

# Upcycling Approaches To The Design Process

How can using reclaimed materials to help us to create visually stunning productions?  
How can we change our perceptions of design, and how we approach it?

*How can design fit the needs of designers without it being limiting?*

Co-collaborators:  
Professor Jess Larson,  
Zoe Johnson,  
Katie Curry

FASHION  
TRASHION

PERIOD PIECES



DOG FOOD DRESS

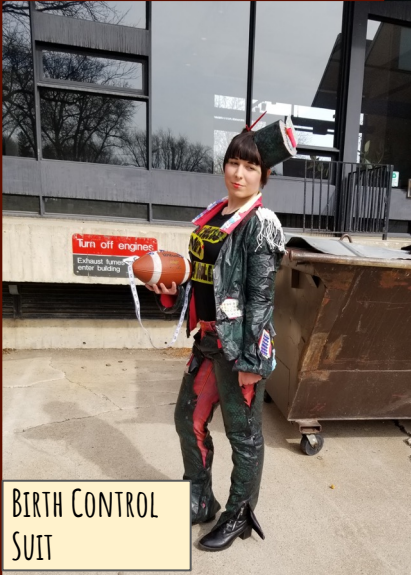


NEWSPAPER DRESS



# Upcycling Approaches To The Design Process

Students are now entering higher education with the “End Game” in mind. This is now bleeding into their creative work. It is no longer the process, but rather the finished product. In addition to the increase of educational expenses and decrease departmental funding. College students are tasked with creating more with less.



BIRTH CONTROL  
SUIT



RECLAIMED  
DENIM



FABRIC SCRAP TREES



BURLAP TOTO PUPPET



BIKE PART  
CHANDELLER



SPOON CORSET



# Upcycling Approaches To The Design Process

Teaching students to “play” with non-traditional material within a prescribed context such as a script or design assignment allows room to experiment and move back to the process of “creating”, rather than the process of “finishing.”



SODA BOTTLE HEAD PIECE

*How can this fit the what is needed?*

*How can I fold this, break this, tear this?*



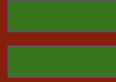
WEED WACKER PILLBOX HAT



PLAYING CARD DRESS

# Upcycling Approaches To The Design Process

*Raw non-traditional material*



*Creative problem solving*

Students working with reclaimed materials begin to develop a strong sense of ownership towards the work, not to mention their ability to problem solve vastly increases once the process is accepted.



ZIP TIE CROWN



PACKING MATERIAL LION PUPPET



RECYCLED A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

# Upcycling Approaches To The Design Process

## *Ripple Effects*



- Community engagements and investment
- Work across disciplines
- Increase interest on campus in the arts
- Eliminates the “wash and repeat” design ruts for the instructors

SODA BOTTLE FOLIAGE



THE TRAGEDY OF PYRAMUS AND THISBE



COFFEE CUP DRESS



BURLAP FACING, SCHOOL FOLDER FLOWERS

