



VCC Vancouver Fashion Week 2026

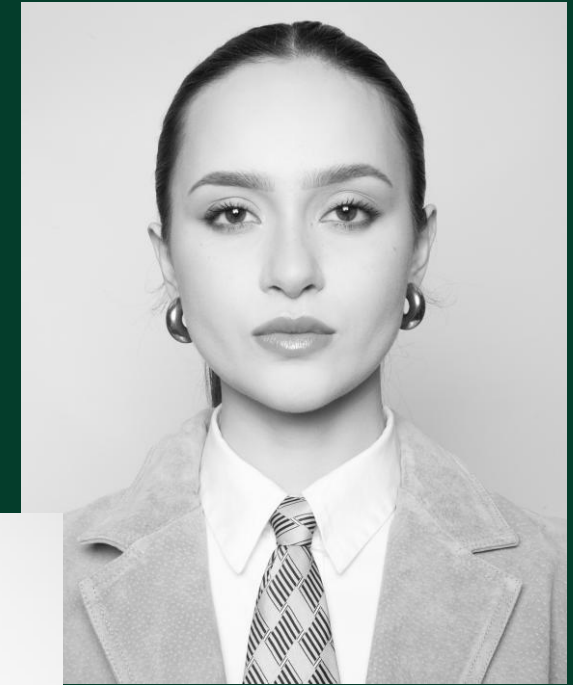
Student biographies



Ana Júlia Veronka

The Marionettes translates a reflection on society and human behaviour into fashion. Conceived as a five-look narrative, the collection explores power, control, vulnerability, and liberation, constructing a visual dialogue about the forces that shape identity. Each design embodies a character, forming a story that examines the tension between conformity and authenticity.

The collection questions how identity is influenced by social norms, authority, fear, and internalized expectations. It presents five symbolic figures. The Sheep represents passive conformity, following established norms without resistance. The Puppeteer stands for authority and the systems that orchestrate behaviour. The Fearful recognizes injustice yet remains silent, choosing safety over confrontation. The Self-Oppressed internalizes pressure and suppresses individuality to meet accepted standards. Contrastingly, the Liberator rejects imposed expectations, embracing authenticity despite discomfort or isolation. Through these archetypes, the collection explores how identity can be shaped, concealed, negotiated, and reclaimed.



Ana Maria Cilima

Ana Maria Cilima is a fashion designer who views fashion as a language of the soul, a way to express strength, grace, and inner light through form, colour, and movement. Rooted in her Colombian heritage, her work conveys warmth, rhythm, and emotional depth. She designs inclusive sized pieces to honour women's authenticity. Her pieces illuminate the beauty and individuality of each woman, recognizing that true beauty lies in our hearts and in the confidence we embody when we feel comfortable in our own skin.

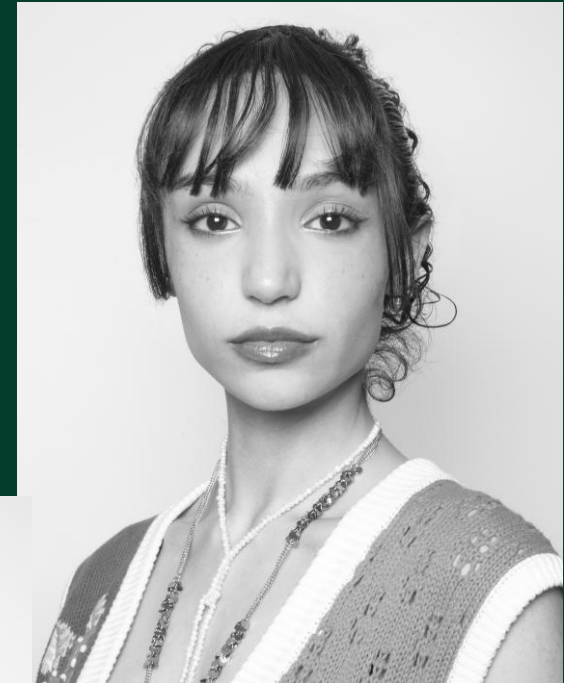
Her REFLEJO collection is inspired by the Spanish word "cielo," which means both sky and heaven, a double meaning that reflects the connection between what is above us and what lives within us. When the sky is reflected in the water, watching it feels like taking a deep, calming breath, a reminder of the beautiful peace felt when we are reflections of God. In her designs, through the balance between clean lines and those full of movement, she seeks to reflect harmony and peace. Accompanied by fabrics that respond to light, the collection embodies the spiritual depth, serenity, and unique beauty that resides in every woman.



Bitá Tazikeh

Uproar was born from a radical question: what would happen if clothing could function as a second body, one that can shift and transfer to adapt even more freely than your own?

The brand's core innovation lies in the two parts. First is the solid foundation of the garment, build to last with educational sourcing and prompt, craftsmanship and showing durability and longevity despite its transferable nature.



Charlene Yin

My graduate collection begins with the cheongsam, not just as a traditional garment, but as something tied to memory and identity. Growing up within Chinese culture, I've always seen the cheongsam as more than clothing. It carries a quiet strength, a balance of femininity, restraint, and confidence. I don't see it as something frozen in history, but as a form that can continue to evolve, just as culture does.

This collection sits between past and present. I deconstruct elements like the mandarin collar, diagonal fastening and fitted silhouette, softening and reshaping them through contemporary cuts and subtle reconstruction. By adjusting proportions and introducing layering, I aim to create pieces that feel lighter and more adaptable to modern life. It isn't about recreating tradition exactly as it was but allowing it to speak in a new way.



