



## 2014 Holiday Collection

helping artisan networks develop self-reliance, self-worth, and sustainable livelihood

**Singing Hands** has found home in Dimen village deep in the mountains of Guizhou province in China. Dimen belongs to Kam minority. It has been virtually isolated from the rest of the world and resisted modernization for centuries. Recently, the outside world has come to Dimen full force and visible changes are happening every year.

The average yearly wage in Dimen village is \$1000, well below the average for even rural China. Young and middle-aged people often seek employment in faraway factories to help ends meet. Meanwhile in the village, tourists have increasingly seduced the Kam to sell their

precious heirlooms robbing them and their future generations of their heritage and identity.

**Solution** / By making simple artifacts with local aesthetics, Dimen artisans can generate income without losing their irreplaceable treasures. They will have no need to leave the village to make ends meet.

Moreover, the younger generation has an incentive to learn about their heritage and culture from their elders now. Wu Mengxi, our lead artisan has involved three generations of women from her family.

Find out more about our story at [singinghands.org](http://singinghands.org).



# Bookmark & Ornament

## Hand-Wrapped Silk



Square ornaments hand-wrapped with colorful silk threads. Hemp loop for hanging. Silk threads with golden and silver beads hand at the bottom. Can be used as bookmark or decoration for almost anything. 25cm-hemp tied with a wood bead. Made by Wu Mengxi and her team. Size: 1" x 1". \$7; 3 for \$18. (O-2)





# Christmas Tree Ornament

## Hand-Wrapped Silk

Brighten up your Christmas tree with unique handmade ornaments featuring stylized crosses. Hemp loop for hanging. Silk threads with golden and silver beads hang at the bottom. Also perfect for hanging on front car mirrors.

The ornaments are traditionally used by the Kam people to decorate festive aprons. Made by Wu Mengxi and her team comprising of three generations of her relatives. Please send us photos of the ornaments hanging on your tree as our artisans are intrigued by the Christmas tradition and would love to see how you use them.

Size: 2" x 2". \$10; 3 for \$25. (O-1)



# Embroidered Multi-Purpose Bag

## Handwoven, Hand-Dyed and Embroidered



Clean and contemporary design joins unique in this take on a make up, pencil, coin, cell phone, multi-use bag. Colorful embroidery contrasts with purple-black indigo cloth that seems to shift color.

Embroidered make-up/document/phone bag with magnetic closures. Cloth is hand-woven on a manual loom and traditionally hand-dyed in indigo. This type of embroidery usually decorates ceremonial cloth that men wrap around their hands during ceremonies. Do not wash. Sewn by Wu Xiangfan, embroidered by Wu Mengxi and Wu Huazhuan. Size: 8" x 4". \$20. (M-1)





# Flower Multi-Purpose Bag

## Handwoven, Hand-Dyed and Screen-Printed

Protect your little treasures in handmade indigo-dyed cloth bags with beautiful motifs that are unique to the Dimen village.

Make up/document/phone bag with magnetic closures. Cloth is hand-woven and traditionally hand-dyed in indigo. Protective padding inside. Do not wash. Sewn by Wu Xiangfan. 8" x 4". \$17. (M-2)



# Fold-Over Bag

Handwoven, Hand-Dyed, Handmade Button



You will never look at a cloth the same way again after you see and touch the handmade fabrics of this bag. The sheerness of the off-white side is complemented the richest black-purple indigo tones that seem to shift color. A subtle fragrance of herbs lingers in the fibers. Multi-use for the small items you need to carry around like your wallet, phone, keys and more.

This handbag is double-sided with sheer outside and solid dark lining. The light fabric is screen-printed in blue with either a dragon or Chinese character that means double happiness, often used in expressing lasting relationships and love. The bag folds over for added security and strength. Chinese frog hand-made button. Do not wash. Made by Wu Taoai and Wu Mengxi. 7.5" x 7.75". \$22. (B-1)



# Flower-Belt Messenger Bag

## Handwoven and Hand-Dyed

Walking through the village in the sweltering heat of the summer, you will see Kam girls sitting in a shade with a back-strap loom tied to their backs learning to make elaborate flower belts. It will take days before they make one. They will become part of their dowry. Her husband will wear the belt around waist during ceremonies. She will use it in a baby carrier. The geometric flower motifs are delicate yet contemporary.

