

Colour Changing Clothes

In the movie “Ultraviolet”, the main character Violet wears a suit which changes colours at her will. The right image is a movie still of her suit changing from white to red, hiding the fact that she was bleeding.



In reality, this technology offers the opportunity for consumers to buy less as different colours could be achieved in one single garment. This article features 3 different designers working with 3 different technologies to achieve colour changing in clothing.



Rainbow Winters

The “Water Reactive and Sun Reactive Dress” series is designed by Amy, a British/Swiss media artist and fashion designer. The series of garments changes their colours when come in contact with sunlight or water due to the use colour changing pigments such as the photochromic and hydrochromic dye. This colour changing method offers a two way variability,

meaning that it only changes between 2 states. The disadvantage also includes the fact that the change is actuated by the environment, not controllable by the user.

Despite the limitations, this is a relatively mature technology, products incorporating it could be mass manufactured easily.

This video shows the effect of photochromic material which changes colours when come in contact with UV light.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqNm1y4MIVU&feature=player_embedded#at=70

Pseudomorphs

Pseudomorphs is a garment designed by Anouk Wipprecht, a Dutch designer. It changes colour through the use of pneumatic system which pump different colour inks at different rates on to the white felt fabric. The design is an attempt to breach the borders between hand made, unique clothes and those produced on a mass scale in factories. As mentioned by



Anouk, the design would be a mass product, and the user would “finish” the dress by adding different colours to it. The disadvantage of this method is the one way approach it took on, the colour could only be applied but not removed. So strictly speaking, this is not a colour changing garment but a self colouring dress. However, a similar method is used by an Australian artist/designer who designed an outfit which uses flowing ink to change its colour repeatedly (the next section). Below is a video of the Pseudomorphs dress.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R06oTwsABQ0&feature=player_embedded

Robyn's 'Indestructible' music video costume

Lucy McRae is an Australian artist/designer who often focuses on the creation of new prosthetic skins for the human body. Lucy created a costume for Robyn in her music video “indestructible”. The outfit is made from multiple transparent pipes which weaves and coils around the body into a dress. Colour inks are pumped through the pipes to create a dynamic liquid movement. The attempt was to create a dynamic skin made out of air, liquid and vapour, but the method and technology used suggested the possibilities for a colour changing dress, as the colour ink flows into the dress and could later be drained away for another colour to fill in. This would not only allow the user to determine the colour, but also repeat the process over and over again.

This is the video of the making of this costume:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0HwID7bRII>

