

Audio tour script

ARTIST: Welcome to the Mode Brut Exhibition at the Museum of Craft and Design in San Francisco. We're thrilled you joined us.

NARRATOR: Today, you're viewing a fashion-related exhibition made up of four collections. All of the garments and outfits on display were made by artists with developmental disabilities from Creativity Explored in collaboration with non-disabled designers. The following audio will take you through the artists' works. If you want to learn more about the artists and the project and hear more detailed descriptions of the garments, please choose our Mode Brut Immersive Audio Tour recording!

Here's a little bit about Mode Brut, the exhibition at the Museum of Craft and Design showing through January 23, 2022.

NARRATOR: Over 50 Creativity Explored artists are featured here. Their collaborating partners from the community include teaching artist and designer Victor Molina, community art collective Bonanza, queer advocate and model Ayana "Yanni" Brumfield, and San Francisco-based haute couture fashion brand Tokyo Gamine. The Mode Brut Exhibition aims to challenge what fashion is and who is fashionable. The works merge fashion design and Outsider Art.

The Exhibition fills a medium-sized gallery space with a high ceiling. The main gallery is a cube, and a second space extends beyond, only a third as wide and along the right side, creating an L-shape. Long rows of track lights illuminate exhibits from above. The fashion pieces are displayed either hanging or draped over mannequins or dress forms.

When you first enter the gallery, there is a freestanding wall with hand-painted aprons and ceramic masks. To your right is the description of the exhibition. Continuing past the freestanding wall, along the left wall are three small collections separated by temporary walls. You'll come first to the collection with CE artists and Yanni Brumfield, then the Tokyo Gamine Line, and in the far corner, the Bonanza line. In the center of the main gallery are displays of tote bags, accessories, and jewelry arranged on low pedestals. Along the right wall is the collection of 14 works from the Creativity Explored Studio Line with Victor Molina. These four collections will be described on this tour.

As you continue along the right wall, just beyond the 14-piece CE Studio Line, you enter the smaller, narrower extension. You first come into the atelier, which is French for "workshop." This space contains several showstopper clothing designs displayed in more of a workshop setting. The atelier also showcases the art of many more Creativity Explored artists and features a salon style hanging of drawings and paintings. The feel is less gallery-like and more a peek into how work is made at Creativity Explored. Continuing beyond the atelier is a smaller media room

where videos will play. These include more work from the collaborating artists, animations, and a documentary film.

As you take in the pieces, consider fashion as more than just the clothing. What do these clothes say about accessibility? About gender? About the identity of the artist or the person who wears them? In creating these pieces, Mode Brut artists had all of these questions in mind.

The fashion pieces

ARTIST: Let's check out the artworks now!

NARRATOR: The following section will introduce you to the fashion pieces. For more detailed descriptions, please check out the Mode Brut Immersive Audio Tour recording.

Yanni's collection

A blend of shapes and fabrics. This outfit starts with a mid-thigh length jacket in a tan and cream polyester-cotton blend with an array of hand-cut wool and fleece patches in burnt orange, maroon, and royal blue. The shirt is cotton with a sewn-on canvas patch on the front painted in colors matching the patches on the jacket. The pants, made of wool and cotton, have the same tan and cream tones. A set of wool and fleece patches adorns the pants from the tops of the pockets down to the knees, stitched on in tight clusters down the pants.

A tribute to Breonna Taylor in three pieces. A black leather jacket. The front is unadorned, while most of the back is filled by a painted rendition of an iconic Breonna Taylor portrait. Her expression is quiet, soft, and somber, and her eyes are wide and bright. The shirt is a collage of fabrics. Sewn onto the front is a red painted square patch with a set of glimmering copper colored fabric Xes. The black miniskirt is a denim and cotton mix. A phrase is painted onto the skirt with fuschia paint and white highlights using thick, bubbly cursive. At the waist, "Justice For," and along the bottom, "Breonna Taylor."

Tokyo Gamine

A dazzling overcoat that immerses the senses. This rectangular kimono-like overcoat is made of a stiff, dark blue cotton. The coat is decorated with mostly blue- and blue-green dyed discs of Belgian linen hand-painted with acrylic fabric paint. The painted discs suggest the planets in their range of size and finely detailed streakiness of colors.

Recycled materials flow into fabric. This fire engine red, loose, asymmetrical sleeveless tunic is built from a flowy fabric made of recycled bottles. The tunic is decorated with a collection of polyester chiffon applique triangles along the front in various patterns. The garment has an extremely low-cut back, scooping down to the waist before the red fabric is brought together loosely by wide strips of multi-colored batik fabrics stitched to it.

