



OMG

FASHUN

DEBORAH WON

39

New York, NY

HT: Old Bridge, NJ

Designer

Married / 1 Daughter

She/Her

 @_abracadeborah_

About

Deborah Won is a Korean fashion designer and full-time wife (to a biomedical scientist) and mother (to a daughter) who resides in New York City. Aside from her household duties, Deborah has her hands full with her creative projects – a zero-waste fashion brand and a sewing pattern company. Inspired to pursue fashion from her grandmother, Deborah attended Parsons and FIT, earning a BFA and MFA, respectively. Known for off-the-wall designs like her inflatable dress with a robotic arm, her sustainable (and wearable) innovations have been featured in *Vogue* and *Marie Claire*. For Deborah, life is all about two things – family and fashion.

Story

- > Deborah grew up in a Korean family with traditional Christian values. She always did the opposite of whatever her parents wanted her to do – in fact, she partied a lot in high school and was a perpetual rebel... yet her parents didn't give her too much grief, as she always showed up to church on time every Sunday.
- > Deborah's parents owned a dry-cleaning service, so they taught her a lot about clothing and materials. Additionally, Deborah started competing in dance and the elaborate costumes she wore to recitals instilled a sense of wonder about fashion design possibilities. Interestingly, the *Star Trek* films and various series also gave her a unique perspective on futuristic fashion design... and many of these aesthetics she saw on *Star Trek* continue to permeate her current garments she now creates.
- > When Deborah told her parents she wanted to be a designer, they initially said, "No." Eventually, they caved and allowed her to do so, but they would not pay one dime towards her tuition. Thankfully, Deborah was able to earn a full scholarship to Parsons. She recently just finished her graduate degree at FIT... and now Deborah hopes to prove to her parents that her pursuit has all been worth it.
- > Deborah's brand, Pisces Rising, is all about a utopian future and doesn't focus on negativity in society (unlike many other designers out there). With a keen interest in clothing that caters towards space exploration, she loves to blend historical elements into futuristic framework. Deborah's brand is completely zero-waste, all the way down to the threads. Publications like *VOGUE* and *Marie Claire* have already taken notice, and New York Fashion Week recently showcased one of her collections.
- > When it boils down to it, fashion and family are Deborah's priorities. She doesn't have designs on being an influencer or any other frivolous pursuits – she simply wants to flex her creativity and take care of her husband and daughter. In the end, Deborah hopes to use her skills to create a better future in the fashion world, as well as show her daughter just how amazing and inventive the world can be in general.



Inflated TPU dress made by robotic arm heat fusing



Zero-waste "Bronze Age" labyrinth dress



Linoleum chips with hand-cut chiffon to resemble Italian terrazzo flooring