

Soda Pop Punk

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It has been said that one man's trash is another man's treasure. The inspiration for this piece was drawn from my travels to Africa. After a long hot day nothing was more refreshing than drinking soda from a cold glass bottle. While the glass bottles are refilled over and over again, the brightly colored metal caps litter the ground. This further pollutes our planet by destroying the natural beauty of the land and the home of various wildlife. The caps are in a beautiful array of colors with a metallic outline. It is such a shame that so many of them are carelessly thrown in the streets. In an effort to reduce this problem I found a purpose for the shiny caps, which will hopefully inspire others to create more art with disregarded materials.



This dress was made using a recycled men's suit jacket for the bodice. The suit was first ripped apart at the seams, then the pieces were cut and re-sewn in order to make a fitted bodice, with a sweetheart neckline, and edgy cap sleeves. This fabric nicely compliments the bottle caps with its underlying silver sheen. The overlay of the skirt was made from a repurposed women's jumper that was transformed into a flared knee-length skirt that is covered in hundreds of bottle caps. Each individual cap was first flattened with a hammer, punctured with nail to make four holes, and then very precisely hand sewn into even rows. Peeking out from the over-skirt is layer upon layer of tulle that is sewn onto what was once a woman's skirt. The tulle gives the dress a fuller body and allows it to keep its shape nicely.

The purpose of this design is to show how materials that are commonly thought of as trash can be creatively used to construct a beautiful piece of art.

Reference:

The complete photo guide to sewing. (2009). Minneapolis, MN; Creative Publishing International.