Student Presentations
Hannah Doster, Marissa Cardullo, Alaina Cardillo, and Allyson Conway
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Summary by MacKenzie Cahoone

Four students presented their semester-long research findings pertaining to both the art and science of fashion. Hannah Doster and Marissa Cardullo investigated the influences of art on fashion. Hannah and Marissa researched surrealism in the 1930s and art movements from the 1960s, respectively. Alaina Cardillo and Allyson Conway researched the science behind fashion with topics including UV protection in apparel and 3D printing.

Hannah Doster presented her research first on fashion and surrealism in the 1930s. The focus of Hannah’s research was on Italian fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli and the influence surrealist art has on her designs. Schiaparelli was heavily influenced by and collaborated with surrealist artist Salvador Dali, with one of their better known collaborations being Schiaparelli’s lobster dress and Dali’s lobster phone. Schiaparelli also utilized unconventional embellishments such as embroidered bugs in her designs, just as Dali used crawling insects in his pieces. Overall, Hannah’s findings suggested that fashion is not a sponge that absorbs anything around it, but fashion has its own life and influences art and culture.

Marissa Cardullo presented next with her research of 1960s art and its influence on fashion. Marissa chose to focus on two types of art from the 60s, pop art and minimalism. Pop art is known for connecting advertising with art and began with the Mod look in London in the 1950s. Andy Warhol, leader of the pop art movement in the 1960s, brought focus to the commercial culture of the US. On the other hand, minimalist art explored the physical properties of space and simplified subjects into basic elements. Piet Mondrian mixed bold colors and vertical mixed with horizontal elements. Even today, both Warhol and Mondrian’s works can be seen on clothing ranging from inexpensive retailers such as forever 21 and modcloth.com to high-end designers such as Yves Saint Laurent and Kate Spade. Marissa’s research shows that art is everywhere and 1960s art is still making an impact into our fashions today.

Alaina Cardillo was the next presenter with her research on UV protective clothing. Alaina discussed how our changes in lifestyle have increased our chances of developing skin cancer and educated us on the different methods of protection. Alaina found that the textile industry is focusing more on this issue and working to develop fabrics with sun protective features. Some companies working to make a difference in this field include Solartex, Collibar, and Ecostinger.

Allyson Conway was the last presenter with her research on 3D printing. 3D printing is a new and sustainable way of manufacturing apparel implementing an additive apparel manufacturing technique by printing layers of the material to form an object, versus the subtractive techniques of traditional apparel manufacturing methods. Different printing techniques include fused disposition modeling, inkjet printing, selective laser sintering, and digital light processing. Nike was the first company to introduce 3D printing to the global market with their 3D printed football cleat. Overall, 3D printing is
still in its beginning stages, but could completely change the way we manufacture clothing in the future.

With their research presentations, the four students revealed that fashion is constantly changing in response to our lifestyles. Some of the biggest influences of fashion throughout history have been the arts, as stated by Hannah and Marissa, while science has also made an impact on fashion, as stated by Alaina and Allyson. Overall, when society and the way we live our lives changes, fashion follows.