

"Even though I'm so busy I will be starting a new body of work soon. I don't know what I am doing yet. It will all depend on what I am feeling at that time!"



Meanwhile, stirring subconscious with her thought-provoking and award-winning photographer, Joanna Katchutas, whose photographs echo the complexity existing within the realms of human emotion. While surrealistic, these works are a reflection of Katchutas' own life experiences and personal evolution.

"Things change throughout the course of someone's life. Whatever I am going through in that particular moment of my life is mirrored in what I create. Because I am always changing and evolving so does my work," she explains.

Her collections were being shown at various exhibitions across the GTA long before graduating from the Ontario College of Art and Design in 2011. Recognized and celebrated for her numerous themed collections, she was given her first solo exhibit at the 2012 Vaughan In Focus Exhibition. Katchutas was awarded the Reserve Best in Show Award for her farcical "The Trapeze Artist: The Circus of Everyday Life Series" at a separate exhibit presented by Vaughan In Focus in collaboration with Vaughan City Hall.

When asked why she feels her work has made such a profound impact, she replied, "I like to build my set from the ground up and enjoy using various mediums such as metal, wood and sculpture in my photographs. For example, I created metal wings for the Element Faerys Series."

The Multiple Clues Series, which sprang from her love of the board game Clue, demonstrates how thought processes and emotions lead to choices, actions, consequences and ultimately destiny. The collection's "Miss Scarlet" piece won the People's Choice and Reserve Best in Show awards at the 2009 Vaughan Juried Art Exhibition.

Katchutas' freelance work includes photojournalism as well as both private and commercial photography. She is also Curator of Exhibitions, Multi-Arts and Photography Projects for the "Beaches International Jazz Festival," co-founder of "Bang! Vaughan Arts Collective" and participates annually in the Sunnyside Art Fair at Sunnyside Pavilion. As the official photographer for many provincial festivals, concerts and cultural events, Katchutas says that her schedule is quite full these days.

VICTORIA BROCCA

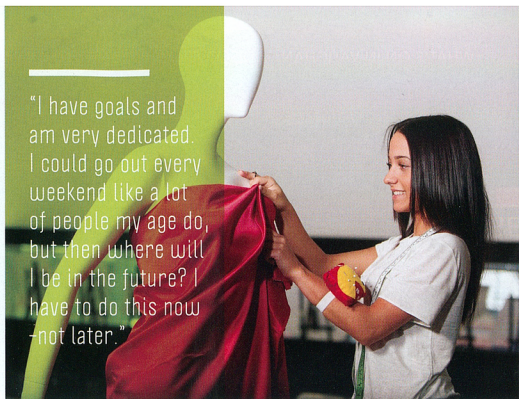
Fashion legend Coco Chanel once said that in order to be irreplaceable, one must always be different. Nothing rings more true for aspiring eighteen year-old fashion designer, Victoria Brocca. Having only just begun her first year at Ryerson University, where she is enrolled in Fashion Communication, this young woman's one-of-a-kind creations are already a hot commodity. Edgy and bold, her modern designs parallel those of any seasoned couturier.

"I started making my own dresses and would wear them when I would go out. People were so amazed and started asking me to make customized clothing for them too," explains Brocca who can already boast an extensive roster of loyal clients.

A recipient of numerous scholarship awards from Vaughan's Façade Academy of the Arts, she was taken under the wing of the school's director and founder Mina Spremulli. With Spremulli's careful tutelage and mentorship she learned the art of sewing, fashion sketching and pattern design.

"I have the skills that I acquired at the Academy. Now I want to learn the business aspect of the industry," she states confidently.

Regardless of her inexperience, she demonstrates a natural flair for business. She recently negotiated her first deal after being selected from a panel of candidates as the official designer of the Kermaxx Sweater, which will be launched within the next year by Kermaxx International - manufacturer of extreme sports products and sponsor of Motocross racing events. According to Brocca, this is only the beginning. She believes that top models will one day strut her trendy designs on the interna-



"I have goals and am very dedicated. I could go out every weekend like a lot of people my age do, but then where will I be in the future? I have to do this now - not later."

tional fashion runways. Along with coordinating her own shows, she also plans on collaborating with distinguished and renowned designers.

Not surprisingly, Brocca has a knack for other art genres including painting, photography and make-up artistry alike. She is an ideal package, making her an outstanding asset to the fashion industry.

Uncommonly focused and disciplined for someone so young, Brocca is very clear about where she is headed.



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