

Metamorphosis

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Recently the green Army dress uniform has been retired from service and been replaced by dress blues. This means that those still serving can no longer wear the greens, so more than ever there is a surplus of these uniforms, and no one to buy them.

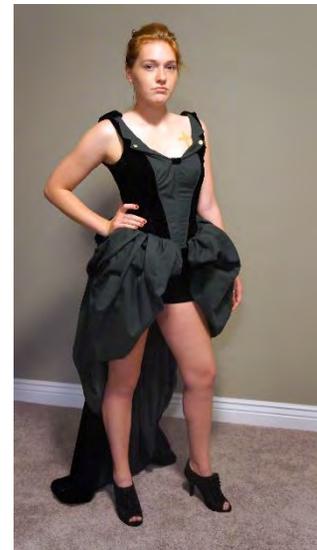
The purpose of this garment is to bring the new life to the retired army uniforms that are crowding the shelves of thrift stores across the country. Inspired by Victorian and military styles, this upcycling idea was initiated to create new designs, dramatically changed from military to sexually appealing, fun and bold looks. The upcycled design also reflects my personal transition from a disciplined soldier to a creative fashion designer.

The top and shorts were upcycled from 100% pre-existing garments with as little waste as possible. They were made out of 2 black velvet dresses (one knit, one woven), 2 pairs of military pants, 1 military

skirt, and 1 military jacket. The structural details and discipline of the military uniform were kept in new ways that only hints at where the designs were originated from. The only new materials were threads and boning.

The top was made from the military jacket and the woven velvet dress. After completely deconstructing the original garments, fabric pieces closest to the shape and size of new garment patterns were selected to construct the bodice of the top. The shorts were developed in a similar style to leggings out of the knit velvet dress. Uniform pants, a skirt, and all of the left over materials were used to create the exaggerated peplum and trail. Boning was utilized to shape the peplum and add extra volume.

This ensemble was designed to represent a woman who is willing to take chances, fears nothing, and feels powerful. It was intended to break the known rules of



evening wear and to step into the realm of costume as well as to draw attention to the wearer in any crowd. It took things that were old, out of date and out of use, and gave them new life. Sustainability was practiced by transforming what we already have, things useless and forgotten, into something daring and new.