

## Alumna Success Story

### Elizabeth Azadi



2009 Fashion Design Graduate

#### *"Follow Your Heart"*

Sometimes there's a detour on the way to your dream. For Elizabeth Azadi, who always wanted to be in Fashion, there was a 10 year sojourn in the family's construction business. But she always knew that that field "wasn't in my heart," so she made the switch.

Even though a recent graduate, she has already created her own line, "based on what I learned at The Art Institute of New York City. I learned everything I needed to know in the two years that I attended here," she says. "The instructors are hands on, and they held my hand and guided me. The Fashion Design program has opened endless opportunities for me."

Currently, Elizabeth's line is selling on a fashion website. She will also sell her creations out of boutiques.

She is as modern as could be, yet is still tied with invisible threads to her country of origin, Iran. Her last collection was inspired by *Nedah*, an Iranian woman killed during the 2009 election protests. Elizabeth created a very feminine collection to show what women are not permitted to wear in Iran today, all in black as a sign of mourning. "I wanted to give women a voice – showing what they really wanted to wear. My last name, *Azadi*, means freedom in Farsi. My collection is very feminine—sexy & liberating."

Total control of her own creativity is one of Elizabeth's joys in being a fashion designer. "I think of something in my head, and in one day it becomes real. I have in my hands the ability to produce what I dream of."

Here are some of Elizabeth's recent designs from the *Nedah* collection.

