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### Reflective Statement

Last semester, my Design Studio 1 and Economics and Ethics of Sustainable Design focused on the issues of sustainability. One of the projects from Design Studio 1 was called “Up-cycling as Creative Practice,” and it was about creating a sustainable garment out of second hand clothing.

My research was about the downsides of fast fashion. For example, during the production of clothing, child labor is involved and many fast fashion collections mimic current luxury fashion trends. Furthermore, it affects the environment in a negative way and causes pollution. I mainly focused on the disposability and sustainable issue for the fast fashion. Clothing rapidly becomes unfashionable and not wearable. People throw them away in the trash instead of recycling them. On average, about “65 pounds of clothing and textiles a year” are improperly discarded. The wasted clothing ends up hanging out in landfills where it stays and pollutes the ground and water. Fast fashion, which is synthetic and inorganic provokes deadly carbon emissions. It uses chemical and energy demanding processes which require large amounts of oil and produce nasty byproducts which get into the water.

Based on my research, I deconstructed second hand garment and created a completely new clothing by closing all seams and cutting four holes. Even though the design was unplanned, the big shapes created interesting design.

The goal of sustainable fashion is to create a system that can be supported indefinitely in terms of human impact on the environment and social responsibility. Consumers, manufacturers, and retailers should take responsibility in the irresponsibility. There are many ways to improve the sustainability in fashion industry. For instance, designers can recycle fabrics and if the garment was not sold out, it can be deconstructed and turned out to be a completely new design. If the garment is aesthetically beautiful and sustainable, customers will happy to pay for them and be aware of the downsides of fast fashion.