

sym bio sis

“The ecological view to come isn’t a picture of some bounded object or ‘*restrictive economy*,’ a closed system. It is a vast, sprawling mesh of interconnection without a definite center or edge. It is radical intimacy...

–Timothy Morton

Funded by Catalyst Grant from the College of the Arts, “Symbiosis: Fashion & Art” is a collaboration that integrates fashion design and print media in a collection of garments and artworks.

F A S H I O N & A R T

con tents

04

Chen & McMahon

Transformative Bloom

06

Takeda & Tracy

Budding Romance

08

Hokes & Saelim

Living Together

10

Li & Schneider

Flux & Flowering

Symbios: Fashion and Art integrates two artistic fields that often use similar tools, studio environments, and design skills, but ultimately create distinctive outcomes with different audiences. The collaboration between fashion and print media motivate students to transfer their ideas between the two dimensional art pieces and three dimensional wearable garments. The project addresses contemporary issues of sustainability and ecology through art, design, and fashion, as well as create connections between fashion and art students and faculty that will shape their thinking and influence their future research and teaching.

All collaborative teams used **hydrangeas** as their inspiration. Hydrangeas are hyperaccumulator plants that remediate soils contaminated with heavy metals. Their color changes depending on the contents of the soil.

12

Park & Yadon

Flori Decidenti

16

Schmidt & Sorboro

April 8th

14

Armitage & Manual

Transmutation

18

Gallery Showcase

Details & Progress



(Left)
Garment Detail
Full Front View



Taryn McMahon



MFA in Printmaking (University of Iowa)

MacMahon is an Assistant Professor in the School of Art at Kent State University. She has received numerous awards for her work including the Southern Graphics Council International Graduate Fellowship and residencies at Anderson Ranch, Snowmass Village, CO; Anchor Graphics, Chicago, IL; Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale, NY; and 55 Limited, Berlin, Germany. She has had solo exhibitions at The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA; Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY; and William Busta Gallery, Cleveland, OH, among many others.

Chanjuan Chen



MFA in Fashion Design (University of North Texas)

Chen is an Assistant Professor in the Fashion School at Kent State University. Chen's research and creative activities focus on developing new ways to infuse concepts of fashion sustainability into culturally inspired designs. Her designs have been recognized by numerous academic and professional organizations including those from the International Textile and Apparel Association. Her design works have also been exhibited nationally and internationally including events in Canada, China, and South Korea.

Transformative Bloom

Transformative Bloom showcases the idea that environments and interactions are in constant flux; adaptability is key. The inspiration came from the color changes of the hydrangea and its beneficial impact on soil remediation to positively alter its environment. The material for the artwork was archival inkjet on flatbed plotter cut Stone-henge paper. The jacket was formed by faux leather modules cut by flatbed plotter and the dress was made out of digitally printed linen fabric. Both the artwork and the garment are comprised of digitally printed modular shapes that can be suited to a variety of situations and spaces.

(Below) Front Detail
(Right) Artwork Full View



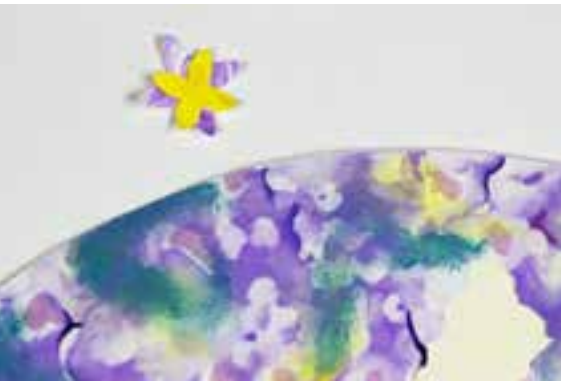
Budding Romance

Budding Romance embraces the lifespan of a hydrangea. Researching the overall life of hydrangeas, we were drawn to two main aspects: the pulling of heavy metals from the ground as shown in the use of metal chain on the garment, as well as the buds that form at the beginning of a hydrangeas life cycle as shown in the print. Both the artwork and the garment follow the life of a hydrangea, connecting the two pieces together through the motif as well as the shared elements of color and circular designs. 3D printed hydrangea flowers were hand sewn onto the top of the dress to add more details.



