

## Eleven Collections by Emerging Fashion Designers at CCA Showcased in One-Night-Only Event at SOMArts

Featured through both fashion show and installation:  
works celebrate conceptual design, individual experience, and  
diversity

May 11, 2018



**San Francisco, CA—April 16, 2018**—This May, the CCA Fashion Experience 2018 will debut 11 professionally juried thesis collections from graduating students in the school’s Fashion Design program. The students will present their work through both fashion show and—for the first time—installations that frame their collections with artistic vignettes and speak directly to their design narratives. Utilizing street-cast models, the show will reflect the diversity of the Bay Area as well as global contributions to fashion.

“We are proud to celebrate these newest voices in the fashion world with a cutting-edge, interactive installation experience,” says new program chair and pioneer of sustainable fashion design Lynda Grose. “This year’s Fashion Experience addresses the relationship between fashion, culture, and social identities while debuting this next generation of audacious designers.”

The free and public event will kick off with a presentation of the collections and will then open up into individual showcases with the designers and their models.

Audiences will also be invited to experience and interact with the student installations—providing deeper engagement with both the designers' collections and their processes.

Themes explored through this year's student work are deeply personal and intimate, explore individuality, and champion diversity of experience. Examples include: the use of clothing as a form of protection and concealment, the search for individual identity, displacement and the loss of home, celebration of ancestry, and more. The graduating students presented in the show have worked collaboratively to problem solve on a range of challenges—from experimental fabric developments to virtual reality to new dressing and construction systems.

One-of-a-kind prototype samples of the fashion designers' works will also be available for purchase.

CCA Fashion Experience 2018 is part of a series of events and exhibitions organized by the college to celebrate the work of its graduating students across all disciplines from May 10 through 13. The series features the school's annual Commencement Exhibition—an expansive and interdisciplinary showcase of work by graduating students across all disciplines on the college's San Francisco campus, as well as additional exhibitions and events held at locations in the surrounding neighborhoods. For more information on the college's end-of-year programming, go to: [cca.edu/2018](http://cca.edu/2018).

CCA Fashion Experience 2018 is produced by associate professor and chair of Fashion Design Lynda Grose and lecturer of Fashion Design Jarred Garza and curated by professor of Industrial Design Mara Holt Skov.

### **CCA Fashion Experience 2018**

Friday, May 11, 2018

SOMArts (934 Brannan Street, San Francisco CA 94103)

Free and open to the public beginning at 7:30pm

VIP program, including free wine and beer, begins at 5:30pm.

More information can be found online here: [cca.edu/fashion2018](http://cca.edu/fashion2018)

### **About CCA Fashion Design Program**

Established in 1996, CCA's Fashion Design program is an idea-driven, craft-based BFA program that emphasizes authentic conceptual development, risk taking, and skills of fashion practice. The mission of the program is to produce designers with an authentic point of view able to work across disciplines and contribute to fashion as a reflection of society and culture.

Students develop technical expertise in traditional and cross discipline form, finding methods that range from tailoring and draping to laser cutting, routing, and molding. All CCA Fashion Design students graduate with skills to take on the challenges of sustainability through creative design interventions. Alumni of the program work in a range of positions with the industry for companies and designers, such as John Varvatos, Ralph Lauren, Narciso Rodriguez, Badgley Mischka, Thom Browne, Viktor & Rolf, Libertine, Athleta, Abercrombie & Fitch, Gap Inc., Gymboree, J. Crew /Madewell, Levi Strauss & Co, TIBI, Nike, and C2C Institute. Many have also gone on to develop their own companies in the United States and abroad.

### **About California College of the Arts**

Founded in 1907, California College of the Arts (CCA) educates students to shape culture and society through the practice and critical study of art, architecture, design, and writing. Benefitting from its San Francisco Bay Area location, the college prepares students for lifelong creative work by cultivating innovation, community engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

CCA offers a rich curriculum of 22 undergraduate and 11 graduate programs in art, design, architecture, and writing taught by a faculty of expert practitioners, and attracts promising students from across the United States and from 55 countries around the world. Graduates are highly sought-after by companies such as Pixar/Disney, Apple, Intel, Facebook, Gensler, Google, IDEO, Autodesk, Mattel, and Nike, and many have launched their own successful businesses.

CCA is creating a new, expanded college campus at its current site in San Francisco that will open during the 2021–2022 academic year. Spearheaded by Studio Gang architects, the new campus design will be a model of [sustainable construction and practice](#); will unite the college's programs in art, crafts, design, architecture, and writing in one location to create new adjacencies and interactions; and will provide [more student housing](#) than ever before.

For more information, visit [cca.edu](http://cca.edu)

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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