FASHIONEXT

TEEN DESIGN
COMPETITION
Team Bow and Needle’s garment incorporates both Mainbocher’s design structures and the futuristic short story “Snow” by Laura Ruby. The team utilizes Mainbocher’s defined cinched shape and combines it with a robotic arm and an illuminated veil as a nod to the dystopian theme, as well as the colors red, silver, and blue to illustrate the patriotism of “Snow.” The garment flips the red fabric of the dress to sparkle on the inside, adding individuality and fluidity to the design as a whole.
CROWNED IN GARNET

YOUNG WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL

A soldier, a survivor, a queen: different in their appearance, she embodies all three. Resources are scarce, days of freedom are distant memories, and being an individual can make you stand out for the wrong reasons, but her crown reminds her that fear is not hers to hold. Her attire, worn and patched, is her badge of honor, always ready for battle. But look closer—she’s still all woman, and hints of gold and bronze keep a sparkle in her eye despite the darkness. Layered for every occasion and scenario, the warrior gleams with the promise of tomorrow.
DIVERSE DESIGNS

NILES NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

This sophisticated piece was inspired by Mainbocher’s versatile talents and influential fashion contributions. From constructing formal suits for the nation’s armed services to the iconic Girl Scout uniform, he also influenced liberating trends for feminine dresses. The earth-toned color seeks to symbolize camouflage and minimalistic trends during wartime, and the embellished pins are added for a more refined and regal look in contrast to the fabric. Lastly, the addition of bold color-blocking ruffles further emphasizes Mainbocher’s signature flair of a statement added to a simplistic piece.
FASHION SENSES

AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS, CHICAGO VOCATIONAL CAREER ACADEMY

Our garment is a mix of hard and soft, feminine colors and edgy details designed to make the wearer feel beautiful and confident. Inspired by Mainbocher’s love of making a statement by dictating each element of an outfit, specifically jewelry that is actually sewn directly onto the garment, this gown features a gear-and-bead necklace that appears to float on the wearer’s skin. The candy-pink shade references several of his silk dresses—delicate, but also strong and enduring. The train floats away from the structured gown and moves independently, a quality that is prized by and reflected in the woman who wears it.
MAINE COUTURE

MAINE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

The 1970s-inspired flare pants are laced up with sixteen hand-painted grommets. The corseted, sky blue wrap top is embellished with gold and silver jewels and blue floral straps. The look is completed by an earth-toned cape that consists of more than fifty gathered ruffles on the back and a grommet front closure.
Team RejuveNation’s design is inspired by Mainbocher and created for the third female president of “Snow.” The bold cloak is made up of a black base with silver fabric blocked together on the back. It is adorned with a gold and silver hood along with military-inspired epaulettes and has a double extending train. The elegant gold dress has pickups throughout the skirt with a hint of pink on the bottom right corner that is covered with industrial gears and metal studs. The sweetheart bodice is embellished with gold and silver studs to tie everything together.
The vision for our garment was to create something that integrated the variety of styles created by Mainbocher, while still adding modern elements. In doing this, we created a two-piece design out of a silky mint fabric as well as a sheer apron that is reminiscent of the apron design for which Mainbocher was famous. Additionally, we used gears in innovative ways to lace up the back of our top and cascade down the apron. Throughout the design, there are several gold accents, which elevate the style of our garment and allow this eye-catching design to be worn with confidence.
Twyce Styled

AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS, CHICAGO VOCATIONAL CAREER ACADEMY

Our name, Twyce Styled, is inspired by the idea of turning something old into something new and fresh, which is how we created this look. The main character in “Snow” had gone through hardships, including losing an arm in battle, but the strength and optimism she showed for the future was something that we wanted to represent in our look. Deconstructing fabric and using metal hangers and gears to create the prosthetic arm that is a daily reminder of what she has survived and using Mainbocher’s uniforms as well as his floral and bejeweled eveningwear as inspiration, we have created a fresh look that shows how strong and tough femininity can be.
If Mainbocher had lived longer, we believe he would have gone on to design pants like ours, loose and flowy on the bottom and fitted at the waist, similar to a dress. Mainbocher also incorporated attached accessories, which we imitated with our gear strap. In addition, we deconstructed the dress given to us into individual flowers placed in between the gears, giving the strap a little shimmer. Ultimately, our look is designed as a modern twist on Mainbocher’s elegant eveningwear with durable fabric and a dystopian color scheme.