

DI GAO

Danielle Bullen



Di Gao is a New York-based graduate of the Parsons School of Design and the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology who is reinventing the traditional art of crocheting. Sleek, modern and trend-led, her designs show that crochet does not need to be cozy, homely and somewhat frumpy.

Gao first turned her attention to crocheting while developing her BA collection. Later, when pursuing her degree at Parsons, she enriched it with new techniques. While studying, she also gained industry experience by interning at **Derek Lam**, working closely with the design team from concept to execution for their Spring 2017 collection. This may explain the maturity and sophistication behind her own designs – qualities rare for a student's work.

Di Gao's own womenswear collection was shown as part of the Parsons MFA 'Fashion Design and Society' runway in 2017. This prestigious graduate show has previously launched the careers of Maria Kazakova, the founder of **Jahnkoy** (see

WeAr's previous issue) whose collections were picked up by **Bergdorf Goodman**, and **Kozaburo Akasaka**, whose work can currently be found at **Dover Street Market**.

Gao's graduate collection featured garments made with wire and yarn that showed her ability to balance current concepts of cool with a reverence for a long-practiced method of garment construction. Her elegant hand-knitted silhouettes paired with sporty details, such as elastic straps, forge a dialogue between craftsmanship, innovation and commercial appeal. Having already attracted the attention of **VFiles**, a Manhattan-based store/agency that is an epicenter for emerging style talent, Di Gao is certainly a designer to keep an eye on.

www.instagram.com/gaod_i