

For me, cloth is cloth, whether it exists in a finished form, as in a garment, or as a scrap from another project. When a garment or other form of textile, like a blanket or throw is no longer useful to me, because it no longer fits, the dog ate one corner of the throw, or its exhibition life is past due, it is still a valuable piece of cloth which can be repurposed into something else.

Garments that were designed for the runway, or exhibitions, are usually ones that I don't have the opportunity to wear on a regular basis. And in the exhibition world, typically juries want work that has been completed in the last two years. That makes a closet full of exhibition work that has no purpose other than archival.

And there are pieces that just aren't that wonderful. That's OK in the creative world, and experimentation is an important part of my creative practice. But the cloth is still valuable, and it isn't unusual for me to look at older work, and decide to repurpose the cloth into something I can use.

The *Frosted Florals* hand painted gown was languishing in my closet. It had been featured in various publications, exhibitions, and fashion shows. I loved the piece, but it no longer fit me, and served no purpose. I broke it into two very usable tops, featured here, that I have worn many times since. Leftover scraps from repurposing were then made into tote bags and sold in fund raisers.

*Spirit Mist* was made from a mohair wrap coat I had made and gifted to my late mother-in-law. She wore it proudly for a number of years, and after her passing, I restyled it into a jacket I've worn proudly for years. That same mother-in-law was also a weaver, and in her stash was a lovely long wool skirt she had woven from her handspun yarn. It sat in my closet for years until I decided to make something from it I would wear on a regular basis.

I've repurposed old unsold production pieces that had been tucked away in the attic, after I quit showing my work in craft fairs. *The Color Blocked Dress* was remade from a t-dress found in the attic, along with a pair of wool crepe pants. I am not above taking a garment from my wardrobe, even of commercial fabric and repurposing it into something fresh. Cloth is cloth.

*Jacket with Felted Collar* was created from a dress woven as part of an ensemble from a collaboration with another textile artist for a challenge for Convergence Tampa 2008. The dress paired with a more substantial coat, seen in a photograph elsewhere in the exhibition. The collaborating artist kept the coat, and I kept the dress, which didn't fit me, and I really didn't have any use for. It had already toured with an exhibition for over two years. I love the jacket it became. And taking something apart, seam by seam is metaphoric in itself. Cloth is cloth...

-Daryl Lancaster