

ROAD WARRIOR

Threads by Nomad brings together world artisans for exquisite summer looks.

By Jennifer Berger
Photography by Greg Powers

In late 2015, Alexandria's Christen Kinard and her mother, Nell Green, traveled back to a place they'd lived (and loved) when Kinard was a child: Dakar, Senegal. "It was such a formative part of my life, living there, and we had a great time shopping at the markets on our trip," says Kinard. "You can shop for colorful fabrics and have your own clothes made." At the end of those two weeks a couple of years ago, the pair were drawing up a business plan for a new women's clothing line, Threads by Nomad (threadsbynomad.com), using both the spirit and the textiles they rediscovered during their journey.

The new collection, offered exclusively online, includes pieces like a boxy Jackie O. jacket rendered in a patchwork of African fabrics and luxe silk scarf handpainted by an Azerbaijani artist. Also in the wanderlust mix: African mud-cloth pillows and a summer collection of clothing sewn from colorful Indian silks. "These are statement pieces, designed to be mixed and matched," says Kinard, who loves to rock one of the brand's dusters with boyfriend jeans or put on printed Thread by Nomad culottes with a simple gray sweater.

Overall, the feel and the concept is boho-cool and socially conscious, especially since Kinard and Green work with either immigrants (an Iraqi-born tailor) or fair-trade artisans in far-flung locales like Togo. "It's all about celebrating diversity through design," says Kinard. "It's a fashionable way to be in touch with and support people who are different from you. You're doing good and looking good at the same time."