

# A New Approach to Headwear



A long time ago, my friend Sonu told me that there are two reasons someone becomes an entrepreneur. One: It's in their blood. Two: They lose their job. In my case, it was both.



So here is a little backstory. My name is Rika Gunawan. I am a daughter, a sister, a mother, a wife, a designer and for over 10 years I worked in the corporate world as an Interior Designer for Healthcare Environments. Not designing mansions for Hugh Hefner in Malibu. Not even high-end Chuck E Cheese's in the Hamptons. Just functional, practical Healthcare Design. But for me, design is design, no matter what is being created. It is second nature to me. It is my food, my fuel. Design is not work...it's play! So when all the stars aligned (that lay off thing, remember?), I knew it was time to really dedicate myself to a true calling, and so began the story of "Republic of Pigtails".

A unique collection of handmade hair accessories, Republic of Pigtails is dedicated to my daughter, her edgy little friends and their hot, trendy mamas who love to look fabulous. Each accessory is named after our family and friends who supply a constant source of inspiration. This connection between my loved ones and the accessories that they inspire is a huge part of what makes Republic of Pigtails so special. Each piece has its own identity and personality, complete with a little narrative that embodies the special person that helped create it just by being who they are!



Featured here, from left to right: *Suria, Yira, and Keiko*

Every collection has a signature piece, and I call ours the "Topi" (pronounced TOH-pee), which means *hat* in Indonesian. Why did I name it that? Well, here's the thing: when I was growing up in Indonesia, I was



1/2 Bushel  
Hops  
\$2.00

1/2 Bushel  
Zucchini  
\$2.00

Farmers  
Vegetables

GROWN & PACKED BY  
PRODUCE OF U.S.A.

H.D. Budd FAR

1/2 BUSHEL  
Green Squash Yellow Squash  
Fancy Medium Large  
Fancy Medium Large

No two pieces are identical, just like the people that wear them!





known as a well-dressed child. My mother loved to dress me up, and now of course I do the same with my daughter. I like to be creative with her too. However, this is not to say that my love of fashion and design focuses only on my little one. I'm sure my fellow mommies agree that we like to look chic too!

The Topi is a cross between a hat and headband. Many women hate wearing a hat—nobody likes hat-head. Then again, a headband is not really for everyone either. How many of us have gotten up in the morning having overslept, with almost no time to prepare for the day ahead? Imagine 8 a.m. on the Upper West Side...you have to be in the East Village by 9 a.m. What are you going to do? No time to primp. Your lovely roommate is camping out in the bathroom. On top of that, it's cold outside and you need to cover your head without fear of hat-head. Here's Topi to the rescue. It's high fashion yet practical and fun headwear, plain and simple.

Most of the designs are made with salvaged/recycled material collected from a variety of resources, making Republic of Pigtales a naturally eco-friendly company. Each item is uniquely designed and made with love. No two pieces are identical, just like the people that wear them! I would like to dedicate the first three collections to three most important women in my life: My beautiful mom, who taught me about good taste; my kind sister, who taught me to always have a good heart; and my silly daughter who teaches me to keep enjoying a good laugh. Allow me to introduce, Suria, Yira and Keiko. Not just a hat or headband, they are Topis: Tastefully sweet and charming. Hope you'll love them as much as I do!

Love,  
Rika

*For more information visit [republicofpigtales.com](http://republicofpigtales.com)*