

**Title: *Creative Conduct***

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Keywords: Creative identity, self-expressionism, surface design, conceptual/experimental design

Date Completed: November 2017

Dress Form Size: Female medium (size 6-8) 34”26”35”

**Mentor Statement:**

*Creative Conduct* is an outcome of the final project my student created while s/he was taking my pattern-making course during the fall semester, 2017. Every student in this class was required to design and construct one outfit consisting of a jacket and companion piece(s) as a final project. In addition to garment construction, each student was expected to develop a theme for a fashion collection, of which the final outfit was a part.

I chose to sponsor *Creative Conduct* because it was the best work among all the garment produced by the class in both technical and creative aspects. My student demonstrated her/his mastery of the fundamental knowledge and skills for garment construction as well as her creative “self-expressionism” through this ensemble consisting of a denim jacket and mini dress. This sporty casual jacket was uniquely designed using a kimono sleeve pattern with no shoulder and armhole seams. Perfect symmetry of the design was intentionally disturbed by introducing asymmetric lines and shapes. Instead of lining the jacket and dress, s/he chose to use binding technique for all interior seams. I have to say they were perfectly bound and was very impressed by her/his attention to details and desire to finish everything perfect. As she stated, to break away from her perfectionism, s/he created hand-painted abstract prints on the surface of both garments. *Creative Conduct* exhibited a perfect combination of chaos and order. The design of this outfit was cohesive to her/his theme of expressing her/his own creative identity.

**Design Statement:**

*Creative Conduct* explores the energy associated with creative self-expressionism. I consider my creative identity to be one of the most important elements of my character. However, creativity is complicated. Each individual’s creative perspective is a dynamic fingerprint; it is unique, intricate, and ever-changing. *Creative Conduct* explains, challenges, expands, and describes *my* creative identity. Perfectionism is a constant motivation in my work, but is also a source of anxiety and pressure. It is the interplay of such contradictory energies that has inspired *Creative Conduct*. This look involves the juxtaposition of the positives and negatives associated with my creative identity. I am constantly looking for ways to improve my work and myself. This devotion to development and growth fuels my creativity. The excitement, passion, curiosity, and imagination involved in my process is equaled by frustration and anxiety ignited by a fear of failure. The yin and the yang of these equal and opposite energies are what inform this look and its conceptual framework.

*Creative Conduct* focuses on using my perfectionism as a strength and a weakness. The strength is alluded to in my attention to detail, uniqueness in garment design, and construction. I have uniquely

seamed the jacket be removing a shoulder and armhole seam and have carefully finished all interior seams with a combination of hand stitching and machine stitching bias tape to seam allowances and facing edges. While my perfection as a weakness is challenged with the usage of asymmetric lines and the created ability to skew the jacket with inserted zippers.

Furthermore, the overwhelming surface design, although deliberate, challenges my desire for neatness and reflects the intensity of the energy I put into my work. Hand painted surface design expresses the excitement, frustration, and creativity that work together and in competition with each other to create a unique work of art. The hand painting appears unplanned but is still deliberate in its execution. The interplay of the black and white further emphasizes the way that I embrace both influences on my creative identity in order to allow myself to develop as a young designer.

Metal elements further emphasize the role of strength, particularly mental strength, when it comes to my creative process. Metal details not only embody strength and rigidity but also add dimension to the garments as they sit upon or within the fabric's woven structure, recognizing the multifaceted nature of my creative identity. I have inserted by hand an amalgamation of metal studs and clothes pins throughout the garment. The safety pins, often used during the sewing process, a fitting, or to fasten pieces of fabrics together, are representative of my love for fashion because it has offered me an expressive and satisfying outlet for my design and creative identity to flourish.

Furthermore, I have deliberately chosen denim because of its heroic and empowering history. Denim is a sturdy and durable fabric that was transformed into clothing intended for hard work by Jacob Davis and Levi Strauss. Denim clothing has developed alongside social and style movements and shifts, becoming an American symbol and then spreading across the globe. The power of denim and its role in American identity inspired me to build my look from it. Although denim can be distressed, it is so durable that it can still maintain structural integrity when damaged -- wrinkles do not persist because of its twill woven structure. These fabric characteristics align with the endurance and resilience I demand of myself throughout my projects. Altogether, denim creates a conceptually and structurally ideal canvas for my look that embodies so many of the characteristics I value and foster.

Ultimately, this collage of design, expresses my creative identity as an intense, yet focused artist that I hope will continue to shape me as I grow into a designer and adult. And in these pieces I aim to challenge my obsession with neatness and planning through surface design and drape manipulation caused by inserted zippers.



