

VANESSA SCHINDLER

Lea Robinot



29-year-old Swiss designer **Vanessa Schindler** completed a master's degree in fashion at Geneva University of Design, where she received the HEAD Master's Mercedes-Benz Prize for her innovative graduate project. She interned at **Balenciaga** and went on to scoop two awards at the legendary **Hyères Festival** in 2017: the Grand Jury Prize by fabric trade show **Première Vision** and the Public and City of Hyères Award.

It took her two years to master her fetish material: urethane, a synthetic crystalline compound that does not melt when heated. This shiny, sleek substance, normally used for industrial purposes, is inexpensive but visually effective. It allows fabrics to be fused together, but Schindler's research allowed her to take it to a whole

new level, making it a fully fledged fashion material. Schindler's vision is centered around the poetic idea of 'frozen liquidity' (it is hardly surprising that she earned the nickname 'Jellyfish Girl'). Her dreamy creations invoke the underwater universe, with soft, pearly, sheer materials and holes outlined with urethane. The pièce de résistance in her line, called 'Urethane Pool', is a brown urethane dress featuring 3D-molded shell embellishments. Schindler's ambition is to learn to mold and fuse multiple fabrics, working like a sculptor. With a 15,000 EUR cash prize from Hyères to invest into research and development, this aim sounds achievable. Another project in Schindler's pipeline is a capsule collection for **Petit Bateau**.

www.vanessa-schindler.ch