

Sea of Yearning

Ruby-Jean Moulton

My major artwork titled 'Sea of Yearning' is a unique take on communicating the extravagantly damaging impacts of fast fashion and how we can resolve the up-and-coming issue by re using and recycling what we already have. By repurposing mass amounts of denim jeans and creating them into an artistic garment sculpture, I have used techniques such as quilting, sewing, wiring and hot gluing.

My research project was based on finding what sustainable fashion is and how we can change the way the industry works for the better. This then led me to discover further on the negative impacts that textile waste can have on the earth and its environment. This year, the detrimental and negative impacts that I had found have been what has motivated me to change the way I think and do with my everyday fashion choices. Raising awareness on this issue has the potential to change the fashion industry.

My influence for my body of work is the environment. When I was younger, being in and amongst nature was completely normal to me. Growing up across from the beach where I spent almost everyday and hearing of the risks that could come if global warming gets worse effected my way of living. To care for the environment is more important now than ever therefore to gain attention I needed to create an artwork of extravagance that would capture attention from everyone.

Designer Faustine Steimetz was an influence on my artwork due to her frayed and scrappy works that she creates. Steimetz makes each of her works unique which is what I wanted my artwork to portray as well. Claire Zeister inspired the floor length train from coming from the skirt. Zeister creates floor trailing and freestanding artworks that are extremely eye-catching- they stand out because of the texture that she uses that covers the floor, similarly the train on my garment is an interesting and unusual texture. The major influence who inspired the use of denim through artworks is Ian Berry. Berry's recycled denim structured realism artworks such as 'secret garden' exhibit contains structural and upstanding elements made from denim and wire that trail over the floor.

The title 'Sea of Yearning' depicts the feeling that the environment is calling for. The environment is longing for a change and help because it is struggling with the damage that humans are continually causing. The desperation of the earth is reflected through the artwork title to call for change.

The large structural denim dress was constructed with a base of a discarded mannequin that was painted to a skin tone. The denim dress was mostly sewn and attached to the mannequin using hot glue. I have used the smallest of scraps by creating a 'collage' bustier top. By placing the mannequin on a pedestal, I have elevated the work to be perceived as art. The unusually tall mannequin looms over the viewer with cascading denim trails invading the human space much like textile rubbish invades the earth.