

## Sewing a Sustainable Future

Earlier this October, the second annual Atlanta Sustainable Fashion Week was held in the Historic West End. Caroline Scott, a fresh-faced fashion designer, was eager to enter a contest at ATLSFW following her recent graduation from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Her senior collection was prepped and ready, and she could practically feel the cash prize weighing her pockets down. One week before the competition, the producers beckoned her and her two competitors to a secret location where they—in a Project Runway-esque manner—unveiled a mysterious pile. Pool floaties, shovels, buckets, and other beach litter lay beneath the tarp. The task? To create an entire new look made out of trash.

Doll Parts is an assemblage of upcycled pieces of lingerie developed by Caroline Scott. The collection was inspired by her “lifelong love of playing dress-up,” as mentioned in an interview with the creator. The designs stem from an amalgamation of various vintage styles, like Elizabethan corsetry and 1950s bullet bras. Over the course of 9 months, Scott worked tirelessly to make six outfit ideations come to life in hopes of being featured at SCAD’s 2023 Fashion Show. However, when Scott received the message that her collection had been cut from the show, she joined forces with a team of 30+ SCAD seniors to curate a fashion show of their own.

Months later, ATLSFW neared. Scott entered the Student Competition, created by the fashion week’s founder, Tanjuria Williams, in search of the “next emerging sustainable designer,” as stated on the Sustainable Fashion Week [website](#). Within a week of applying, Scott and two other SCAD students were accepted as one of the three student finalists. Mere days before the competition was to commence, the finalists met the producers at Lee + White, where they revealed a heaping pile of garbage collected from Amelia Island, a Floridian isle off the coast of Jacksonville. In less than one week, the contestants constructed new pieces entirely from

the trash provided by the producers. Along with a \$2,000 cash prize, the winner of the contest would have their ensemble taken to Amelia Island and showcased at its welcome center.

Scott swiftly got to work, collecting pool floaties and boogie boards. She stripped the boards of their rainbow mesh, dyed the fabric a deep black, and assembled an elegant cover-up, made to gently rest on the hips of her model. For the top, she melted down inflatable pool toys and shaped them into a tight, raven-colored, lace-up corset, secured with various recycled textiles. Model Emma Shane, who wore the final look, noted that the recycled material was nearly as comfortable as her everyday garments, though the approach was “more artistic than conventional.”

What had this upcycled corset and drapery made of Scott? The winner of Atlanta Sustainable Fashion Week.