The Fashion Student

What's the link between what the clothing designer wear's and make's?

"I'm afraid I have to say no I don't wear what I design myself. Back when I first learned how to sew I made tons of stuff for myself."

"I wear mostly designer/brands."

"It starts with fabrics and materials; it's an increasingly bigger challenge to find nice/ interesting fabrics on a retail level.
 Secondly, being a designer doesn't automatically make you a good tailor/seamstress (conversely there are brilliant craftspeople out there that aren't good at design at all). Ideally you strive to attain enough skill and knowledge so the craft and the design inform your work in equal measure.
 Thirdly, drafting patterns & making clothes do take a lot more time than people would realize, unless of course you have somebody else to make it for you…
 Furthermore, on the whole the fashion-industry is geared towards ready-to-wear products, be it luxury or the high street.
 So, then if come back to your question in relation to my own work; perhaps it's a matter of confidence. If you don't wear you own designs, one could argue you retain some distance towards your own work (a certain degree of abstraction).
 Wearing clothes by (other) designers however does make you understand and appreciate the work that goes into fashion design. In fact I am now at a point that I can use my wardrobe as a reference for my own work. Your questionnaire woke a question that had lain dormant for some time, why don't I wear more of my own design(s)."

"On the one hand there's this notion that everything has already been done, on the other hand one does strive to achieve something new and exciting."

"As rule there's little difference in the kinds of colours or fabric that I like to design with or wear for myself. I do go through periods where I have a certain strong theme or preference: I'm now coming out of my blue period."

"There are always a few items that you seem to wear more than others. Sometimes it's not even the prettiest or 'best' piece; but it's than one pair of trousers or that cardigan that seem to live in. It's probably a comfort/security thing."

"I wish I could answer that question more clearly for you, but in fact one of the reasons I am at the Rietveld studying fashion is to help an find my own voice/signature within the field of fashion design."

Joshua Enker

The Ongoing Answer

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"Things something/someone else do that I wear are quite neutral. My things have a life, a story, an aim, a personality. I use to Find the balance between these two components in everyday life. These things I do, appear to be more light-full if I combine them with these other neutral bunch of body covers. Do you understand what I mean?"

"My actual clothing design is often very theatrical, like costume, there more to   show an expression of my thoughts or to a specific theme. My cloths that I   wear are more cleanly and inconspicuously. More black and neutral as my clothing designs."

A Short Introduction

I started this research with a very different subject; Lucas Ossendrijver, a dutch fashion designer who's currently working for the french high-fashion brand Lanvin. I must say I wasn't fascinated by his work at all. But what did fascinate me, was the big difference between his appearance and the clothing he designed! Which rose the question; Why does this differ? To find an answer to this question I tried to get into contact with Lucas and ask him a few questions to see what his thoughs about it was, without pointing out the difference I saw between his designs and what he wore. Just his vision on the subject.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to contact Lucas in such a short time, and I still wanted to have an answer to my question. An answer I think will always be personal and would never have an overall conclusion or generalization to it. Each designer will have it's own opinion about this.

To be able to have an answer I started looking somewhere else; the fashion students on my own school. I made a list of questions I though would get the students to explore what they though would be the main difference in their own work; and I also collected photographs of the specific students and their work. This way creating an sort of almanak or small book about the fashion student and his or her clothing.

This is an ongoing project; which means that I will ask more and more students to answer these questions and collect their pictures. This way I will create a more complete and more whole view and a more accurate answer to my question;

What's the link between what the clothing designer wear's and makes?

The Questions

Do you wear what you design/make yourself?

Do you wear clothing that other people/brands design/make?
If so, are these specific things you do not design/make yourself?
If so, why don't you make them yourself?

Are there things you design/make yourself that you think are missing somewhere else?

Are there certain materials that you use in the clothing you design, and the clothing you wear? Is there a difference?
If so, why do you think this difference exists

Is there a recurring theme of color in the cloths you design and wear? is there a difference?
If so, why do you think this difference exists?

Is there one piece of clothing you're really found off? Did you make this yourself?
If so, why?

