

Metrini's Angel

The designs from Batax Bule are unique for many reasons. Each design has fabric sourced from Indonesian artisans who hand weave and dye the fabrics that founder and designer Metrini Weaver brings back to brighten her American-styled designs. This much we have explained to our customers, but did you also know that almost every design is sewn by Weaver's seamstress, Angela Yap or, as Metrini calls her, Angel?



"I wanted someone who would be honest with me," Weaver explains. She was looking for someone she could trust with her vision and the responsibility of putting these delicate and valuable pieces together. After asking everyone she knew, she finally found her angel.

Angela Yap is an Indonesian mother and seamstress with a passion for sewing. Just before

the lockdown, Angel spent her time volunteering at her church, helping them with any sewing needs, and opened a dry cleaning business. When the country shut down at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, life changed dramatically for both Metrini and Angel. Metrini couldn't travel to get her fabrics and business started to slow at the dry cleaner, but both proud immigrant women came up with an idea--mask making. At the time, there was a dire need for masks and Batax Bule had fabric scraps that they could make into masks with the plan being to deliver the finished product to local hospitals and businesses that needed them.

Metrini recalls, "The only problem we had was figuring out the proper design so the mask covered both the mouth and nose while also fitting comfortably around the ears."

She remembers there being a lot of uncertainty during that time, and when asked if there was anything else she wanted to add about Angel, Metrini begins to cry.

"I couldn't have survived without her," Metrini manages to say while wiping away tears, "During the pandemic, there is life and death in this industry."

Not only did the pandemic have a profound impact on her business, there was a period during that time where AAPI hate reached a head. Millions of Asian American men and women started to feel like their vision of the American dream was slipping away from them. It was important for Metrini to support Angel as she had given so much to her dream. Angel lends her years of

experience to Metrini who blends it with her years in design school. Angel is mindful of just how unique and valuable the fabric Metrini incorporates into her designs are. Nothing goes to waste around Angel which is how Batax was able to pivot to making masks and curating designs like the [Batik Denim Robe](#).

With so much having happened in the past year, Metrini wanted to make sure that she did as much as she could to give back to the person who has given her so much and inspires her as a designer and woman every day. Batax Bule's newest design, custom velvet vests, will be exclusively altered and designed by Angel. Her goal is to sell 100 pieces and most of the profits from that design will be given to Angel. "There's a trust in business and she's given me that time and time again."

Metrini's husband often tells her, "You're lucky to have her" to which Metrini replies, "I know."