Recycled Fashion and Constructed Media Art

By: Celina-M. Kuehne

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My Senior Studio project explores how recycled and found materials can be transformed into fashion, costumes, and media art. I am interested in using materials such as newspapers, plastic bags, packaging, and old textiles to create objects that are different from their original purpose. I plan to use photography as my main medium while also exploring costume construction, styling, lighting, video, sound, digital editing, and possible installation. Through this process, I want to investigate ideas about transformation, waste, fashion, identity, beauty, and storytelling. This project will build on a previous project where I created clothing from newspapers and plastic bags, allowing me to develop that idea into a larger and more experimental body of work.

Research Questions:

- How can recycled and found materials be transformed into costumes, environments, and media artworks through photography and other forms of media art?
- How can recycled materials be used to create constructed fashion photographs that communicate ideas about transformation, waste, identity, and beauty?

Current Sources

1. Suzanne Jongmans

Portfolio: Suzanne Jongman's official website

CNN article: CNN: Suzanne Jongmans and recycled plastic

Colossal article: Colossal: Suzanne Jongmans Recycles Everyday Materials

Summery:

Suzanne Jongmans is an interdisciplinary artist who works as a photographer, costume designer, sculptor, and seamstress. She creates costumes from discarded materials such as plastic packaging, foam, and other forms of waste. She then photographs the costumes in portraits inspired by Renaissance and Old Master paintings. Her work is important to my project because she shows how recycled materials can become fine art through costume construction, photography, lighting, composition, and historical

references. I am especially interested in how she makes disposable materials appear valuable and elegant while still allowing the viewer to recognize what they are made from.

Why this artist is useful:

- Recycled materials become costumes.
- The costume becomes part of the photograph.
- Photography connects to painting and art history.
- The work combines several media.
- The final image communicates more than “this outfit is made from trash.”

Links:

https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2026/08/suzanne-jongmans-recycling-renaissance-portraits-photography/

https://www.cnn.com/style/article/suzanne-jongmans-photography-recycled-plastic

2. Prazzle Arts: From Trash to Wearable Artistry

Link: Prazzle Arts: From Trash to Wearable Artistry

Summery:

This source introduces artists who transform waste materials into wearable art and environmental artworks. It is useful for understanding the larger field of recycled fashion and how artists use discarded objects as creative materials. This research can help me identify different approaches to material choice, costume construction, environmental themes, and the relationship between fashion and art. It also helps place my project within a larger group of artists who question how society values and discards materials.

Links:

https://www.prazzlearts.com/editorial/from-trash-to-wearable-artistry-these-artists-turn-waste-into-environmental-art

3. Nina Syc

Portfolio: Nina Syc Artwear Fashion

Summery:

Nina Syc's work is relevant to my project because she creates artwear and fashion pieces from unusual and recycled materials. Her work shows how materials such as newspapers and other discarded objects can be transformed into clothing with a strong visual identity. I am interested in how her pieces can function as both fashion and art. Her work gives me ideas for experimenting with materials, constructing costumes, and creating characters or themes that can later be photographed.

Links:

https://ninasyc.com/nina-syc-artwear-fashion/

Extra:

https://www.vogue.com/article/photovogue-festival-2025-panels-or-the-art-of-recycling

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Notes:

My project will explore how recycled and found materials can be transformed into costumes, environments, and visual artworks. I plan to use photography as my main medium while experimenting with other forms of media art, such as video, sound, digital editing, and installation. I am interested in how materials that are normally considered disposable can be changed into something visually meaningful through fashion, styling, lighting, and storytelling.

Overall:

Things to further investigate:

- Textiles as an artistic medium

- Wearable art
- Costume design
- Photography
- Video
- Sound
- Digital editing
- Installation
- Projection
- Found-object art

Prep/Inspo/ what i have done in the past:

- A recycled costume
- A small recycled-material set
- A photograph of the costume
- A short video of the costume in use
- A sound recording made from the materials
- A small installation mockup

Inspo Images









Inspo Links:

https://www.instagram.com/p/Dcr3YieNSzf/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&stkn=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==
https://www.instagram.com/reel/DdEeZ6gu3la/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&stkn=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==
https://youtu.be/uj2tDW94fdc?si=Viw5x07Ejitb7j0C
https://youtu.be/_mfxn8ZPzhM?si=GHdRCT5xWpsFKyBP

My Images