What would you say is the biggest difference between the clothes you make yourself and the ones other people make, that you wear?
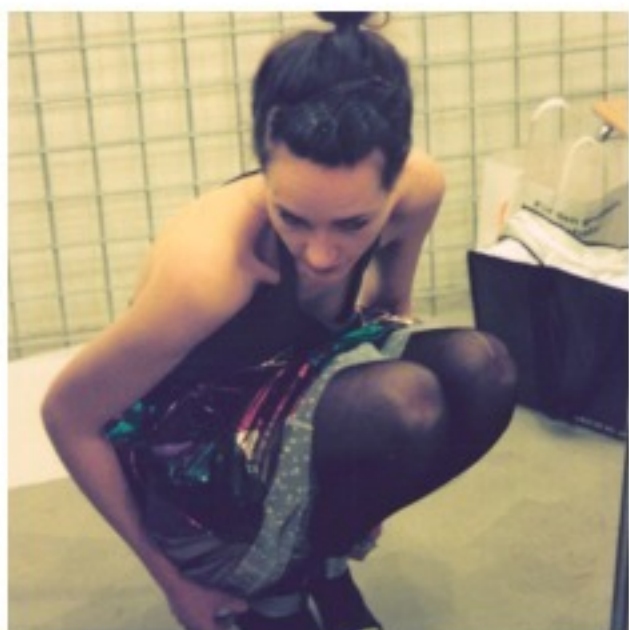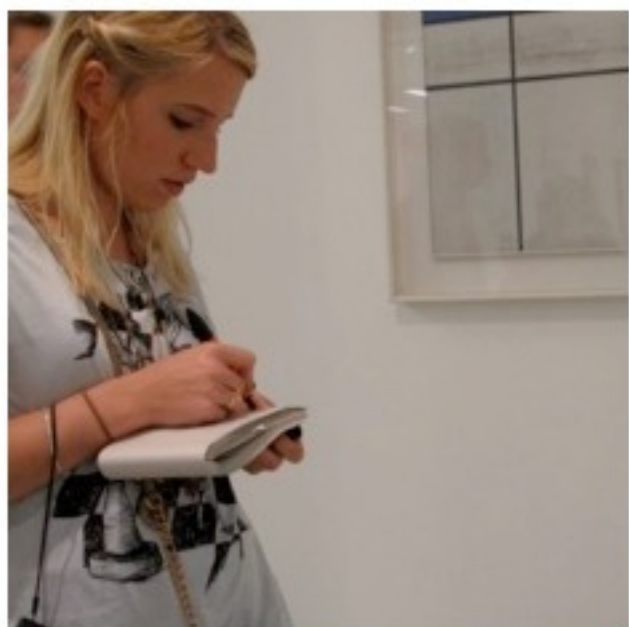
"Today not, there was a time I did it a lot but it changed, also my way of designing cloths that's way I do not wear it anymore."

"Yes everybody does wear a brand in a way."

"Yes otherwise I would not design it I think."

"Because my actual designs (unfortunately I do not have pictures of these) are not very wearable and because of that I used more extravagant textiles that I would not wear everyday."

"The color of the cloths I designed always relates to the theme that me inspired to design this dress or skirt etc. The cloths that I wear are mainly black with just a few colors."

"Because I do not want to present myself like I presented my cloths that I design."

"My actual clothing design is often very theatrical, like costume, there more to show an expression of my thoughts or to a specific theme. My cloths that I wear are more cleanly and inconspicuously. More black and neutral as my cloth designs."

Manuela Ernst
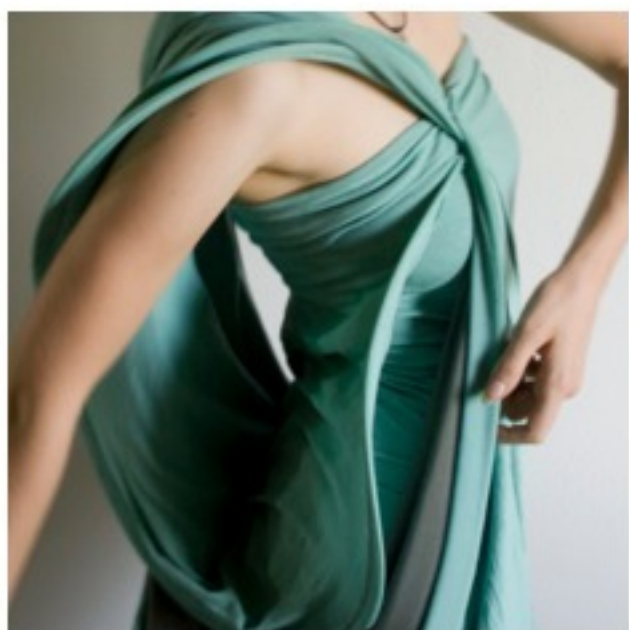
"((((I'm not a clothing designer but I do make and remake clothes. I wouldn't be able to make you a jacket(even design it).as i'm not interested in it. I know how to make the things I do, the things I like. I started to sew etc to make these things that I had in mind. Than someone liked my stuff I and tried to find a way to share these things with other people. A kind of compromise.))))"