(Left)
Artwork Full View

(Above)
Artwork Detail
Motif



Phoebe Takeda

BA in Fashion Design
Costume Design & Technology Minor



Takeda has shown work in fashion shows including the Kent State University's Fashion Schools' Annual Fashion Show and Rock the Runway. She was also placed first in the art and fashion category of Kent State University's Undergraduate Research Symposium. After graduation she will be moving back to California to pursue her fashion design career.

Jenna Tracy

BA in Art Education



Tracy has exhibited work in the Dual Identities at Kent State University. In 2017 she studied art history and design thinking in Florence. After graduation, she hopes to teach high school level for a few years before eventually going back to school to get her master's degree.



(Top)
Full Front View
Garment Detail



(Left)
Full Frontal View
Motif



(Bottom)
Artwork Full View
Artwork Detail



Living Together

Living Together focuses on the hydrangeas ability to adapt and live in harmony with heavy metals. The garment and print are connected together to emulate the idea of symbiosis. The colors reflect the entire life cycle of the hydrangea. The print consists of digitally printed imagery as well as silkscreen, with hand cut paper. The garment is digitally printed as well as having elements that are attached with magnets to be able to change its appearance, which also allows for the print and garment to become one object.

Jessica Hokes

BFA in Print Media & Photography



Hokes has exhibited her work at the downtown gallery, the student annual in 2016 and 2017 at Kent State University, GiF at the Crawford Gallery at KSU, and Engram in the Atrium gallery at KSU. After graduation she hopes to work at Rubber City Prints and apply to graduate school.

Narisara Saelim

Junior Fashion Design Student



Saelim has exhibited her painting, Murmurations, during the Stratosphere art competition in the Downtown Kent Gallery. She will be interning at Pan Pacific in South Korea for the Summer of 2018 and will continue her studies Dankook University for her summer classes. She hopes her work closes in further on a path of where she fits in best during her senior year.



(Left)
Full Frontal View

(Top)
Full Back View
Motif

Flux & Flowering

Flux & Flowering juxtaposes the delicacy and intricacy of the hydrangea petals with the strength and boldness of the roots while also highlighting the plants ability to change color due to the acidity of the soil. The garment is composed of layers of hand-dyed chiffon, crinoline, delicate laser cut chiffon flowers, and hand-embroidered flowers. The artwork uses screen printed cut paper to represent the transition and life cycle of a hydrangea. The initial blossoming is translated by the shapes, color, and movement of the piece, while its skeleton is represented by the intertwined lines and fragile forms.

Flux & Flowering

BFA in Print Mdia & Photography



Elizabeth Schneider

Schneider has exhibited her work in the "GAR Foundation Show" in Akron, OH, the "Off the Wall Exhibition" in Cleveland, OH, and recently her BFA Thesis Show "Life through a Conscious Projector" at Kent State University in Kent, OH. She has interned at Hazelmade, a greeting cards and paper goods business in Kent, OH. After graduation she hopes to have an internship or residency with a printshop to continue her growth as an artist and travel new places.

BFA in Fashion Design



Carol Li

Li has presented her work during the annual FS2 2018 Show as well as the Symbiosis Gallery Exhibition downtown. In 2017, she studied at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to advance her skills in concept development, draping, and pattern making. After graduation, she plans on getting a job designing women's RTW or evening wear in New York.

(Right)
Artwork Full View
Artwork Detail



Courtney Yadon

BFA Print Media & Photography



Yadon has exhibited her work in the Student Art Show, Lorain County Community College, Elyria, Ohio, Book Ends II, Lorain County Community College, Elyria, Ohio, Members Showcase, Cleveland Print Room, Cleveland, Ohio, You Zig, I Zag, Kent, Ohio, and Student Annual, Kent, Ohio. In 2017, she interned at the Morgan Conservatory. After graduation she hopes to work with more print shops in the area to both teach and develop her printmaking skills.



(Left)
Full Frontal View

Michelle Park

BA in Fashion Design



In 2016, Park participated in a materials science internship abroad, with the Physics Department at the University of Luxembourg; this was in collaboration with Kent State University and Cornell University. Park studied in New York where she participated in an internship with Naeem Khan. Her future plans include starting a business to work towards sustainability in the fashion industry.



