

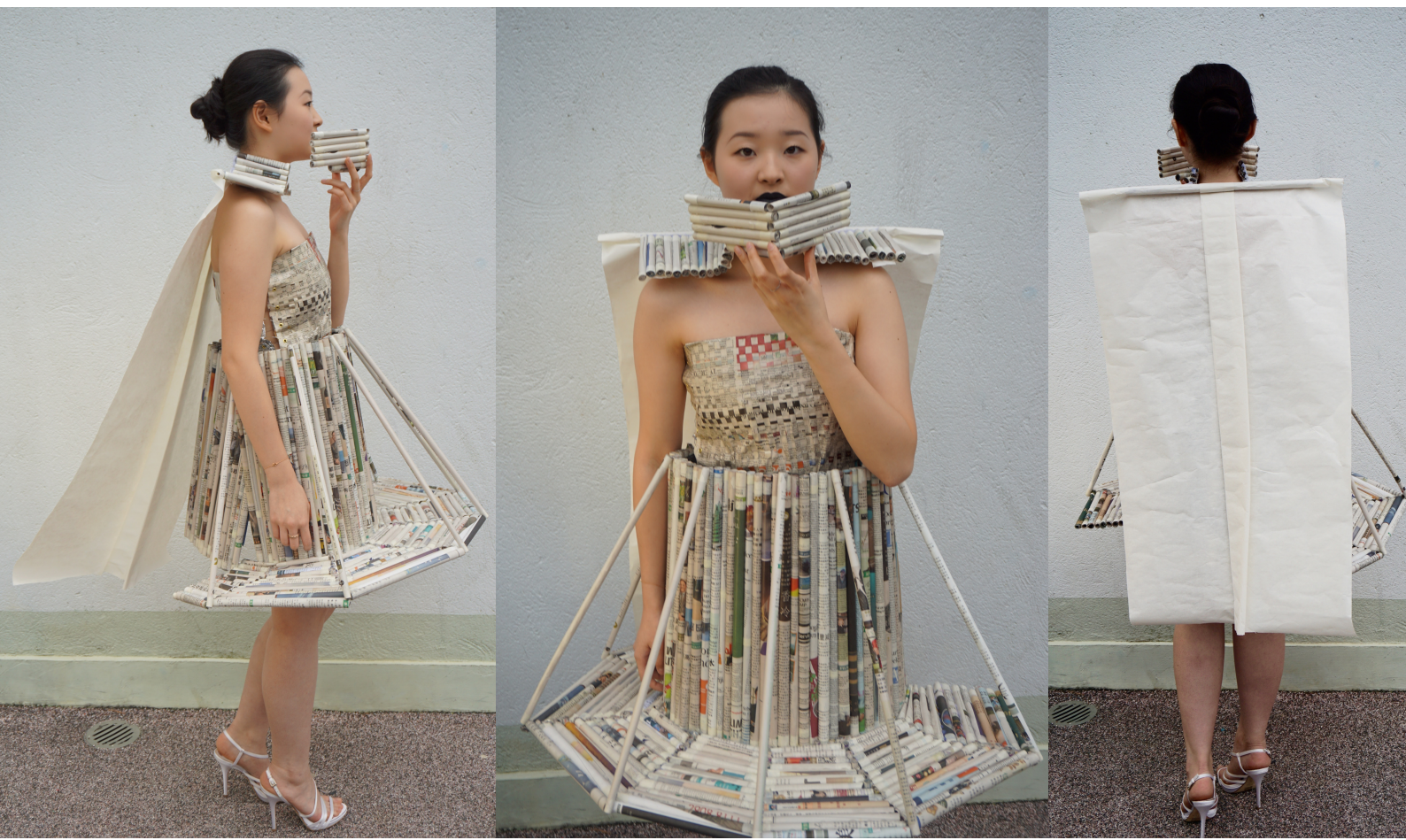
URBAN ARMOUR

for Adeline FAN
by Lufei QIAN

I grew up in Kyoto, where the city hall has decided that buildings in the city must not be over 10 floors. Coming to Hong Kong, I felt like a little Chinese peasant from a small village arriving at a big city. Now, 3 years after my arrival, I still find myself lost in all of its constructions every single day.

Michael Wolf is the main inspiration of my dress, he is a photographer whose works explored a lot on the theme of demographic density in Hong Kong. I love his style which could be a complete nightmare for trypophobic people, exposing the concrete buildings like an armour of modern civilisation.

For the dress, I used newspapers as the main fabric as they represent the dynamic city and their color themes mirrors the concrete grey. I created a repetition of newspaper rolls to represent the density as well as the monotonous big city life. On one hand, the mask could be interpreted as a gas mask which reveals the pollution problems of the city, on the other, it could symbolise as people's defense against the oppression of the rapid city life style, thus creating walls and separating people from each other.



more about Michael Wolf...

Michael Wolf is a German photographer, who lives in Hong Kong and Paris, the main theme of his works is the daily life in big cities. The famous "The Architecture of Density" began with the SARS outbreak in 2002. As many people became sick and others left the city, it dawned on Wolf that, despite eight years in the city as a photojournalist for the German magazine Stern, he had never completed a personal project. "I bundled up wife and son and sent them back to Germany and I stayed in Hong Kong and started working on 'Architecture of Density,' so it was basically a situation where I really felt this need to do my own interpretation of the city," Wolf says. This project turned into an intricate and meticulous study of the megacity, and Wolf gradually leaving behind photojournalism for fine art photography. "In art there's no rules, you can do whatever you want. With a magazine you're always confined to pictures on a page. You have an editor, I had an art director, there are certain expectations you have to meet."

