



## • CRAFT / PROFESSION

Corinne HNEPUHNYA designs and tailors craft clothing. Based in Lifou, she has made her passion her career by setting up “Corinne Couture”, her own workshop specialising in made-to-measure clothing. She designs and makes one-of-a-kind or very limited series hand or machine sewn apparel of all kinds, using various types of traditionally printed or dyed fabrics.

Corinne sells her designs at all the fairs and festive events held in Lifou, at Wé market, at Easo tourism visitor centre and, to order, on the Main Island.



## • BACKGROUND

She learned and developed her craft by closely observing the island mothers of Lifou, then went on to perfect her skills by studying for CAP and BEP diplomas in tailoring at Lycée Petro Atiti in Noumea. “You need to acquire a whole range of skills before you can master all the steps that go into creating a garment, and that’s why I opted to complete a diploma course” explains Corinne.

She returned to Lifou in 2005 and set up her

company, working mainly on alterations and bedding or furnishings (sheets, curtains...). She got married and settled in the Hmelek Tribe village where she founded her “Corinne Couture” workshop and launched her own range of made-to-order traditional clothing. Her venture got off to a fine start and has been going strong for a dozen years.

In 2016, she and Marie-Hélène Belik founded “Ceshane” association to bring together all Lifou’s seamstresses and promote craft tailoring on the island.

## • INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

Corinne draws her skills and inspiration from the people around her and the people she meets through her profession. She finds sharing views with fellow seamstresses and listening to customers’ ideas very enriching.

Although local traditions and culture are at the heart of her work, Corinne is constantly on the lookout for new, different and contemporary touches to please her customers.