Senior Project proposal

Driving question: How can I reduce the amount of textile waste by upcycling?

Summary

I've loved to sew for most of my life. When I was younger I used to sew doll clothing for barbies or American girl dolls with the old sewing machine my mom bought for $60 at Walmart. At first I never made clothing for myself because I thought it was too hard. But just recently I started to experiment with sewing clothing for myself and others and I've realized that I really enjoy it. I have also been going to thrift stores to buy clothing for a long time. I've learned about the textile waste problem as well and I thought it would be very interesting and fun to figure out some ways on how I can help the problem.

My senior project is about upcycling clothing. I'm planning on making many different pieces and designs from second hand clothing and fabric. I want to show people that it is possible to upcycle any type of clothing item. I also want to make a website where I can show the process that I went through to create the clothing. I am planning on adding pictures and instructions to the website so that all the techniques I use will be able to be used by others. I also want to give people some information on fast fashion and textile waste.

Some examples of what I would be doing is sewing different scraps on a shirt to create a cool design, or I could take an oversized hoodie and make it into a pair of shorts and a sports bra. Another example would be taking a bunch of different colored shirts and cutting them up and sewing them together to make a patchwork shirt. I will also be altering the clothing using things like dye and paint as well. I also want to do some more simple designs to show people that it's possible to upcycle your own old clothing.

Growth and Learning Potential

This project would help me get more experience with sewing clothing and designing clothing. I really want to focus on making some cool and interesting pieces where I can build my skills but also have fun making them. Skills like, creating a garment from scratch, fitting the garment to myself, painting on clothing, making it look professional, and also screen printing onto tee-shirts. I want to make sure when I'm not particularly motivated to still go through with the work and get it done. I'm also going to have to design the whole website so that it's visually appealing but also easy to use. I'm also going to have to find an effective way to share the information in a professional way.

Limitations

There might be a problem concerning the bulk of the project. I may not be doing enough to suffice for a senior project. If that were the case I would make sure to have 20-30 different clothing pieces where I can show the processes and instructions. Some pieces will be more simple then others but most of the pieces will take at least 5 hours each some even more. If having just a website isn't enough I would be willing to present in front of some advisors to share about fast fashion and textile waste.

Resources and budget

Anything I'm going to use to upcycle the clothing is going to be cheap at a thrift store or a fabric store. The clothing I'm going to be using will either be donated to me by friends or bought for cheap at a local thrift store. I don't need any money but I will say that my budget for all the items will be $100. And I don't think I'll even need that much.

Final delivery

The final thing I am going to have is a website with all the clothing and information on it. I want to have at least 25 pieces on the website before the deadline. I also want to have detailed descriptions on how I made each piece as well as a section on fast fashion and textile waste. I will have a large section of the website about fast fashion and textile waste and what people can do to help. I want to have different categories of difficulty levels and skills to add to my website. For example I could make a garment that uses only scrap textile materials or have one that I didn't use any sewing on.

Timeline:

(This is not including thing that we will do in senior seminar)

Aug 29th-Sep 3th 2021

- Finish final proposal
- Write one page proposal
- Figure out more ideas for upcycling

Sep 6th-Sep 10th

- Pick up some clothing for upcycling

Sep 13th-Sep 17th

- Figure out the designs I want
- Finish sorting out what clothing I need and have.

Sep 20th-Sep 24th

- Figure out what website creator I want to use
- Braistore ideas for the sewing

Sep 27th-Oct 1st

- Make sure I have all the materials to start on the pieces

- Create the website and get familiar with it

Oct 4th- 8th

- Start on the textile waste information
- Plan 5 pieces

Oct 11th-15th

- Create 2 pieces
- Plan 5 pieces
- Work on textile waste portion

Oct 18th-22nd

- Create 2 pieces
- Plan 5 pieces
- Finish textile waste portion
- Start putting finished clothing items on the website

Oct 25th-29th

- Create 2 pieces
- Plan 5 pieces
- Make sure to have the layout corect

Nov 1st-5th

- Create 2 pieces
- Plan last 5 pieces
- Put pieces on website

Nov 8th-12th

- Create 2 pieces
- Put pieces on website

Nov 15th-19th

- Create 2 pieces
- Put pieces on website

Nov 22nd-26th

- Create 2 pieces
- Put pieces on website

Nov 29th- Dec 3rd

- Create 2 pieces

Dec 6th-10th

- Finish putting pieces on website
- Create 2 pieces

Dec 13th-17th

- Make sure I have all the photos and information on the website
- Create 2 pieces

Dec 20th-24th

- Create 2 piece
- Have website relatively finished

Jan 10th-14th

- Create 1 piece
- Add one piece onto website

Jan 17th-21st

- Create 2 pieces
- Final 2 pieces added to the website

Jan 24th-28th

- Final touches on the website

Jan 31st-Feb 4th

-Have a website with 25 clothing pieces and detailed descriptions on each clothing item and information about fast fashion and such.