



Slovenia

Topic:
Creative Skills

Achievement:
Sustainable
Practices Learning
Together

Sector:
Performing Arts Design
& Fashion

Rewoven Realities – Learning about Sustainability through Design & Performance

The Learning Lab Rewoven Realities, designed and implemented by Carnica Institut as part of Creative FLIP's Learning Lab programme, involved a class of 14-15-year-olds from Janez Puhar Elementary School in Kanj, Slovenia. They explored the intersection of fashion, textile art, performance, and sustainability, culminating in a public performance at the BIEN Textile Art Biennial 2025.

Challenge

The young participants of Rewoven Realities, students aged 14–15, had limited awareness of sustainability, intellectual property, or the wider impacts of fashion beyond aesthetics. Traditional classroom methods failed to engage them meaningfully with complex topics like fast fashion, greenwashing, and creative authorship. Preconceived notions about second-hand clothing and sustainability needed to be challenged through more hands-on, relevant, and interdisciplinary learning approaches.

Solution

Carnica Institut's Learning Lab introduced an experiential, creative curriculum blending textile art, upcycling, and performance. Through design workshops, visits to sustainable fashion studios, and guided critical reflections, students explored sustainability, creative ownership, and personal expression. The project culminated in a public performance during the BIEN Textile Art Biennial 2025, turning Kranj's streets into a living runway that connected fashion, storytelling, and youth empowerment.

Impact

The Learning Lab transformed abstract concepts into tangible experiences, sparking lasting curiosity and critical thinking. Students shifted from viewing fashion solely through appearance to seeing it as a tool for expression and responsibility. Their participation in a public showcase built confidence and visibility. For Carnica Institut, the pilot demonstrated how performance, storytelling, and sustainability education can engage younger audiences and plant seeds of awareness that may shape future choices and values.

Milestones & Learnings

Students co-created garments and a communal flag using traditional dyeing and upcycling techniques.

A public performance during BIEN 2025 allowed students to showcase their creations in a real-world setting.

Critical discussion around creative ownership was sparked through design sketching and pop culture references.

Exposure to sustainable fashion brands shifted perceptions about second-hand clothing and sustainability.

Students' language evolved to include terms like slow fashion, child labor, water consumption, and greenwashing.

Key Takeaways

- By combining textile art, sustainability, and performance, the Learning Lab offered a unique, creative framework that encouraged students to think critically while engaging them with the topics.
- Practical tasks like dyeing, sketching, and upcycling proved far more effective than lectures in maintaining focus and sparking curiosity among 14–15-year-olds.
- Referencing popular culture and sharing behind-the-scenes professional experiences helped students connect abstract concepts like personal style and creative ownership to their own lives.
- Exposure to sustainable fashion practices and local designers helped students rethink their assumptions about second-hand clothing, sustainability, and the fashion industry.

Learn more about Carnica Institute on its [official website](#).