

## SPOTLIGHT: FASHION DESIGN RETREAT

# WEARABLE ART

For Irina Tevzadze, one of the biggest takeaways from Otis's Fashion Design Retreat was "that the modern and current trend is for fashion to become an even more rigorous interdisciplinary career," she says.

The designer-instructor—who currently teaches fashion design at the Herberger Institute for Design and Arts at Arizona State University—has always viewed art and fashion as being closely connected, and the Retreat allowed her to dive deeper into the ways that they are. Led by Amy Bond, fashion designer, Extension instructor, and *Project Runway* season 16 contestant, the Fashion Design Retreat is a 10-day, fully immersive program for any level of expertise, which focuses on a non-traditional, mixed-media approach to fashion design.

"As I participated in the residency twice, I noticed that many newcomer fashion residents were not aware of the strong interdisciplinary connections and relationships through which fashion is intertwined with other fields," Tevzadze adds. "As a result of Amy's teaching style, she leads the residents to this discovery, which becomes a surprise for many of them. In the end, residents leave with an expanded understanding and vision, equipped with many new ingredients."

As part of a museum workshop in summer 2018, residents created one-of-a-kind wearable pieces inspired by a Shinique Smith exhibition that was on view at the California African American Museum, and presented the pieces during a show at the end of the program. "The result was to discover many things about yourself, and how your brain starts to operate when you go through extremes," says Tevzadze.

Tevzadze, who describes her own work as "minimalistic and functional, with a hint of something unexpected," is originally from Tbilisi, Georgia, and was an assistant professor at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri before landing in Phoenix to teach at ASU. She was drawn to the Fashion Design Retreat at Otis College on the strength of Bond's reputation in the fashion industry (see sidebar). She recommends the Retreat to "every curious designer or educator who has the desire to grow professionally and artistically."

"With Amy's leadership, the residency takes the participants from concept ideation, through intense workshops, to actual product development," says Tevzadze. "It culminates in a photo shoot, which results in professionally documenting the experience of having taken part in a residency at one of the highly respected art and design colleges in the nation."



Top: Textile and shoe designs by fashion designer/instructor Irina Tevzadze, who attended Otis College's Fashion Design Retreat twice. Middle: A collection of children's wear by Tevzadze. Below: Fashion Design Retreat instructor Amy Bond in her studio.



## MEET THE INSTRUCTOR: AMY BOND

Amy Bond holds both BFA and MFA degrees in fashion design (from Stephens College and Academy of Art University, respectively), and has created couture bridal gowns, launched her own fashion label, competed on *Project Runway*, and recently produced a fashion competition reality show, *Next in Fashion*, that will debut on Netflix in January. Currently, she is the Creative Director for the clothing company Vertigo USA. Bond teaches fashion design at Otis College's Extension and pre-college Summer of Art Program, as well as the Fashion Design Retreat.

For information about Residency Programs at Otis College, please visit [otis.edu/summer-residency](http://otis.edu/summer-residency).