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"It's very much about adding pieces to your wardrobe and growing your own collection in a way that disregards obvious trends in the market," Christie explains. "The spring season collection is, typically of my work, bold, clean-lined and minimal. It has a fantastic colour palette made up of – of course – my favourite, black, and seagull grey which is just beautiful, and then white, blood red and a fabulous wild acid green.

"As always, my thing is beautiful fabrics of varying weights and textures, so we've got all the silks and cottons and linen cottons and jersey cottons – anything of particular quality that will also give the garment some longevity and enable us to make them as well as we can.

"Finish is really important. If you want to make garments last and that can be treasured, it is really important to put that time and effort into choosing very carefully your fabric quality and working on your finish."

Christie finds her inspiration in the outside world and transforms the ideas she gleans into wearable art, freed from the restrictions formal training might have imposed.

"For me nature and architecture are the two most fundamental inspiring lines in creating fashion,"

she says. "What we see in architecture is what we can do three dimensionally and it is also what we can do with our clothes. And nature does that so beautifully itself. Its imperfection makes it so beautiful.

"So it can be looking at the balance of even a tree. It's not all symmetrical but it works beautifully. I look that way when I look at a garment and find that you can move things and twist things in the same sort of way that nature does, or the architect does, to create space and structure. Lately, I have been starting to drape cloth more and experiment with creating fluid shapes on the body."

The S2 space has allowed Christie to fine tune her product to cater to a market she is growing more and more familiar with, in a style that is quintessentially North Perth.

"I love Angove Street," she says. "It's more of a destination area than a walk-through area so it has developed a little independently of, say, Beaufort Street, in Mount Lawley.

"Angove Street has a nice sense about it too because along there, all the stores have a similar sensibility about us. It's aimed at a gentler market. It's very different to what you'd find in a shopping centre.

"It is more Melbourne style than Perth because of its feeling, it has a mismatch of architecture and old and new – there is an antiquey glass/bric-a-brac store, then there is Milk'd which is very Melbourne style in its cafe set up, and then ici et la, which is all gorgeous French canvases and the Italian restaurant. I feel it's quite different to Beaufort Street."

Christie says she threw her heart and soul into the new sense, setting up shop after a whirlwind renovation. "It was 10 weeks from the time of taking the lease to opening the door," she says.

"And that was gutting the shop to getting the tradesmen to quote and getting them in and out, financing it to cutting and putting all the production for the clothes and having those made and in, finding other product, doing all the graphics putting out other invites for the opening, grinding concrete floors, the whole bit. No days off in there. There were days I did 21-hour days and that was just what was needed.

"The response has been amazing and I feel just so lucky because you take a punt and hope there are enough people out there who understand your style and who want to come and enjoy it and buy a little. Then suddenly there they are."



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Christie says the burgeoning WA market had something to do with S2's success. For now, the label is stocked in local boutiques, as well as stores in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania and is hoping to break into international markets in years to come.

"Our economy in WA is growing, our population is growing and the customers I am seeing are generally well travelled, intelligent and looking for their own style," Christie says.

"I think Perth is going to become very exciting in the next few years. I think the best is yet to come. We have some amazing designers here. The industry is starting to pick up, especially when you look at the opening of a couple of new men's and women's stores in Perth recently, and how they have styled themselves, being more European, more Melbourne, it's a little more cultured. A lot of people in Perth are excited to see more things happening."