

MARY JO MURPHY

Mary Jo Murphy, 32, started wearing pure vintage four-and-a-half years ago, when she opened **Mercury Goes Retrograde**, on Drawbridge Street, Cork.

“My sister took me to a vintage shop when I was ten, to buy my first pair of vintage Levis. Through my teens, we’d save for the year and go to London every summer to stock up on vintage clothes,” she says. “During my teens, I did top up my wardrobe with high-street items, but now even my pyjamas and running gear are vintage.

“The tragedies in the clothing factories in Bangladesh make it impossible for me to support any current clothing production industries,” Mary Jo says.

“I don’t model myself on any particular era, preferring to create looks combining all decades. I think I can look quite current, seeing as most high-street ideas stem from vintage styles anyway.”

The quality of vintage garments is appealing to customers. “Dresses were lined; beading and sequins done by hand and materials were stronger. You can’t help but feel the romance of a dress hemmed with handmade lace, with hidden fasteners, and maybe a little, hand-stitched tag. I love having one-off pieces,” she says. “I also get great satisfaction in re-using, and not adding to the amount of stuff being produced and wasted in the world, and not supporting any global corporation.”

It’s a vintage life for Mary-Jo. “I live in a little Victorian house in the city centre, furnished completely from car-boot sales, flea markets, like Mother Jones and the Cork Vintage Quarter, and auctions like Aidan Foley, in Doneraile,” she says.

“I think, if you’re fully interested in vintage and everything from times past, you live at a slightly slower pace. I don’t drive, I love food and cooking, making breads, crocheting blankets and repairing clothes and furniture, so they can live longer.”

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/fashionandbeauty/in-with-the-old-as-vintage-comes-back-in-to-fashion-296145.html>