

KAREN TOPACIO

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Karen Topacio got her Master's degree in contemporary fashion from IFA Paris in 2015 and made her professional debut in June of that year. Soon, she was selected as one of the top 20 finalists for the LVMH prize, and won the E-Fashion Award that celebrates up-and-coming designers' revolutionary digital strategies. For this contest, in collaboration with coder Cyril Diagne, she developed the groundbreaking software **Drape**, which captures motion and allows designers to translate a whole range of bodily movements into 3D curves and drapery when modeling a garment on a computer screen. With the help of this motion-tracking technology, Karen created a beautiful collection inspired by the flow of human movement.

This decidedly cosmopolitan designer, who was born in the Philippines and raised in both Manila and Australia, is now working from Paris, and her 2017 Spring/

Summer collection was unveiled on a Tokyo runway. In her latest work she took inspiration from the landscape of her hometown Manila, where rich tropical nature co-exists with the hustle and bustle of a large city. Karen uses natural colors and supple materials to create graphical silhouettes, to which she then adds unique razor-cut leather details. Her line is currently carried at **Kodd Magazine** (Paris), **The Clothing Lounge** (London) and **Assembly** (Manila). In addition to launching her own online shop in early 2017, she also plans to open pop-up stores in various cities across the world in a bid to expand her global distribution network.

www.karentopacio.com