

Fashion designer creates inclusive community



When Yangling Yan began creating and selling Lolita fashions her goal reached far beyond fashion. She wanted to give her customers the chance to express themselves through a traditional Japanese style known for its cuteness or kawaii style.

As a graduate of Washington University with a degree in social work, Yangling believes in social justice equity and sees her **Night Whisper** fashion line as an extension of both her beliefs and her work with individuals who feel marginalized.

"People always complimented my clothing, but when I would share that my outfits came from China, they would realize that their sizes would not be available," Yangling said.

She decided that was going to be her mission: To give everyone, regardless of size or gender, the opportunity to express their own unique personality in Lolita fashions that fit them. To that end, Night Whisper carries clothing in sizes up to 7X and Mary Jane shoes, a Lolita fashion staple, in sizes up to U.S. 17. Yangling plays a role in each unique creation from working with designers, selecting fabrics and even creating some of the pieces herself.

"As a mental health therapist, I know how important it is to be able to wear what you want to wear, to be able to express your true self," Yangling said. "Part of helping individuals who feel marginalized is by creating inclusion, helping them to feel confident about who they are and offering them the opportunity to be part of a community. I realized that I could use my Lolita fashions as a community to help people feel included."

Night Whisper fashions can be found in pop-up shops throughout the greater St. Louis region, at Mid Rivers Mall and online at nightwhisperdesign.com.



nightwhisperdesign.com
Instagram: @nightwhisperlolita