East meets West: The rise of Contemporary Oriental Art

Take a dive with us into the waves of today’s oriental art scene, meet the artists, professionals, movers and shakers that are creating art and market.

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The technological future of Taiwan’s textile industry

If you asked a Westerner what they knew about Taiwan in the 80’s and 90’s, many would respond that they thought of Taiwan as an appliance factory, where refrigerators and television sets were produced. Whether you find this response amusing or not, it was the answer you would get. Fast forward a decade or two later, when asked the same question, the response would most likely get, is that Taiwan produces good laptops and smartphones. This view of Taiwan may be limited for some, but of course not unfounded, for these were industries Taiwan has been known for. However, Taiwan has another strong industry that many people don’t know much about, the textile business, which ranks Taiwan as the 7th top exporter in the world, one place above mobile phone and computers, worth more than 7 billion US annually, according to the World Trade Organization’s 2016 figures. Taiwan’s textile business which started to take off in the 1950’s, has continually enjoyed a large global presence, even though in recent years a lot of manufacturing has been moved to places with lower production costs.

We met James and the top management team of UMORFIL at the Institute of Fisheries Science at the NTU (National Taiwan University). Taiwan’s most prestigious university, where UMORFIL has a lab. James in a relaxed and humorous manner shares with us the story behind the creation of UMORFIL. “At I was enjoying this local delicacy of ours at a little diner, seeing how the fish was processed, I saw the material value in all the fish scale that was just thrown out and thrown away, and thought what? If we can extract the collagen peptides in fish scales and interwoven and blend it with other materials to make a new type of ‘textile’ in a simple process of这首歌, everyone can be used through and knows seem to be interwoven together, his expertise in fisheries science, textile and the technology sector, even though it would eventually take numerous trials and testing that the process and formula was perfected and ready for market trial and adoption. “I love how we are revolutionizing the textile industry with this new ingredient that essentially is coming from waste, not only are we doing something good for the environment, we are also changing the idea that business can only produce value by harming the environment.”

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- James Hou

UMORFIL CEO

The story of UMORFIL is an interesting intersection where Taiwan’s textile sector actually meets the textile sector. Founder James Hou comes from a family that is a part of one of Taiwan’s largest textile conglomerates, but was encouraged by the head of the conglomerate to instead venture into technology, already seeing that is where the future lies. Taking the elder’s advice to heart, James founded Cangam in 2002. The company began to produce mobile telecommunication products, enterprise software and mobile apps. After close to a decade of learning how business was run in the technology sector, James set out to establish a new pillar to Taiwan’s textile business from outsourcing to places with lower production costs, he saw the need for Taiwan textile business to innovate. After studying the textile industry he knew well so from the angle of technology sector he now stands, he saw the opportunity for a new type of fiber to be produced using a local food waste that also combined his expertise in fisheries science.

James Hou believes that just as LUMORFIL is a new textile fiber, it’s very much a new textile fiber that is in line with the current trend of sustainability. He is confident that this new ingredient will revolutionize the textile industry and will be widely accepted in the future.

Taiwan fishing industry innovation.

Taiwan’s textile industry is known for its high quality and innovative designs. The industry has been expanding in recent years, with many textile companies using innovative technologies to improve their products. One such company is UMORFIL, which has developed a new textile fiber made from fish scales. This fiber is not only sustainable, but also has unique properties that make it ideal for use in the textile industry.

UMORFIL has been working with local fishermen to collect fish scales and transform them into valuable materials. The company’s technology has been developed with the help of experts in fisheries science, and has resulted in a new type of textile fiber that is both sustainable and innovative.

UMORFIL’s fiber is made from fish scales, which are a byproduct of the fishing industry. The company has been able to transform this waste into a valuable resource, creating a new textile fiber that is not only sustainable, but also has unique properties that make it ideal for use in the textile industry.

James Hou, the founder of UMORFIL, believes that the new fiber will revolutionize the textile industry. He is confident that this new ingredient will be widely accepted in the future, and that it will help to provide a sustainable solution for the textile industry.

In conclusion, the textile industry in Taiwan is known for its high quality and innovative designs. UMORFIL’s new textile fiber made from fish scales is a great example of this, as it is both sustainable and innovative. The company’s technology has been developed with the help of experts in fisheries science, and has resulted in a new type of textile fiber that is not only sustainable, but also has unique properties that make it ideal for use in the textile industry. With the help of UMORFIL, the textile industry in Taiwan is able to continue to innovate and provide high quality products to the world.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to meet James and the top management team of UMORFIL at the Institute of Fisheries Science at the NTU in Taiwan. The visit was a great opportunity to learn about the company’s technology and the potential for sustainable innovation in the textile industry. We are confident that UMORFIL’s new textile fiber will be widely accepted in the future, and that it will help to provide a sustainable solution for the textile industry.
Even though early on the material had already garnered a lot of praise and amazement when buyers and industry insiders saw it at exhibitions, James said he has to give credit to some of the customers who saw the full potential of UMORFIL® early on, ordering in bulk “they said so we can have the capital to keep up with our R&D efforts and continue to push this game changing material to even more companies,” as he reflects, James says he was also very moved by one official in Taiwan’s Trade Office in France, “there was this officer Christopher Lai, who actually took the time to give our sample to French government officials and industry key people to try, it was from actually using UMORFIL® produced garments that built up a buzz among industry insiders that the company started to make an impact on the international scene.

This wave of adoption continued to grow so much that UMORFIL® was invited by the French company “Lille3000” to be a part of their TEXTIFOOD exhibition at Expo-Milan 2015. From 2016, it was chosen by LVMH to be featured in their MAHIERS À PENSER (materials to consider) an environmental trend and materials library, which is used as an internal resource among the LVMH group. The UMORFIL® fiber has also won numerous industry awards, including silver medal at the Concours Lepine Paris both in 2015 and 2017. These honors have help ensured the reputation of UMORFIL® fiber, which have since been used to produce a wide ranging products from base layers, socks, shirts, denim, outer wear, bedding sheets, even men’s tailored suits to impeccable results, by some international top brands for its versatility as a material, and additional values in comfort, health and sustainability.

UMORFIL® Beauty Fiber

For all of Taiwan’s R&D and manufacturing prowess, there has actually been very few ingredient brand upstarts. In its short history, MORFIL® has managed to not only create a new ingredient, it has through that creation formed a new value chain for the Taiwanese textile industry, leading many companies to collaborate on a new level, forming many industry wide partnerships. Along the way winning many awards and accords for its technical prowess and achievements. However at the end of the day, it is not these technical and industrial achievements that the company is most proud with. According to sales and marketing director, Janis Lee, she says “is how it makes our users feel when he or she is wearing an appeal made from UMORFIL® or sleeping on bed sheets cut from UMORFIL® woven fabric” adding that “they love to share with us how they knew the soft moisture-proof welcoming feel UMORFIL® gives them, and how it feels just like a second layer of one’s skin.” Janis tells us that she thinks it is feedback like this about how it makes the user feels and enhance their busy lifestyles in a small but substantial way, that will make UMORFIL® a material millionovial customers will look for when they go shopping for fashion. Judging from the rapid market adoption of UMORFIL® by some top international fashion producers, her optimism for UMORFIL® place in the market is well founded indeed.

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- Janis Lee

UMORFIL®

sales and marketing director