"Yes, I make stuff more for myself than for others."

"Well, only basic-simple-black, neutral shapes, but not strange kind of design from brands. And exception for things I find(old clothes, childhood garments etc)because they have an extra value (kind of destiny..?)and they are easy to be deconstructed and modified. But I don't buy anything. Apart from underwear and collant or thing there is no use to do because I can find it easily and cheap-like a black sweater with hoodie."

"Ehe..more sensitiveness to recycle the bunch of crappy-or not so crappy but just not so cool at the moment-stuff that surround our life, lying here and there in our wardrobes or in our friends/grandparents/parents whoever wardrobe. It' a kind of necessity. And anyway is more expensive buying fabric than buying some second hand big garments with a nice color or texture and deconstruct it in order to have fabric. Specific designs I made, I don't think are needed, I like the fact that they are rare but I would like to see around more "future" (structures, electronics)"

"Well, I have been producing a huge amount of clothes with rigid structures and abnormal volumes inside. I don't wear it so often (not anymore..) And magnets, for closing thing, for metallic pins. Also recycling inner bikes tubes in order to make little bags or whatever; I do it because I like to reuse the material and to work with it, but I don't wear it. Another thing, prints. I never wear anything with some print if the design wasn't made by me.
And things I design but I don't wear are bags for example. I designed just one for me"

"There are some things, some ideas, that are too nice for staying just in your head. Things you like to share-like the bike's things. And there are also mental images to realize, like the rigid structure. I would love to see people normally wearing this kind of stuff. Would be so nice to just sit, look around and see people feel completely self-confident in these futuristic shapes. Is that i'm tired to wait the future to come. We have to start making it. Same for magnets and low technologies, optical fiber etc."

"No, I like few colors. I cannot work with more."

"mmh I don't know, now I would say the magnetic pin, magnet on the inner side of a tee-shirt or whatever and dozen of little shapable metal balls on the external side."

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Anita Burato
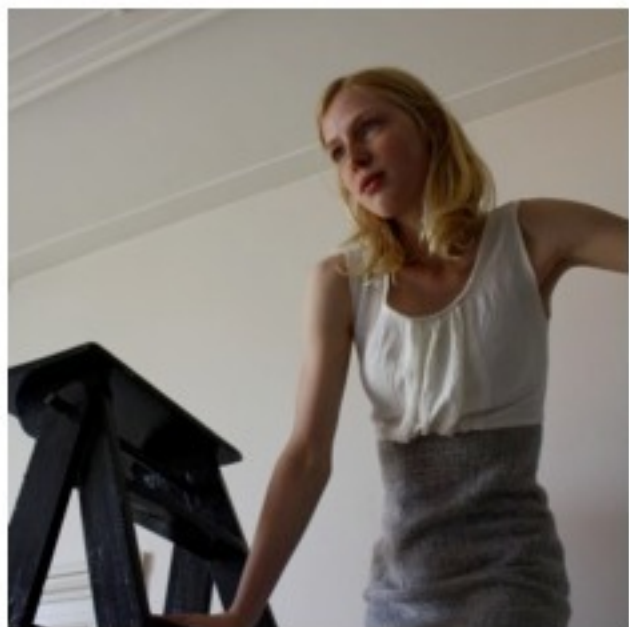
"Yes, not everything is all-day wearable, and I might be the only one who fits in it."

"Yes, vintage. otherwise confectionnery."

"Sometimes, like woolen cardigans, knittwear or leather jackets/pants."

"Too diffucult, no skills for using these fabrics or no skills in knitting."

"Yes. I like to use materials not regularly used for clothing, like wood, paper, jute, tape, robe, iron wire, and so on."

"Not in particular a recurring theme. colors mostly plain (no motives), black/white, grey, dark blue, light pink, red is the only bright color. In the clothes I wear as well in the clothes I design."

"Too many I am really fond of. from the clothes I made myself in particular like the top because it came out the way I wanted it and I had it in mind for months already (although this top is not daily-wearable)"

"The used fabrics."

Hester Velthuis