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Can you share a bit about your design aesthetic and how you developed your unique style during your time at SCAD?

During my time at SCAD, my design aesthetic evolved significantly, thanks to an influential concept professor who played a vital role in shaping my unique style. My professor helped me discover my passion for sketchbooking and storytelling. I learned to pour my complex emotions and thoughts onto the pages, transforming them into silhouettes, colors, and concepts. I realized that my sketchbooks didn't have to conform to a standard format; instead, they could be a personal outlet for creative expression. This newfound freedom allowed me to create a senior collection centered around my own experiences and the unspoken feelings shared by individuals who struggle to express themselves honestly.

What were some of the most valuable skills and techniques you learned through your fashion design program, and how do you plan to apply them in your future work?

Throughout my fashion design studies, I gained invaluable knowledge and keen understanding of techniques that have made me the designer I am today, and these skills will forever shape my work. One significant skill I developed is draping, which has become a cornerstone of my design approach. Through hands-on, tactile techniques, I manipulate fabrics to create captivating garments. Additionally, my introductory textiles class introduced me to various fabric manipulations, including weaving, knitting, digital printing, placement prints, and dyeing techniques. These techniques allowed me to explore the creation of custom fabric swatches, which I often incorporate in my collections. I discovered that breaking the rules of draping and patternmaking can result in exciting and innovative garments, but it's crucial to have a solid foundation in both areas.

Can you tell us about any specific fashion designers, brands, or industry professionals who have influenced your work and inspired you throughout your studies?

Several fashion designers have greatly influenced and inspired my creative journey. Martin Margiela, John Galliano, and Daniel Roseberry have left a lasting impact on my approach to design. Margiela's innovative deconstruction techniques and ability to transform existing garments into luxurious, tailored pieces continue to inspire me. Galliano's mastery of volume, color, and extravagance, allowing him to create immersive worlds and characters through his designs, has been a significant influence. Similarly, Roseberry's ability to create wearable pieces of art, resembling golden sculptures, leaves me in awe and fuels my aspirations to reach his level of artistry.

What are your thoughts on sustainability and ethical practices in the fashion industry, and how do you plan to incorporate these values into your designs and brand?

While initially, my intention was not to create a sustainable collection, I gradually realized the potential to incorporate these values into my designs. As I developed my collection, I discovered an abundance of resources in second-hand and thrift stores that aligned perfectly with the story I wanted to convey.

I firmly believe that designers can find a wealth of materials in second-hand stores, vintage shops, and goodwill to create exciting collections without resorting to new purchases. Whether through slight alterations or deconstructing existing garments for fabric, we can reduce waste and breathe new life into fashion items that already exist. By embracing sustainability and ethical practices, I aim to contribute to a more environmentally conscious and responsible fashion industry.

