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THIS PAGE A LOOK FROM THE XENOMORPH COLLECTION LEFT MODELS WEARING TSUI'S COLLECTION FAR LEFT ANGUS TSUI AT HIS GRADUATION SHOW

ALIEN RESURRECTIONS

ANGUS TSUI burst on to the fashion scene, if you'll excuse the metaphor, with his striking Xenomorph graduation collection. He's now in the forefront of eco-friendly fashion design, recycling the bits that other designers discard into bold new creations that are impossible to ignore. TAIS ELIZE reports.

Almost a year has gone by since Angus Tsui graduated from the Hong Kong Design Institute with a Higher Diploma in Fashion Design and Development, yet the impressions left by his *Xenomorph* graduation collection remain as vivid as ever. The inspiration for that collection came from the famous *Alien* sci-fi movie franchise; the way Tsui translated the alien creature's form and function into spectacular garments drew us far into a distant galaxy, as we watched his fashion vision unfold on the runway.

Tsui was inspired, indeed obsessed, by the *Xenomorph* creature from *Alien*. Its exotic, sinuous yet extra-terrestrial structures and textures struck a deep chord with him. To create these marvelous silhouettes, he used 3D material shapes made through pleating, tucking and sewing – then he applied them to the garment to create the exoskeleton details.

Tsui chose a range of specific fabrics to help create the impression of real life *Xenomorphs* (in the

bringing the outfits to life; Tsui told us that they helped strengthen the forms and structures and enabled him to create the perfect exoskeleton feel for his *Xenomorph* pieces.

The collection itself is extremely innovative, not just for its design techniques and silhouettes, but also for the way it applies principles of sustainability through the use of a zero-waste technique. This technique aims to eliminate any elements of textile waste during the design process, according to creators of the EcoChic Design Award, which Tsui participated in and won in 2012.

According to the EcoChic Design Award organisers, "15% of textiles intended for clothing designs end up being unused." This is why zero-waste is both economical and efficient; it allows for discarded materials to become a resource for other designers or can even be an inspiration in the design process. All the irregular forms found in Tsui's designs are offcuts that have been created through the zero-waste approach.

Tsui's selection of materials and shapes are focused on raising awareness of wastage and pollution and he equates the destruction wrought by the *Xenomorph* in *Alien* to the abrasive and cavalier way human beings treat the environment. By abusing nature's resources,

we create a ravaged, damaged environment, according to Tsui, so he has placed himself at the other end of the eco-spectrum; creating sustainable fashion that's innovative, eye-catching and ecologically viable.

Tsui creates all his garments by hand, using 3D forming techniques. The pleats are created using a sewing machine; then he creates shapes by placing the pleats on the garment and hand stitching them. The time, effort and hard work that goes in to his pieces places them on a par with couture.

Other designers that work with 3D, like Iris van Herpen, use 3D printing to create complex designs from materials such as rubber and metal. Though Tsui is interested in experimenting with 3D printing techniques in the future to create complicated structures and forms, for now he wants to retain the sewing and hand stitching that give his garments such a strong element of craftsmanship.

Since Tsui left HKDI, he has won the Best Designer Award in the Cocktail Select Shop's Young Knitwear Designers Contest. The competition gave him a platform to develop a knitwear collection that will retail in Cocktail Select Shop later this year. It's the perfect first step for a young Hong Kong designer who has already set a clear direction for his work and his brand's aesthetics.

Tsui is currently studying at Nottingham Trent University for his Bachelor with Honours Degree in Arts and Fashion Design. He's also looking forward to a new venture at the end of this year, working in London with the renowned Upcycling Fashion Designer Orsola de Castro. The future of fashion is sure to include far more upcycling and less waste and Tsui seems destined to play an important role in making that happen. 



guise of catwalk models) using neoprene, organza and PVC. Neoprene is related to synthetic rubber, mostly used for laptop sleeves and orthopaedic braces. Organza is a thin and sheer fabric and PVC stands for plastic polyvinyl chloride, commonly referred to as vinyl. All these materials played a key role in