(Top)
Garment Detail

Flori Decidenti

Flori Decidenti highlights nature's response to the precarious environmental state of current times. Inspiration is derived from the ability of hydrangea petals to act as a sensor, changing color based on what they take in from their roots. The pallor in the dress and prints, suggest plastic poisoning and the fragile beauty petals hold in death, with the prints acting as a microscopic close-up of a dead petal. The dress was made out of needle felted and starched cheesecloth on a wire form. The artworks are presented as a wallpaper series of growth showing the connection of veins within a dead hydrangea petal, making light of their intricacy and delicacy.



(Top)
Motif
(Left)
Artwork Full View

Noelle Armitage

BFA Print Media & Photography
Art History Minor



Noel has exhibited her work in Stratosphere: Flight, Downtown Gallery, Kent, OH, the GAR Foundation, Akron, OH, the Student Annual at Kent State University, and The Cut-Outs, Troppus Projects, Kent, OH. She is a current intern at the Office of International Programs at Education Abroad. After graduation she hopes to attend graduate school to further her investigation into printmaking in the expanded form.

Morgan Manuel

BA Fashion Design
Sustainability Minor



Manuel has exhibited her work in the Fashion Meets Botanicals Show in Cleveland Botanical Gardens, the Kent State Undergraduate Research Symposium, as well as Rock the Runway at Kent State University. After graduation, she hopes to work alongside an Athletic Wear company to help athletes succeed with the clothing she creates.

Transmutation



(Top)

Motif

(Right)

Full Side View

Full Frontal View



Transmutation

Transmutation showcases the ideas of combining print with athletic wear in a functional and artistic way. The inspiration came from the understanding of transformability and function in a garments, while also thinking of the importance of colors. By using the darker toned hydrangeas, we were able to play with the colors and shapes and also add pops of lighter and brighter colors to create depth in the changeable garment. Both the garment and the artwork started from a single motif of collaged hydrangeas, using that collage we created the print design that was placed on each individual print as well as onto the neoprene flowers with a silk screen printing.



(Top)

Artwork Detail

(Right)

Artwork Full View





Katelyn Schmidt

BA Fashion Design
French Minor



Schmidt has studied in Florence, Italy and has interned for Kohl's Corporation in NYC. After graduation she will be moving to Colorado to pursue her masters in design at Colorado State University and she hopes to be a professor in the future.

Julia Sorboro

BA with a concentration in Printmaking



Sorboro has exhibited work in Stratosphere, Downtown Gallery, Kent, OH, the GAR Foundation, Akron, OH, PopEye Gallery, Cleveland, OH, as well as at the 2018 SGCI Conference in Las Vegas, NV. In the summer of 2016 she studied art conservation in San Gemini, Italy, but have since chosen to follow a career in printmaking. After graduation she hopes to intern in a printshop and attend graduate school to receive her MFA.



(Top)
Artwork Full View

(Right)
Garment Detail
Artwork Detail



April 8th

April 8th is inspired by an annual tea ceremony held in Japan to celebrate Buddha's birthday. In the ceremony, hydrangea leaves are used to make a tea that symbolizes immortality. The designs and materials of our pieces were inspired by traditional Japanese kimonos and woodblock relief printing. In Japanese proverb, there are nine dragons that ascend on the Buddha to instill in him eternal life; these nine circles are represented in the engineered print of the kimono and the wooden circles that line the hand-dyed silk trim. The artwork was created by CNC woodcut on collaged Japanese paper.



Symbios: Fashion and Art was shown in an exhibition at the Downtown Gallery in Kent. The exhibition ran from April 2nd to 7th, 2018, and reception was held on the evening of April 5th. Students shared their learning outcomes during the gallery presentation such as their process and inspiration. The arrangements included one wall-based artwork and one garment created by each collaborative team juxtaposed next to one another.

Exhibition Gallery



(Opposite Page)
Flori Decidenti Full Frontal
View with Artwork

Details and motifs up close
for Transmutative Bloom
and Budding Romance

(Top of Page)
Transmutation ¾
View with Artwork

(Middle)
Process sketches for
Flux & Flowering

(Right)
Budding Romance Full
Frontal View with Artwork

Symbios: Fashion and Art is designed by Van Le.
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Glyphix
STUDIO

KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Art
The Fashion School

