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MISTER FINCH INTERVIEW

Welcome to the wonderful world of [Mister Finch!](#)

By Alice Wilby

Inspired by nature and the rich tradition of British folk law, Mister Finch creates storytelling creatures for grown-ups, shape shifting witches, moon gazing hares and a smartly dressed devil ready to invite you to stray from the path have all been given life in his studio. Finch often uses recycled materials for his creations, not only as an ethical statement, but because he believes they add more authenticity and charm. Velvet curtains from an old hotel, a threadbare wedding dress and a vintage apron have all become birds and beasts, looking for new owners and adventures to have.

FF – Hello Mister Finch! That’s an interesting name...

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MF – Hello FutureFrock! Well Finch is actually my surname... everyone calls me it and I like it. I also decided to call my business ‘Mister Finch’ so its clear from the start that I’m a man and one that sews. We are a bit thin on the ground but we are out there!

FF – You have a very unique style, where did you study?

MF - I actually have no formal training in anything I make and apart from a short art course I did many years ago I’m completely self taught. I’ve tried many areas creatively over the years and now I find myself sewing, which I adore.

FF – You have created a unique fairytale world with your creatures. Where do you find your inspiration?

MF – For me inspiration comes from everywhere literally. However I do return to fairy tales and folklore again and again and this is often a main starting point for me. I love the warnings and morals that are hidden in these amazingly pretty but poisonous stories. I’m also heavily dictated by what I find. A couple of years ago I made some magpies from a jacket I came across, it was slightly metallic and was perfect for them. I hadn’t intended to make magpies but the jacket sparked off the idea. I made them, used the fabric up and was onto the next thing. I adore how something can speak to you that way and suddenly make you obsessed by a single idea and then it’s gone. Currently my work is very fox/wolf based I love humanizing them with capes and shoes. I had a dream about a male fox ballerina and the focus came from that. A random dream of a masked fox man.

FF – You use a lot of rescued fabrics, how important is that to the feel of your work?

MF – Rescuing fabrics and using them is something I have always done naturally. I use a lot of old clothes as the linings and buttons are brilliant to use and help keep things unique. I know there is the whole recycle issue, which is incredibly important, but initially it was done from the love of old things and trying to save them. I have nothing against buying new fabric but I believe if you make something from something old it has a story already woven in, sewn into it and this as a concept is something I find delicious!

FF – If money were no object what would you like to create?

MF – I would like to create something really large, a big weeping fox crying huge diamante tears would be amazing! Ideally the fox would be suspended from the ceiling, weeping tears down to the floor, so that it would spin in the slightest breeze.

FF – Who is your ultimate customer or who would you most like to make something for?

MF – The person I’d most like to create something for would have to be the actress Tilda

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Swinton. I find her incredible on so many levels. To make something for her would be an utter delight! Otherwise my ultimate customer is probably the one who 'gets' my work. I don't have deep philosophical meanings for my pieces I just want to make what's in my head and what I find to be beautiful. If people like it and get something from it then that's fantastic.

FF – What's the most unusual prop you've ever made?

MF – Years ago I made jewellery and created a diamante lined coffin for a large dead hornet. That always stuck in my head. I'm making a lot off textile dead canaries at the moment, which is quite unusual I guess.

FF – What would be your dream commission?

MF – Commission wise I know this is going to sound a bit odd but I generally don't enjoy doing them. As I work for myself now I love making whatever I like and the huge amount of freedom that this gives me. For years I made jewellery and different props so have done commissions for others but now not so much. So a dream commission would be a brief where I was very free to interpret my ideas.

FF – What's your favorite thing to do when you're not working?

MF – As I work from a little studio at home I'm pretty much always making something so to switch off from this I usually have to leave the house. Even then I go to markets and secondhand shops looking for things for work. It doesn't seem like work, as I love it so much. I do love to read and one of my new years resolutions is to try and read more. Even though I don't get chance to read much I'm always buying books. I don't buy new books, like fabric I like it when there are tell tale signs that the book has been read lots and loved.

FF – What would be your dream come true?

MF – A home by the sea and a bank balance that would allow me to travel the world looking for fabrics and crazy antiques.

FF – What's next in the world of Mister Finch?

MF – Business wise I should say to grow my business and expand it but I struggle with this. All I ever wanted to do was be self-employed and make things and now that I am its heaven! I'm very lucky to generally have lots to make so I'm always busy. I realize that because of this it does limit how far I can take things as I make everything myself. So next

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a few stockiest and maybe an exhibition would be perfect. I'm always trying to add new creatures to my collection and expand my range, so some and larger work is on the cards.

FF – What is the greatest love of your life?

MF – I have a fab partner and 3 cats so in that respect I'm quite loved up. And I couldn't live without tea does that count?

FF – And most importantly where can we buy a Mister Finch creation?

MF – Here are a list of my stockiest each carry different ranges some are more fairytale orientated others are more insect loving.

My online [Etsy](#) shop. [Abigail Ahern](#) 137 Upper street Islington London N1 1QP. [Luna and Curious](#) 24-26 Calvert Avenue Shoreditch London E2 7JP. Home-oh Market Street Hebden Bridge HX7 6AA. [Rory Dobner](#) [The shop at Bluebird](#) 350 King's Road Chelsea London SW3 5UU.