

From the *Top*

Jasmin Zorlu finds hat-making to be the perfect fit.



Jasmin Zorlu
44
Milliner
New York City

→ **HER SPARK**

While studying art history at the University of Michigan, Zorlu took a course in hat-making, or millinery, that stuck with her. She began making hats for Broadway theater but soon moved to the West Coast for a corporate job with a bigger paycheck. “The problem was, my heart wasn’t in it.” A vacation to Paris brought her back to her passion. “I was so excited by the city’s millinery suppliers that I

may be a person wearing a baseball cap sideways or a 1930s film that intrigues me.” Typically, she’ll sketch a few ideas before choosing a material. “There are so many you can use, like fish leather or Paris cloth, a blend of cotton and banana-plant fibers.” Next, Zorlu creates a prototype by folding and draping her material into a boldly sculptured piece. Once it’s complete, she wears it to “get instant feedback.”

→ **HER WORK**

The designer sells her hats at boutiques as well as online at etsy.com. When she’s not handstitching,

bought a suitcase’s worth of materials.” Four years later, her hats were selling at Barneys New York.

→ **HER PROCESS**

Zorlu never knows when inspiration for a new design might strike: “It

shopping for new materials, or conducting a fitting, Zorlu teaches millinery at Parsons The New School for Design. “Hats are such a part of me, if I go outside without one, I feel like I went out without my underwear.”

—LAURA KINIRY

“Whether it’s a sun hat or a cashmere cloche made from dyed vintage sweaters, each hat gives you a totally different look.”



The designer’s Seahorse sun hat, inspired by underwater life.