

## Cumulus Dress and Evolve Jacket

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The inspiration for this ensemble incorporates the natural world and the Japanese word for rebirth, saisei, or to become new again. Through the designs, the intent was to create a visual metaphor of the metamorphosis in life as the garments adapt to the changes around them. With a simple unzip or a slight tug of a cord, the pieces have the ability to alter depending on the weather, event, or perhaps the wearer's mood. The silhouette is a balanced mixture between organic and structured shapes creating a memorable visual impact.

The garment's ability to transform is a symbol for nature's way of giving back life to the world;



the idea that the end of one existence generates life for another. The dress was titled after the scientific name for large voluminous clouds. Cumulus clouds belong to the clouds with a vertical growth group. They are puffy white or light gray clouds that look like floating cotton balls (Hatheway, 2009). The Cumulus Dress, when worn with the bustles tied, resembles that of cloud. Added volume can be achieved as the cords are tied more towards the torso of the dress. It can also be worn without the bustles tied in a long tent silhouette. The Evolve Jacket has the capability of converting into four different styles with a removable center front panel: zipped up on both sides, unzipped on either side for an asymmetrical look, or the center front completely removed and becoming a bolero.

Research was established by collecting images that pertained to nature and the cycle of life and organizing them onto a digital mood board. Multiple sketches were drawn out and flats created to configure proportions and details. The jacket and the dress were both developed using a mixture of draping and flat pattern making. Several

design and fit adjustments were made after fitting the garments to the model. The dress was interlined with gauze to add more body to the silhouette and for a contrast of texture when the raw edge peeks out from the hem. Waxed cording was strategically placed to allow for multiple configurations. Arcs of wool twill tape were sewn onto both the outer layer and inner to support the weight of the fabric when the bustles are tied. The straps are a waxed cording laced together in a geometric pattern and tied at the side of the bust. The cropped jacket was constructed out of full grain lambskin leather with two gunmetal zippers placed asymmetrically across the bust, a high neckline, and black cotton chintz lining.

One of the objectives was to maintain a theme of femininity while still encompassing the rawness that is in life and death. In nature it's the balance that keeps the ecosystem thriving and these garments are a reflection of just that. Another goal was to create convertible clothing that has the capability to transform and acclimatize, symbolizing the evolution of living species here on Earth.

The creation of these convertible garments reduces the need to buy trendy throwaway clothing while expanding and simplifying a woman's wardrobe. Adding an extra zipper and removable inset reinvented the classic motorcycle jacket, allowing the wearer to mix and match the piece with her existing attire. The dress can be worn in its long form for a more subdued look or with the bustles tied for added drama. The pieces are well made and will last for years without the wearer growing tired of them.



Hatheway, B. (2009, May 21). Cumulus. Retrieved June 3, 2015, from <http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/Atmosphere/clouds/cumulus.html>