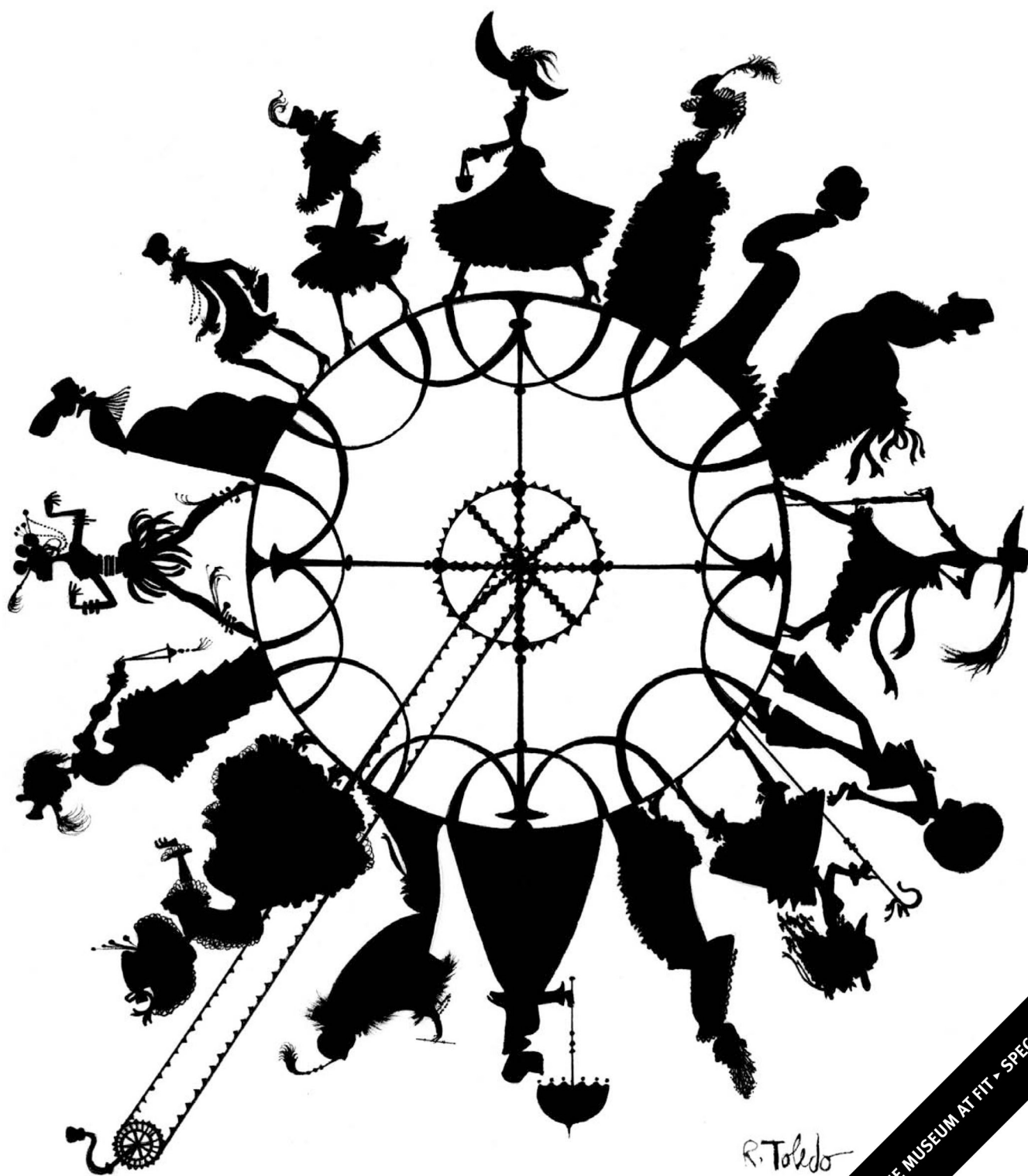


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THE MUSEUM AT FIT • SPECIAL SECTION



## School-Supply Couture

Early in the fall semester, an ambitious new FIT student, Valerie V'allure, staggered back to her dorm room, overwhelmed with school work. She fell asleep among her sketches and art supplies, and dreamed about a fashion show. But instead of wearing denim and lace, satin and organza, the models strutted in garments fashioned from Post-Its, paper clips, and felt-tip markers, and shoes made of rulers and tape measures.

Valerie and her dream were invented for a display called School Supply Couture, an independent project by nine Display and Exhibit Design and Fashion Design students. From late August through September, Valerie and the mock runway show were on view in the lobby of the Fred P. Pomerantz Art and Design Center. A flashing strobe illuminated school-supply-clad mannequins on a catwalk, and a rapt "audience" of fashionistas watched, so convincingly posed that some passersby thought they were real. (One looked suspiciously like Vogue editor Anna Wintour.) Nearby, Valerie, also a

mannequin, lay on a bed among tangled sheets and scattered sketches, in a realistic re-creation of a frenzied student's dorm room.

Two Display and Exhibit Design students—Edward J. Sajovic and Pollawat "Polar" Buranasatit,—spearheaded the fantastic project. They sought support from art supply retailer Design Partners (DP), which contributed funding, lent most of the mannequins, and provided the school supplies. Elisabeth Jacobsen, Display and Exhibit Design chair, says, "They've been incredibly generous to us." Linda Fargo, creative director for Bergdorf Goodman, lent the "sleeping" mannequin. Two Fashion Design students contributed garment designs, and five other Display and Exhibit Design students also pitched in.

The display was created in three days of what Sajovic calls "a glittery, papery, hot-glue mess—and a few last-minute panics." But the results were worth it, he says: "Our mission was to create an exciting concept that delivered a cutting edge fashion exhibition, while supporting the retailer we chose to work with. To go from this unique concept to full completion in two months was great!" Jacobsen says, "This was students working because they love what they do— it was very joyful."



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