

## CHRISTINE ELISE KÖLNBERGER-AZIZ\_

Christine was born and raised just outside of Münster in North-West Germany. She has been a keen artist since nursery school and always knew her artistic pseudonym would be Elise Berger. She also spent many afternoons in her grandfather's workshop, a menswear tailor, discovering the art of tailoring.

After finishing school she fell in love with Spain and moved there in 2002 to learn the language. In 2003 she enrolled at ESDi (Escola Superior de Disseny) in Barcelona, on their undergraduate Fashion Design course. The four year multi-disciplinary course included a six month exchange that Christine chose to complete in Berlin at UDK (Universitat der Kuenste), where she received classes from A.F. Vandevorst, Frank Leder and Lutz amongst other designers.

Following this, she successfully completed an internship at Vivienne Westwood in London during the summer of 2006 where she received her first taste of working for a large fashion house. This included accompanying them to Paris to help prepare for the SS07 catwalk show.

During her final year at ESDi Christine competed in MODAFAD ([www.modafad.org](http://www.modafad.org)), winning the "Best Concept" category. This provided the opportunity to have a catwalk show of her own at the next edition of MODAFAD.

Her final degree show at ESDi, "Reise in den Westen" (Journey to the West) was inspired by Wim Wenders' film "Himmel über Berlin" and drew on existentialism to create a collection that was recognised by ESDi as the best of her year. The collection combined an eclectic mix of fabrics and demonstrated Christine's signature style of twisting and turning traditional patterns to create new shapes and volumes.

Graduating from ESDi with a first class degree, Christine moved to London where she completed an internship at Preen in the winter of 2007. This was followed by more experience working for Sidney Bryan before giving birth to her baby boy, Maximilian, in July 2008.

borne by Elise Berger provides an opportunity for Christine to carry on her creative journey with her own label, which she has started with her husband Adam. The whole family moved back to Barcelona to design and develop the first collection, and now split their time between London and Barcelona.