

Bethany Cordwell – Waste Age

Waste Age focuses on wastage within the fashion industry, paying particular attention to the excessive consumption of fast fashion.

The entire collection is made from 100% recycled items. These items have been sourced, donated, and transformed to create each individual look. Ikea bags discarded work uniforms, laminator off-cuts and old bedding are just some of the raw materials that have been strategically manipulated to create this collection.

Waste Age features monstrous creatures that represent the “monsters” fast fashion consumers have become, whilst each wearable counterpart showcases a version that can be worn and incorporated into your evolving environmentally conscious wardrobe.

JKHenshaw, Obi Herron and Sunday Smith - *Hanging by a Thread*

Commissioned and created to coincide with Melbourne Fashion Week 2022, this art video invites viewers to consider the ecological and social justice consequences of fashion.

As angels warn of danger and protect the vulnerable, the ***Climate Guardian*** silently witnesses. Her presence is a reminder of the urgency of the Climate Emergency and the interconnected causes and solutions. Natural forests are precious habitats, water catchments and carbon stores. Their stabilising role is invaluable.

We must all become ‘climate guardians’ protecting the natural world like our life depends on it.

We focused on fashion designers A.BCH and MMSÖHN because they follow transparent processes. They **care** about the future health of the fashion industry. As consumers, choosing designers committed to sustainability is one of the many ethical choices we can make.

Jill Johanson – *Resource not waste*

The red dress and yellow petal cape are both made from up cycled jumpers. I gather up jumpers from op shops and cut them up and make a patchwork. It’s a time-consuming process, cutting the jumpers up, creating the form the fabric will take, sewing, overlocking and top stitching every seam to create the fabric from which the garment will be made, but it’s enormously satisfying ... knowing I’m creating a truly unique garment and not contributing to the capitalist system gives me the warm fuzzies. I use as much of the jumpers as I can, including the ribbed cuffs, hems, and necklines. I love the mix of shades of colour and the different textures of the various jumpers. The dress is so comfortable, it’s like wearing a hug.

The cape shape is somewhere between a petal and a cocoon. It sits comfortably across the shoulders keeping the wearer warm whilst leaving the hands free. It’s great over a gorgeous frock but also with jeans and a tee. The yellow is a ray of sunshine and sitting atop the red dress creates a striking silhouette.

Kit Willow - KITX

Kit asked herself how can I add value and be a positive force for the future of the planet in this critical moment in our history? “When I started KITX in 2014, I wanted to create a brand with a purpose beyond making women look and feel beautiful. I set out to create a brand that considers planetary impact over profit in every decision made—a brand that engineers each garment with consciously sourced materials so that not only is it kind in its creation, but also that it wears well and cares well and breaks down completely back into earth or water, if ever disposed. Garments like a shirtdress made with organic hemp that requires no insecticides or pesticides and very little water to grow, with buttons carved from a corozo nut, an organic cotton care label, and a KITX label from linen. Without this driving purpose I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing. But is it enough?

The fashion industry is a huge polluter, estimated to be the second or third largest behind oil, with an estimated 70% of this impact coming from the material sourcing stage. It is critical to raise awareness and so we are empowered to make conscious choices which will lead to the movement t we need to see.

Serap Osman - *Hands All Over*

This collection is a comment on how convenience, industrialisation and modern materials are impacting the natural world.

In today's world, it is virtually impossible to live without plastics. As a photographer, I am acutely aware of the fact given the materials used in contemporary lenses, cameras, computers and so on invariably contain more and more plastic. The transition away from metals and more traditional construction materials has happened in plain sight yet seems to have somehow crept up on us. Perhaps this simply reflects the apathy out there in the community.

Given the relatively recent invention and mass production of plastics, virtually every piece of plastic ever made still exists in one form or another. Plastics can take 500 – 1,000 years to degrade, meaning the litter found in these otherwise pristine landscapes will likely outlive the natural aspects of the landscape, and indeed us.

Items like plastic bags, plastic containers and coffee cups are typically disposed of after being used only once. Sadly, a huge proportion of this waste from our plastic addiction finds its way into our rivers, streams, oceans, and nature reserves. It is estimated that by 2050 that the amount of plastic found in our oceans and waterways will vastly outweigh that of the fish and coral.

While shooting the series I was determined to show that plastic can be reused or recycled and serve purposes other than as single use packaging. Inspired by the years I've spent working in the fashion industry, I started to create garments out of plastic waste products including a pompom dress made using plastic shopping bags, a dress made from bubble wrap and a wearable sphere made from discarded milk bottle tops. All the items worn in the photographs have been painstakingly made by hand.

CLIMARTE gratefully acknowledges the Australia Council for the Arts, City of Yarra and Melbourne Fashion Week for their generous support.

