

As My Name

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Figure 1. 100 Signers in Declaration of Sentiments.

The purpose of this wearable art piece was created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (granting women in the U.S. the constitutional right to vote) and to draw attention to the long (approximately 70 year) struggle for this reform. In 1848, the first women’s rights convention was convened at Seneca Falls, N.Y. This garment was also designed to draw attention to and inform people about that earlier defining moment. 100 different persons, including men, signed their names to the “Declaration of Sentiments” which demanded a change for the inequality which existed – whilst men had public roles and had a voice in the laws under which they lived, women were confined to the home with no such voice. The “Declaration of Sentiments,” presented by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, at the New York Women’s Rights Convention, began the struggle to alter the society which granted social and political equality to women. The 100 activists’ and reformers, 68 women and 32 men, signed in the “Declaration of Sentiments” to participate in this meaningful movement (Timeline of the Suffrage Movement, 2015) (Figure 1). Since then, many people labored to secure the right for women to have a voice in the framing of the laws under which she lives (Women’s Suffrage, 2020).

In 1853, Antoinette Brown and Susan B. Anthony tried to speak at the World’s Temperance Convention. But, because they were women, they were prohibited from speaking. In 1868, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Parker Pillsbury mentioned women’s rights in the first edition of their women’s rights newspaper, *The Revolution*. The “Declaration of Rights for Women” was presented to the Vice President of the United States by Susan B. Anthony and Matilda Joslyn Gage in 1876. These persistent earlier efforts led to both the introduction of a Woman Suffrage Amendment in the U.S. Congress in 1878, and the enfranchisement of women in Wyoming, the first state in the U.S. to grant this right to women in 1890 (Timeline of the Suffrage Movement, 2015). This began the trend of granting of the right to vote, state-by-state. But eventually, on August 26, 1920, the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution secured the right to vote for all women living in the United States. As the design scholars, this design was developed to honor the efforts and sacrifices of these 100 activists and reformers who worked for women’s rights over 100 years ago and to publicly announce these people’s names, so that we are more appreciate of the long struggle of countless persons which bequeathed to us today a more just and equitable society.

The pants were flat patterned with three times adjustments and the bodices were developed by the draping technique. To find out the appropriate width and length of pleats panels, several times of draping were performed and finalized. All final pattern pieces were then digitized by using NScan Automated Pattern Digitizing System and converted into AI files to be opened in Adobe Illustrator for applying the 100 signers’ names who put their signatures in the “Declaration of Sentiments” 100 years ago.

The Universal Laser ILS 12.150D model was utilized to cut out all pattern pieces for this design. The designers adjusted the power and speed of the laser-cutter system to fuse the cutting edges and prevent the fabric from fraying and raveling. Through several tests, the appropriate settings for the cutting power, speed,

and PPI were found for three different fabrics, navy chevron fabric (55% polyester and 45% rayon), gold organza fabric (66.5% polyester and 33.5% metallic), and white net fabric (100% polyester). The patterns for front and back pants and upper pleat panels were laser-cut with 80% power, 100% speed, and 1000 PPI on both navy chevron fabric and white net fabric. The patterns for side pants, bodices, and under pleat panels were laser-cut with setting 90% power, 100% speed, and 1000 PPI on gold organza fabric.



Figure 2. Front Outer Pleat Panel Pieces without Names (Left) & with Names (Right)

The silhouette of this garment was inspired by the overalls, which were designed for working men to provide much more comfortable design after World War I. Even if the overall was designed for men, women tried to wear it and made it unisex clothing (Vintage Overalls 1910s -1950s History & Shop Overalls, 2020). The basic front and back bodices with a high waistline were created. On top of the basic bodices, the front and back pleat panels, which were consisting of two layers, inner layer with gold and outer layer with navy, were designed. The front and back inner pleats were placed above bodice's neckline to represent the robust will of women for their rights. Otherwise, the front and back outer layers were created four layers of fabrics to symbolize the firm and strong their voice against the stereotypes for women's rights; 1) navy chevron fabric with name holes, 2) gold organza fabric to emphasize the 100 signers' names, 3) white net to support, and 4) navy chevron fabric for lining (Figure 2). After laser cutting all layers of fabrics, all these fabrics were bonded together by using 3M fabric spray glue. This pleat layers expressed the willingness of 100 activists and reformers to survive even in these tough and difficult situations that they overcame for women's suffrage movement. It also expressed gratitude to all 100 activists' and reformers' sacrifice and efforts with laser-cutting all their names. The high waist front and back pant patterns were developed as one pattern as combing the inseam lines of pants with applying two couture darts both in front and back waistlines to address the feminine silhouette. To add more comfort without limiting the movement of the legs, the long triangle shape of side pant was created by attaching two snaps closures in both inseams and outseams of pants. All alphabetic letters (100 signers' names) that were laser-cut from the outer layers of pleats were gradually attached from the bottom to the top in the side of the pants panels as if to express a peaceful echo of their inner voice for the women's suffrage. The invisible zipper was placed on the left side of the overall and the snaps were also applied to close the outer layer of pleat panels.

'As My Name' is a wearable art piece to honor the sacrifices and efforts of 100 activists and reformers who signed in the "Declaration of Sentiments" in 1848 for the women's suffrage movement. Through this wearable garment, the designers would introduce 100 people who fought against prejudice and changed stereotypes for women's right in 100 years ago and also honor these 100 people's names.

References:

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Image A. Front View

Image B. Back View



Image C. Side View

Image D. Detail/Close-Up View