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Rock'N'Texture

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This piece was put together with a desire to explore the creation of textiles with untraditional materials. The idea was to start completely from scratch and transform unexpected materials into wearable art. I wanted to create something that evoked conversation about what a textile is and how far the boundaries may be pushed while still being considered a textile.

The starting material was the fiber Abaca, which was then turned into a pulp and dyed, from which sheets of paper were pulled. These sheets of paper were pressed, and then manipulated to create texture by crushing up the still wet sheets of pulled paper and leaving them out to dry in



this state. Once dry, these sheets were pulled back apart and pressed flat. To create a sheen look, egg whites were then painted onto the surface. All these manipulations were used to achieve the look of crinkled leather, with a more interesting texture and process, but that is still flexible enough to be worn. The nature of the imitation of crinkled leather is meant to make the viewer do a double take and create urges to reach out and touch the textile. It encourages viewer engagement with the actual garment.

These sheets of paper turned into textiles then began the transformation into a rocker look with an edge and also a hint of femininity. Each piece of paper was slightly different, and when placed next to each other create an interesting juxtaposition, which is how the garments are pieced together. The look is a two-piece outfit, comprised of a vest and a skirt. Both pieces are made from original patterns.

The look as a whole pushes the boundaries of what a textile actually is and opens up more possibilities of what a textile could be. It is meant to break traditional thoughts about textiles and what materials are proper to wear on our bodies. The vest is made to fit a 34-inch bust, and 26-

inch waist, while the skirt is made to fit a 26-inch waist and 35-inch hip. This piece was finished on May 1, 2013.