Bonanza

A collab with Joseph Omolayole: Clothes that blur the boundaries of top and bottom.

Four or five fabrics in collage make up this light-weight set of “day pajamas.” The top is a mustard colored silk top with pale fabric strips of different lengths with reflective dots. The pants start with pale pastel leaf shapes. Starting at mid-thigh is an array of black squares against a white background, as if etched from a woodblock.

A collab with Kathy Wen: a color block outfit for cool or warm weather. The spacious short-sleeved top is framed by a sporty, elastic neck and hemline in forest green and white. The shirt is built out of thick stripes of sweatshirt fabric. The shorts are an odd patchwork of cotton, jersey, and denim squares and rectangles that extend to just above the knee, a little uneven and somewhat fraying around the bottom.

CE Studio Line

Pieces of fabric create a landscape. This short, white cotton apron is composed of blocks and strips of fabric decorated with marker and sewn together with the seams out in the open and visible. The bib portion shows a giant yellow sun rising out of a magenta ocean into a sky that is blue toward the horizon and green up above with marker lines in thick strokes back and forth, up and down.

A mix of soft and silky. This lightweight sleeveless dress is a shiny copper brown blend of fine threads interwoven with a gridwork of coarse ones in the “ripstop” style of parachutes and tents. The dress is adorned with colored circles, squares, and animal shaped patches stitched on, applique style. Nested circles and squares of stitching decorate two dozen patches, which range from walnut to peach-sized. Two animal patches, centered one above the other, are at chest height and have stitched outlines. A mane and stripes on each suggest a zebra, one lime green and the other sky blue.

Home life on a silky, cream-colored hoodie. A pastel colored fabric collage encircles the lower two thirds of the hoodie, showing several scenes at home. The shapes are made with simple line drawings stitched on top with slender yarns. Peeking out from the bottom of the home scene is a bit of the shiny, bright pink lining of the hoodie.

A playful blouse and pants set. A knee-length tunic-like top with vents running from waist to hemline down the center and the sides, made of light cotton with alternating white and tan stripes. Covering much of the front is a pastel painted and embroidered drawing of a face. The pants are wide and straight-legged, salmon pink with a trim of pale lavender down each side. A partially embroidered line drawing of a person is on the right pant leg. The person wears a flouncy dress with V-neck, lace, and ruffles. The pale lavender of their top merges with the trim of the inseam.

A soft, flowy black-and-white sleeveless jumpsuit. A faint aura of orange surrounds smeary streaks and spots on this hand-dyed silk sleeveless outfit. The left and right sections of the fabric are joined by a seam that runs down the center of the jumpsuit. There is a crisply-painted

seven-sided emblem over most of the chest, two sides slightly longer and meeting at a blunt point at the bottom. The image on the emblem resembles a dandelion seed head atop a two-leafed stem. A wide sash tied around the waist is dyed with the same spots as the jumpsuit.

A forest of names. A creamy beige wool blazer is mostly covered in names all hand-written in the same style in black marker. The letters are mostly in single strokes of the pen and have a gauzy quality from imperfect contact with the weave of the fabric. Except every second, third, or fourth letter, and sometimes several in a row, are bold, the enclosures of letters such as the small “b” and capital “D” have been filled in.

The final two pieces in this collection are showstoppers, on display in the atelier.

A jacket as community quilt. The design is a thigh-length, robe-like blazer crafted of criss-crossing yarns, threads, lace, and gauzy, shiny ribbons much like a handmade rag rug. In some places, the weave is tight, orderly, and trim. Other areas blend thick yarns with slender lacey threads. These variations give the jacket depth and texture.

A trench coat becomes a garden. A khaki trench coat with a flat, narrow collar becomes a home to birds and flowers through acrylic paints, felt, and thread. The back of the coat is filled with a self-portrait of the artist in acrylic paint. In this self-portrait, the artist has brown skin and long, black hair. He wears a red shirt adorned with tall plant leaves.

Wrap-up

ARTIST: We hope you enjoyed the Mode Brut Exhibition. Please come visit the Museum of Craft and Design again soon! Be sure to check out more work by the Creativity Explored artists at our studio in the Mission District or online at www.CreativityExplored.org.

NARRATOR: This audio tour was written by Cheryl Green and Oliver Baker.