Jess Dizon Ursua

Sunaru27 is inspired by complex emotions, storytelling, and intersectional studies, encouraging customers to consider the cultural and historical significance of their choices. The brand offers customers an opportunity to relive, reflect on, or change past feelings through thoughtfully designed apparel. By utilizing block printing, natural dye methods, second-hand materials, quilting, and organic textiles, Sunaru27 produces clothing with sustainability and care in mind, from soil to skin.

“Veil of Identity” is a fashion collection that explores the unspoken fight against racial and gender hierarchies through laborious techniques and sculptural silhouettes. Influenced by Asian staples for frugality, the garments shed light on the model minority household objects – plastic-covered couches, kitchen tables, and TV remotes. The textiles and materials used will be found in either Canada or the Philippines: wool, cotton, antler, abalone, and silk. Using such materials to play with the idea of conformity within Canada, with threads from the Philippines that evoke memory.



Prabhdip Kaur

Prabhdip Kaur is a Vancouver-based fashion designer whose work focuses on emotional storytelling, comfort, and conscious design. Her practice explores how clothing can express personal narratives while supporting freedom of movement and confidence.

The collection is inspired by Prabhdip's romantic poetry and examines the different stages of love. Through fabric manipulation, beadwork, and expressive textures, each garment represents a specific emotional moment, from the first glance and quiet longing to confession, joy, fracture, and the echo that remains after love has passed. Elemental imagery drawn from the sky, night, stars, soft light, and nature is woven throughout the collection, reflecting shifting moods and inner states.

Sustainability is central to her approach. She works primarily with dead-stock, natural, and up-cycled fabrics, making material choices that reduce waste while enhancing the quality of each piece. The interview of each garment is designed to feel soft, comfortable, and supportive.



Saffron Thomas

As a Coast Salish designer, Saffron looks to the ocean as both a grounding force and a source of cultural connection. Ultimately, this collection is a ceremony of personal growth.

Dead-stock and thrifted materials speak to the relics carried in by the tide, representing renewal and new purpose. Elongated, column-like silhouettes move with the body like waves meeting sand. Sun-bleached shores inspire a beige and off-white palette. Translucent layers and restrained touches of colour reference the delicate beauty of shells.

Many of the materials used in this collection were gathered by Saffron through beachcombing Coast Salish land, while others were gifted by friends and family. This show is an offering back to the shores from which it came.

Like the ocean, this collection feels no need to prove that it's Indigenous. It just is.

Saffron has also featured at Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week and was included a documentary about the event.



Samentha Burboz

Samentha Burboz is an emerging evening wear designer whose work blends sculptural silhouettes with emotional storytelling and refined craftsmanship.

With a strong artistic background and a passion for handmade techniques, she approaches fashion as wearable art, carefully constructing each piece through detailed hand embellishment and thoughtful fabric manipulation.

Her collection explores the balance between strength and softness through fluid black satin and rhythmic silver embellishments that move intentionally across the body. Though each look differs in structure and pattern, they are united by a cohesive material language and signature detailing, reflecting her vision of modern femininity that is bold, expressive, and elegantly powerful.



Sonja Ledoux

UNRESERVED is a love letter to the version of myself that was told she was "too much". It's a collection dedicated to the child who was too loud, the one who took up too much space, and the one whose "weirdness" was actually her greatest strength.

Growing up we are often taught to compartmentalize our joy – to save our best clothes, our brightest colours, and our boldest expressions for a "special occasion" that may never arrive. This collection rejects that patience. It is an exploration or indigenous futurism that refuses to wait to be seen.

Unreserved is about the radical act of being visible. It's about wearing your heritage, your heart, and your "best" clothes on a Tuesday morning just because you exist. This collection is for the loud kids – may we continue to take up all the space we deserve.



Tamara Whitford

From a young age, I connected with fashion as a way to express myself and connect to my culture. As an Indigenous youth growing up in foster care, I often felt disconnected from my culture. Through fashion, I have been able to learn about traditional forms of textiles and build community with other Indigenous artists and designers.

This collection is inspired by the best part of going out: getting ready. A montage of different outfits, shoes, and clothes all over the floor, makeup scattered across the counter, music blasting, and the excitement and anticipation of a night out. It's about having the freedom to choose who you want to be for the night and expressing it through fashion.

By playing with and incorporating Indigenous techniques and materials, I bring together tradition and contemporary style. This collection imagines a dream closet coming to life – playful, chaotic, messy, and full of magic. It celebrates creativity, identity, and the joy of self-expression, while also reflecting my journey of reconnecting with culture.



Veronica Pleskach

What is a blister anyway? A blister forms when repeated abrasion causes multiple layers of skin to separate, while the soft skin underneath prepares for battle.

Once the blister pops, the affected area is stronger than ever before.

The Blister Factory is a place that exists inside oneself where injury meets armour and turns to glamour.



Vinnie Lee

Vinnie Lee is a Seoul born fashion designer exploring fashion as a form of emotional and artistic expression. His work focuses on genderless silhouettes, refined construction and the relationship between body, space and feeling.

His graduation collection, Mediterranean Harmony, captures the quiet freedom and softness of coastal landscapes, blending resort ease with modern precision. Through his practice, he creates garments that offer both presence and liberation, inviting the wearer into a calm and immersive experience.

