



Vikki Nulman  
Fashion Design student

Talent Extraordinaire!

Vikki Nulman is so proud of her school she wants the world to know about it. She is single-handedly doing her part to make that happen.

Her latest spectacular accomplishment is winning a contest to design an African-inspired couture gown in a competition open to all designers sponsored by the United Nations club of Berkeley College in New York City.

There were 30 design entries submitted, from which 16 were chosen to be produced for the runway. Vikki's creativity and hard work were rewarded – the five judge panel awarded her two of the "Spirit of Africa" awards, the first prize for overall best African design, as well as the coveted People's Choice award. Her gown also garnered the highest bid in the auction after the competition, with proceeds going to philanthropic efforts to help end malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The inspiration for the dress was African sunsets. "The colors were what inspired me – blues and yellows. I found lace that looked like the water lilies that I had seen in sunset photos. The lace is African-made, and when my model walks, the coat billows as if the wind is blowing those beautiful blues and yellows at the end of the day."

Vikki chose her own model, took measurements, made the dress in muslin, finally creating the prize-winning finished product and the head wrap.



Prior to this effort, Vikki was instrumental in the creation of the Fashion Installation centering around Alice in Wonderland that was the hit of the school in the early spring, remaining in the gallery for about a month. 20 students actively participated in the project which was visually directed by Alex Snyder, and visually assisted by Vikki and Dan Douglas, all Fashion Design students at The Art Institute of New York City. The installation is the most ambitious show to appear in the school's gallery, and "represents a journey through the technical side of fashion," according to Alex.



Another notable effort was the Cool vs. Cruel competition, where only cruelty-free fabrics can be used. Vikki had only been in school for a month, but she entered the competition and took second place!



Vikki is currently in her fourth quarter. Although she takes five classes, she commutes back and forth to Arizona, her primary home. But wait, there's more -- she is also a Cordon Bleu-trained Executive Chef, who currently travels around the country serving as a judge for culinary events!

She still loves the culinary field, but her heart is now in Fashion. She would like to see her current venture, airbrushing on fabric, grow into a business after she graduates.

After the Africa competition she was approached by a company who would like her to design their uniforms, but currently, she is immersed in designing her collection for the annual Graduate Fashion Show.

Vikki chose The Art Institute of New York City because she felt comfortable and at home right away. The choice, she says, came from the heart. "I get great respect from all the instructors, and have learned something from each of them."

About the African Couture competition she says, "There were many other schools represented, but it makes me happy to have won for our school and have it recognized. I would like to help The Art Institute of New York City get better known. There's a lot of talent coming out of the school that has yet to be recognized."