In Conversation with Lauren Lawrence of 'La Petite Congolaise'

Jul 8, 2016

Madeline's Notes: It always a great opportunity for businesses creatives and entrepreneurs to share their stories and inspirations with the world. I am so glad that I found this great blog and my first thing we can always do is ask the Madeline Wilson-Ojo blog, is that Madeline's Notes is your friend. We are all in this together and we can learn from each other's mistakes and successes. Today I'm sharing a chat with Lauren Lawrence of La Petite Congolaise.

Lauren, a Brit, grandmother, + introduction to your Lawrence of La Petite Congolaise. Lauren is a Brit who lives in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. She is married to a Congolese man and has two grown-up children and multiple Grandchildren.

Find out what Lauren has had to say about business, life, textiles and fashion and London when we prepared for her a chat.

What is the story behind La Petite Congolaise?

My family is from the Congo (Francophone) Africa. "La Petite Congolaise" is a French phrase that translates into English as "The Little Congolese Woman". The Congo is a French speaking country in Central Africa. It is the second largest country in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Formally known as Zaire) and is the 11th largest country in the world. It is bordered by Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville.

Sometimes even after I've explained the origins of the name, some people still don't get it, so I'm thinking of changing it to something else.

What made you decide on a career in fashion?

I always wanted to go into business for myself, I am a trained and advanced hairdresser, I also have a degree in Fashion Marketing and Management, I was also a Fashion Buyer for a Fashion Retailer, I was also a Fashion Stylist and I ran a JDC Carpet & Home and also Home around the city, Jersey Nationwide for Home Furnishings and Carpets, I also ran a Fashion Boutique in Jersey, I was also a Fashion Consultant, I also worked in the Jewellery Trade.

What inspired you to start a career in wax prints?

Sometimes all you need is one statement piece, either a hat or a pair of shoes, a bag or a dress, or a jacket, that can transform your whole wardrobe and bring life to and mood. This piece philosophy, I have carried with me throughout my life and I have always been a fashion addict, I love fashion, I love to dress, I love to see people dressed in fashion, I love to see people dressed in fashion, I love to see people dressed in fashion