

From Oakland to Poway, the Interview;

35. What is your artistic medium of choice? Why did you choose this medium?

I am a Personal Designer in the style of Haute Couture. Haute Couture is best described as the fusion between modern fashion, the novelty of personal and social needs, with the high art of costume, tailoring and precision dressmaking. This is the old style of clothes making where everything is tailor made to one client's measurements.

I have studied art my whole life in, as many different mediums as I can imagine, but fashion and clothing offer something most other art forms do not, movement and constant change. The difference between an undisturbed garment on the hanger and the garment once it is on the body is intriguing to me. Clothing left on a mannequin or on display can be viewed like art, but then someone puts it on, and its meaning and purpose change. Now I do not mean "functional art", because clothing and fashion become part of our personal histories. We can mark time with fashion and recall memories from certain garments much the same as we can from photos. We can disguise ourselves, revamp ourselves or make a statement in any volume we choose simply by the choice we make in what we wear. That is why I love fashion.

36. Why did you want to go into this field? Has it always been a passion for you?

As a child, the excitement and fame of the fashion world swept me up in a whirlwind of daydream fantasies. I was forever in my costume closet trying out a different character for the day. When I was 16 I began to formally study fashion design at CCAC and my life was forever changed. I was thrilled to discover that this world of fashion I couldn't get enough of, had a fine art background, created whole cultural movements and inspired many forms of other art through time.

37. Whose work inspires you?

I think it's sometimes hard to say who inspires me in the fashion industry because the "look" in fashion is an ever-evolving, and the designer who inspires me this season will leave me cold the next. But the "stand by's" are Zac Posen, John Galliano and Alexander McQueen, and then there are the greats, Gabrielle Chanel, Christian Dior, Hubert de Givenchy and the unstoppable Hollywood costumer Adrian. The "greats" in my book are timeless, the looks they created are just as innovative today as they were in their own time.

38. How do you know when you have created a successful piece?

When I've worked every angle, every combination and every wrong way to make a piece and I come to the finished product and I can't wait to see it on, walking around and in public, then I know it's successful.

"Fashion is only fashion if it goes out into the street." -Gabrielle Chanel

39. What do you do when you encounter a "creative block"?

Through study of my creative process I have discovered that when I hit a block I have to step away and do something completely different. When I over-analyze my work I beat the inspiration right out of it.

40. Describe the environment in which you work, including your duties, responsibilities, and activities of you and the others in your performance.

Because I run my own business as a personal designer, I wear many hats. I do all the fun parts of clothing design, i.e. inspiration boards, fabric research, illustration, muslin draping (creating from scratch clothing patterns on the dress form), pattern making, client consultations, fittings, and sewing. I also run the business, so I make all the contact calls/emails, do the marketing, accounting, banking, buying/ordering/ maintaining studio supplies, advertising, balance sheets, trend forecasting, and keeping the office supplied. All of this I perform in my beautiful sun filled studio in my home.

41. Describe your ideal working environment.

In my ideal working environment I have all the time in the world to soak up culture, philosophies, and art and immerse my self in conversation with bright, forward thinking people. And then go to my studio and drape, sew and create while I process what I've taken in, allowing my thoughts to work through my hands. Also having a pattern maker, a master seamstress, an accountant, a personal assistant, and a personal fabric factory would be an ideal business-working environment for me!.

42. What are your short-term and long-term artistic goals? What is your plan to achieve them?

My goals for my work in the long term is that it becomes a platform to inform and educate people on the impact of our societies need for disposable luxury life styles.

The short term is simple, have fun with my work but don't starve. As far as achievement of these, well it's all about connections. So any opportunity to meet some one whom I believe would be a beneficial person to know or a good contact is an opportunity I force my self to take, no matter how shy, naive or silly I may feel.

43. Do you have a vision for your work?

My work is a reflection of my own reality; therefore my work is literally my vision.

44. Where do you see your work taking you?

Into uncharted waters, where fashion, politics and performance have a head on collision.

45. How do you want people to respond to your work?

My greatest wish is that people love them selves in what I create.

46. Have you displayed your work in a show?

Yes, recently I had a trunk show at Erica Tanov, a high-end boutique, and I am carried at various other stores. I've also been in several group fashion shows.

47. Have you performed before a public audience?

NA (fashion is public, I perform every time I leave the house!)

48. What is the most challenging aspect of being an artist?

Keeping at it even when no ones interested and I haven't created anything I liked.

49. What is the most rewarding aspect of being an artist?

For me, truly positive response from people.

50. Where do you see yourself in 5,10,15 years from now, where will you be and what will you be doing?

In the next 10 years, I see myself expanding my company to include a social and environmentally friendly factory made "ready-to-wear" line. And eventually I see myself becoming more of a consultant designer, like a creative director, working with the entertainment industry, public relations and possibly in politics. After all it is the art of communication through dress that keeps me inspired.