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Intro to Fashion Studies

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The Reflection on the Dress Practice Interview

The informant selection¹ was not hard for me. I was lucky enough to know a friend who works as a fashion stylist- Leah Levin. There were two main themes came up during the interview, one was sustainability, and another was rotation. Leah got most of her style from her mom which includes fashion and sustainability. It was quite interesting that her mom incorporated her vision in sustainability into her daily life before anyone else did. Leah prefers to wear the same outfits for weeks and move on to next rotation. She organized clothes by different categories due to different utilities. For example, she organize most of her black pieces by designers. For colorful vintage clothes, she organized by colors for the convenience of making the color story for her clients. I was amazed by how she actually can tell the stories behind each garment. A question raised up in my mind, “how many people can actually tell the stories behind each clothes like Leah?”. My guessing is a lot. Garment is such an intimate object that we just can't forget.

Getting dress is ceremonial. Even though Leah's subject position² is so different from mine, her age, job, and location. Her financial base is stronger than mine and that is part of the reason of she has 5 more wardrobes than mine. Like Sophie Woodward said in Book *Why Women wear what they wear: Hanging Out in the Home and the Bedroom*, “Because getting

¹ Sophie, Woodward, *Why Women Wear What They Wear* (Oxford: Berg 2007) 35.

² Susan, Kaiser, *Fashion and Cultural Studies* (New York: Berg 2012), 31.

dressed typically occurs when one is alone and is an intensively private moment at which strangers are not present...”³, to me, a wardrobe is such an intimate subject, even though I am a fashion design major student, oftentimes I don’t feel comfortable sharing every single detail of my wardrobe. Because of the different subject position- career, Leah feels more comfortable sharing her wardrobe with others than me. However, I do find out that there’s one common thing in our dress practice⁴- the rotation of the certain outfits.

Throughout the interview, I got a overview of her wardrobes as well as her passion towards fashion. The relationship between clothing and body is very subjective for different people with all kinds of subject positions. When the clothing is a career can be very different than when it is a necessity. To me, the weight of the dominance of body and clothing has to be balanced, which is to say, body and clothes should be emphasized on the word suitable instead of trendy.

³ Sophie, Woodward, *Why Women Wear What They Wear* (Oxford: Berg 2007) 31.

⁴ Cheryl Buckley and Hazel Clark, *Fashion and Everyday Life* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2017), 13.

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