



OMG FASHUN

KHOI LE

23


Chicago, IL

HT: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Fashion Designer

Single / No Kids

He/Him

 [@his_great_fabulousness](#)

About

Khoi Le is a Vietnamese-born artisanal designer whose brand focuses on couture gowns and casual yet costume-esque everyday wear – think Morticia Addams for private clients and Wednesday Addams for the masses. With aspirations to design for Gaga and Cher, he has used chicken wire and dog food bags, among other items, to craft historical yet contemporary wearable art. Inspired by the likes of McQueen and Mugler, Khoi is never one to follow trends – he’s a rule breaker who is disrupting the fashion world with his playful and whimsical approach to design.

Story

- > Khoi, a native of Vietnam, says he had a tough upbringing – his family didn’t accept the fact that he was gay, so he struggled throughout his childhood. However, Khoi always found solace in the arts, especially when it came to fashion. From an early age, he started playing with Barbies... and he would spend countless hours designing dresses for them in his room. He says his mom taught him the importance of self-presentation and glamour... and young Khoi was eventually able to channel his emotions into creating beauty with wearable art.
- > When Khoi was 8-years-old, his family moved to the US and settled in Dallas, where he lived for ten years. Eventually, when he was old enough to move out on his own, Khoi packed up his belongings and moved to Chicago on his own with \$500 in his pocket. He would go on to attend the School of Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), where he further fine-tuned his design skills.
- > These days, he is a skilled designer who has come a long way from his humble beginnings. Khoi’s brand, KHOI, focuses on commission-based projects, bespoke event garments, and performance outfits. He would love to one day have a retail line revolving around evening wear and red carpet dresses.
- > Khoi claims to be a “beast” with a glue gun, but he is adept at countless methods and techniques. He has woven dresses made out of hand-twisted brown paper (seen in VOGUE), sculpted a dress from metal and wired flowers, stapled trash bags together for a kimono, and deconstructed upcycled men’s chinos to craft a drag apocalyptic outfit.
- > As an Asian-born immigrant who’s risen above his traumas to pursue success in an American industry, Khoi says he unintentionally a walking social statement. He aspires to create pieces for people just like him – the quiet ones with creativity bubbling inside who need to express themselves through art and fashion. Khoi also hopes to help shift the industry back to craftsmanship and escape the mass-market fast fashion that has become so prevalent in recent years.



Salvaged cardboard, videotapes, paper, polyester



Rolled and coiled brown paper



Satin, organza, flowers, glass, yarn, plastic netting