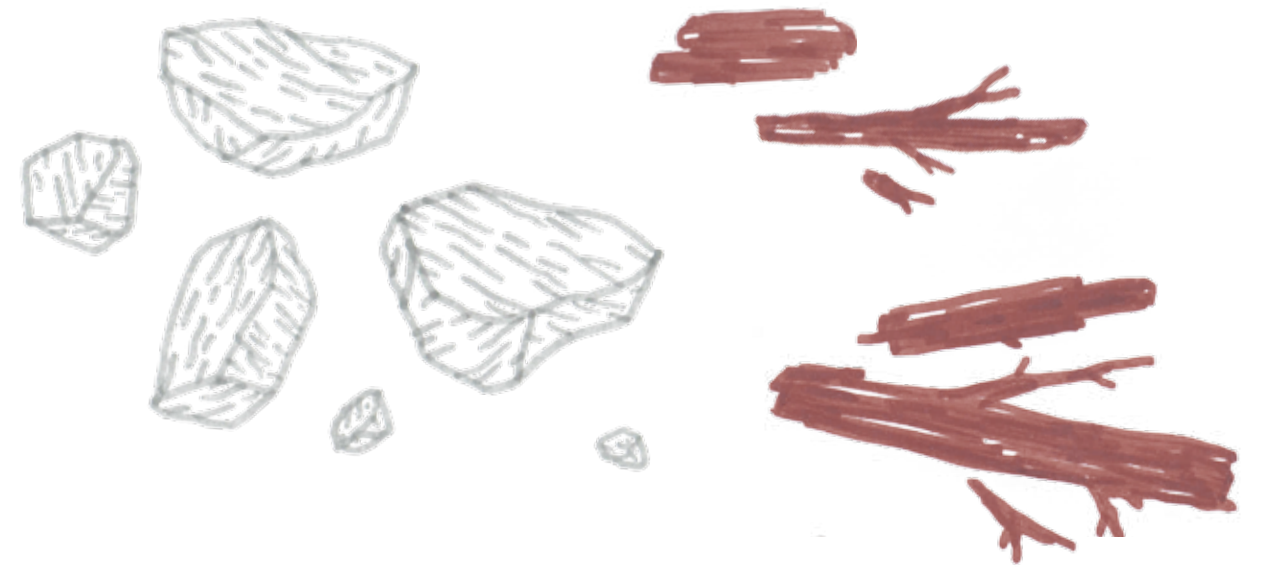
Haiti has a very strong beading heritage as artisans create extremely detailed imagery that is traditionally used on 'voodoo flags'. The technique is very sophisticated, similar to the French Haute-couture beading embroidery technique "Lunéville", whereby beads are applied one-by-one with a crochet needle. Unique designs have been used for bags, accessories and jewellery.











# STONE AND WOOD CARVING

Stone and wood carving are mainstays of Haiti's artisanal scene. Wood carving is primarily done out of obeche, a first-rate local wood known for its pale colour and fine grain. Stone carving, in turn, is performed with stone extracted from mountains and riverbeds. Stone sculptures then become beautiful household goods.

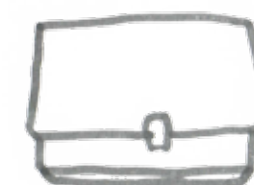






# BAG-MAKING

Bag-making has become a significant growth area for D.O.T, as artisans have become experienced at producing various bag styles such as purses, wallets and totes, in materials such as leather and upcycled fabrics. These bags are often decorated and embellished using other specialised techniques such as beadwork and fer découpé.







# CERAMICS

Pottery is another important Haitian artisanal tradition. The clay comes from Haiti's rural areas, and is then transported to Port-au-Prince, where it is transformed and sculpted into beautiful decorative items.





# D.O.T FOUNDATION

As an offshoot of D.O.T Haiti, the newly created D.O.T Foundation aims to complement production activities by serving as a platform exclusively dedicated to training and capacity-building. By providing workshops, classes and events, the center aims to strengthen Haiti's promising artisan sector. D.O.T Foundation strives to provide vocational education, jobs and growth for the Haitian artisan community. Collaboration is at the heart of D.O.T - partnerships are encouraged between artisans, brands, non-profit organisations and academia to foster positive relationships and local creativity.



# D.O.T'S PARTNERS

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