



# **Contemporary TFA Seminar**

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# Wan YunFeng

Trashion/ Trash-Fashion is a term which means using objects which are thrown out, being used and then recycling them, creating something new, and treasure out of them. Due to change of times and our surroundings, it is very important for us to now focus on sustainable fashion and recycling old products. This term first coined in 2004 and gained its usage later on in 2005. Many designers and brands started projects which would be converting trash into treasure such as using orange peels to create fabric, using plastic, polythene bags instead of fabrics. This entire process is really interesting to look at. The unconventional Chinese designer and performance artist "**Wan Yunfeng**" created his garments out of trash such as dusty roller skates, a skull, bright red rope. He inherited his artistic side from his father "Wan Lun", who used to be a performer in the local Errenzhuan theater, a form of Chinese opera from the country's northeast that is performed by two people. All these items are not really a part of any great fashion house but are the perfect pick for Wan to convey his message and construct his garments which are not less than an art piece. He mostly travels and find stuff through different markets as well as people who are around him.

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His garments are twisted and draped around on body made with discarded items, which are later photographed to send a message about the destructive power of our daily lives consumption. We cannot wear these cloths in our daily lives as they are just to convey a very important message of environmental protection. Wan's outfits make him appear entangled in nets and plastic waste and his facial expressions depict torture to mirror the pain of those animals who are trapped in these nets in oceans due or lack of concern and not really caring about our environment. He uses piles of used items, and also asks for materials from people around. He focuses on traditional Chinese as well as western influences. Once he wore an outfit made of recycled denim with a miniature version of the landmark on his head, accessorized with long, red Chinese tassels. This piece was called "Paris Cowboy." Some of his work has a very modern and unique edge as seen in "Crazy IKEA" a series of images taken in New York's Times Square, which is showing wan dressed in a bright blue gown made of IKEA shopping bags. Movement is one important part of his performance because he imitates how animals walk. His belief is strong about influence that even if he convinces a single person to change their mindset by his work, it would be enough for him and he will not stop even after getting a lot of criticism. His creation is more about costumes rather than proper dresses, they make a resounding statement.

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One of his photos was titled “Protection of the ocean” in which he has used commonly found single use plastic wastes, bottles, polythene bags, plastic ropes, etc. In a different series shot in Paris, he repurposed an old quilt into a rather majestic gown, that had a Victorian aesthetic. He had once found a pile of dumped clothes when he went to his parents’ house and decided to make something out of it. He is turning plastic trash into treasure by creating these amazingly aesthetic photographs. According to my point of view, the way he creates a link between using this trash as well some Chinese influences, European cut lines, combining all these elements together is a work of art. It itself is a treasure to show such elements through your garments and using it as a performance. Now a days we really don’t think about animals who suffer due to the trash that we throw in oceans, but he thinks about his work in depth and creates an emotional connection with the audience so that he can grab their attention that they also need to focus on being concerned about the environment. It clearly moves people in a way which nobody could really think of, his entire process makes me understand the importance of connections that how in unique ways we can convert trash into treasure.

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# References

<https://www.baifamagazine.com/post/chinese-artist-wan-yunfeng-is-turning-trash-into-high-fashion>

<https://www.google.com.pk/amp/s/www.mensxp.com/amp/fashion/style-trends/58259-a-chinese-artist-makes-runway-worthy-dresses-to-plastic-waste.html>



# Process for final product

I have designed garments out of ocean trash so that it becomes a treasure and conveys the message for the protection of animals. Secondly it is related to my thesis topic because I have been using the mesh, net in my garments fabrications for representing a combination of personality traits. The mesh is hard which depicts the outer, rigid side while there is net as well which is symbolization of the softer side of a human being. The material has a connection but the designer I chose uses these materials for conveying a different message. Using the same material but conveying something else is the link here.





The process behind designing the final garment, thinking what material could be explored and silhouette could be used.



I am using a **mesh** which is from ocean trash, to convert it into a treasure.

# Final Product



**Materials used :** mesh, shopping bag and a teabag for shirt, bottle caps and paper clips for the skirt. ( all out of trash)