Messenger bag made from hand-made and hand-dyed Kam cloth. Decorated with intricately handwoven flower belt. Extra padding on the bottom. Small pocket on inside for wallet or phone. Closes with one large magnetic button. 8.7" x 12". \$40 (B-2) Pre orders only.





# Shopping Tote | Carry-All Bag

## Handwoven, Hand-Dyed and Screen-Printed

These totes are sturdy and comfortable at the same time. Natural buff or indigo blue hand-woven fabric. Pocket inside. Washable. Sewn by Wu Mengxi, screen-printed by Joyce Huang with

traditional Dimen motifs. Off-white with blue flowers (T-1) \$10; Off-white with green flower (T-2) \$10; Marbled indigo (T-3) \$12.





# Blank Greeting Card

## Screen-Printed on Hand-Made Paper



Greeting card with vibrant motives screen printed on hand-made mulberry paper. Edges of the longer sides are hand torn and the shorter edges are sharply cut. Blank inside — all occasions card— holidays, personal note, birthdays. Suitable for framing. Red or blue envelope. Made by Joyce Huang and four students. 6.7" x 4.3". Envelope included. \$4. (C-1)



# Leaf Greeting Card

## Leaf-Printed on Hand-Made Paper



Greeting card with vibrant motives leaf prints on hand-made mulberry paper, mounted on craft board. Button closure. Blank inside — all occasions card— holidays, personal note, birthdays. Suitable for framing. Red or blue envelope. Made by Joyce Huang and four children during a leaf-printing workshop. 6.7" x 4.3". Envelope included. \$4.50. (C-2)

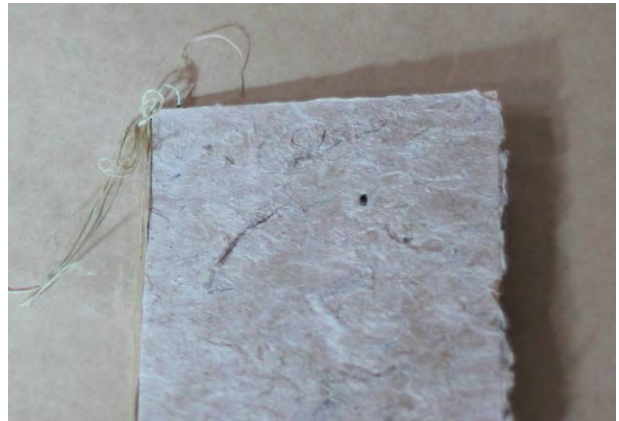




# Gold-Print Greeting Card

## Hand-Made Paper

Greeting card with gorgeously textured and hand-torn handmade mulberry paper on the outside, gold flower printed on inside and smooth writing paper with golden flecks to write on. Bound with hand-twisted twill. Blank inside — all occasions card— holidays, personal note, birthdays. Suitable for framing. Red or blue envelope. Made by Joyce Huang and four students. 4.3" x 7.9". \$5. (C-3)





## 2014 Holiday Collection

Produced by small family workshops, Singing Hands products support the traditional way of living in minority villages in remote areas of China. Following the fair trade model, all profits go directly to the artisans who decide how to invest them in their community. By purchasing our products, you allow artisans to work from home. They do not have to leave anymore for faraway factories that exploit migrant workforce to make ends meet.

Rooted in local aesthetics, the products merge contemporary design with tradition. They are hand-crafted from local materials with utmost care, each piece getting an individualized treatment by the artisan as she reflects on the unique properties of the material. The fabric is handmade on a traditional wooden loom and then hand-dyed with local

plants following the traditional and often time-consuming procedures that have been passed down from mother to daughter for centuries.

As a result of the weaving and dyeing process, the fabric is very strong and durable. A subtle fragrance of herbs lingers in the fibers. As part of their tradition, the artisans use local sources, and reuse and recycle materials whenever possible.

This collection has been created by Wu Mengxi, Wu Huazhuan, Wu Xuemei, Wu Xihua, Wu Dehua, Wu Luqian, Wu Lianjian, Duan Caiyun, Wu Xiangfan, Wu Yinnong. Additional artisans have been involved in the weaving and dyeing of the fabric. Production supervised by Joyce Huang. Directed by Marie Anna Lee.

