



OMG

FASHUN

PADINA BONDAR GIBBS

31

New York, NY

HT: Tehran, Iran

Fashion & Textiles Designer

Married / No Kids

She/Her

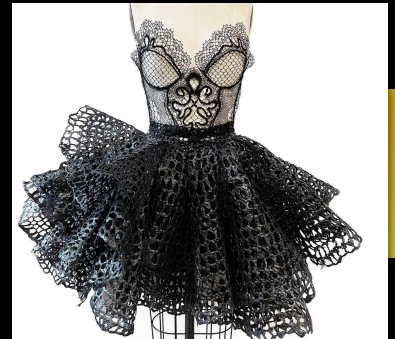
 @padinabondar (6.5K followers)

About

Padina Bondar Gibbs is an Iranian-born, Parsons-trained fashion and textile designer residing in New York City. Her design journey has been defined by her ability to envision and re-engineer old, discarded, or seemingly useless materials into beautifully-rendered fashions and textiles. She uses everything – from pomegranate skin, used plastic cutlery, and tampons, to pregnancy tests, hair extensions, tech waste, and tea bags – all in an effort to be as sustainable as possible. From conceptualization to wearable garments, Padina aims to show that creativity and innovation in fashion can lead to positive change in the world.

Story

- > Padina was born in Tehran, Iran, where she lived with her family for the early part of her life. When she was 8-years-old, they decided to leave everything – and everyone – they knew behind, and immigrated to Canada in search of better opportunities. Padina recalls having her life turned upside down at that time, facing the challenges of being a new country and learning a foreign language. However, through it all, creativity was her outlet – drawing, painting, and designing. Through these mediums, Padina was able to bridge cultural gaps and connect with others... and fashion always played an integral role along the way.
- > From an early age, Padina was already using unique materials to make dresses for her dolls, for her cousins, and even for inanimate objects like Q-Tips. She would take scrap paper and candy wrappers to craft entire pieces. Padina learned to sew at just 12-years-old and was well on her way to a fashion career. She enrolled in an intensive art program for high school before earning a Bachelor's in Fashion Design from Toronto Metropolitan University and a Master's in Textiles from Parsons School of Design.
- > When constructing garments Padina can do it all – sewing, draping, corsetry, beading, tapestry weaving, yarn spinning, felting, knitting, smocking, and more. As for materials, every step of her creative journey involves daring and unexpected methods – from diving into recycling bins, felting mountains of human hair into useable fabric, or even sourcing lights, wires, sensors, anatomy books, and garbage bags to create interactive designs. Her most recent project, Refuse, is an evolving collection of textiles, art, and fashion made of discarded plastic waste. As she puts it, "I might just be the most glamorous dumpster diver ever."
- > Padina's work always makes political, social, or ethical statements. From the Woman Life Freedom movement in Iran to wildfires in Australia, as well as mental health awareness and female genital mutilation, she is always striving to interpret her opinions on various topics in the form of clothing on a stage or catwalk. Padina's clothing is not gender-specific – she designs forms and pieces for bodies in general. Her work has been featured in countless blogs, press, runway shows, and magazines across the world. Padina dreams of one day collaborating with Lady Gaga, who inspires her with her dedication to creativity, self-expression, and activism.
- > For Padina, what sets her apart from other designers is her wide range of technical skills. She says she can bring even the most outside-the-box ideas to life. Thrifting and upcycling are deeply ingrained in her lifestyle and design philosophy – and she is so dedicated that she has no problem searching through dumpsters on the streets of Manhattan... as long as it means Padina can remain true to her sustainability principles from start to finish.



Plastic bag dress



Finding new materials via city dumpsters



Reclaimed garment bags and plastic plates