



Undulation One

Rachel Anderson, Texas Tech University, Chad Plunket, Artist, USA

Key words: Interdisciplinary, sustainability, textile design, draping

Statement of Purpose:

This piece was created at a live event titled, *Design Studio Live: Fashion and Art*. This event was a performance that was held during the First Friday Art Trail, Charles Adams Studio Project Galleries, Lubbock, Texas. The concept was to meld fashion and art by bringing several artists and fashion designers together in one space. There they created individual and collaborative pieces throughout the evening. Over 1500 visitors wandered in and out of the gallery observing, interacting, and perceiving the design process. The audience included undergraduate and graduate art students, fashion students, the general population, artists, and academics.

A direct correlation between fashion and art has been established for decades and can be seen in the influences of artists upon designers. Great examples include Yves St. Laurent's "Mondrian" dress based upon Piet Mondrian's studies of line and color, and the 1960's print dresses designed using Andy Warhol's pop graphics and famous portraits. Designers and artists historically have seen and used the elements and principles of design to make these parallels. *Design Studio Live: Fashion and Art* was unique because it allowed gallery visitors to directly observe the creative processes used by the artists and fashion designers to combine their ideas *in real time*.

In one area of the live work studios was a recreation of my own fashion design studio. In that live studio, I draped a dress on the dress form, entitled "Undulation One" as the public observed and interacted. Earlier in the week Chad Plunket, a printmaking artist, and I collaborated and created five different textile prints that were printed using laser cut stencils on both sides of neoprene to create the textile design. The prints were inspired by the concept of movement and use of industrial forms. The patterns bend and break over curves and into folds created by the movement of the dress. Mr. Plunket, as a printmaker, was accustomed to working in the traditional flat paper format and for the first time he could see our printmaking collaboration in a 3-dimensional sculpted form. This process took the original intended art form, molded it into a sculpture, and gave it a new intended use.

Draping on the form is truly when I achieve a pure level of creation in my design development. My favorite method of designing involves using a free-form approach of sculpting fabric on the mannequin in a very organic process. There are no preconceived design ideas or traditional constraints. I challenge myself to think outside of the box and approach each dress differently. For this dress, I only used square or rectangular shapes that were cut out of our hand-printed fabric. I started with a large square piece and cut away a small square, one-quarter the size of the larger piece. Then, I sewed in a larger rectangular piece into that corner forcing the combined pieces to distort and create a drape. I took a few small rectangles and sewed in release tucks to give some of the other flat pieces of fabric some dimension as well. The rest of the pieces were used as they were in their original square or rectangular shape. I put constraints upon myself that

I could not cut away any fabric or distort the original shapes while draping the dress on the form. I had to use every single square and rectangle of fabric that was cut from the original cut of 2 ½ yards of hand-printed fabric. The dress used the entire 2 ½ yards of neoprene resulting in an optimal 100% yield cutting efficiency for a production marker layout. The end result was a dress, that when moved and viewed from different angles, new planes and moving forms are created.

This fashion and art collaboration brings aesthetic importance to fashion design; it also demonstrates that the fine arts of printmaking and sculpture may be applied, or functional. Blending fashion design and art in this manner further demonstrates the melding of artists and fashion designers to find common grounds, break through existing barriers, and strengthen alliances between the worlds of art and design.

