

# Deborah Won

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## Profile

Fashion designer with 15+ years of hands-on expertise across knitwear, wovens, leather, intimate apparel, swimwear, and cut-and-sew categories. Managed 150-300 styles per season at Converse (Nike Inc.) and Opening Ceremony, coordinating with manufacturing partners across Asia, Europe, and North America. Deep technical fluency in draping, patternmaking, and garment construction. Integrates CLO3D, AI-assisted design workflows, and digital prototyping to accelerate development and reduce sampling cycles.

## Experience

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**Aldwyn** — New York City 04/2025-02/2026

Lead Designer & Product Director — Circular Childrenswear

- Led end-to-end product development for a circular childrenswear brand, with full lifecycle ownership from sampling and prototype through production, secondhand resale, and garment disassembly
- Delivered first collection within 5 months of founding; integrated AI tools for design ideation, pattern grading, and content creation, cutting sample iterations by 35%

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**Pisces Rising** — New York City 01/2023-Present

Creative Director — Pisces Rising (independent label)

- Designs and delivers luxury occasion wear and made-to-measure garments under the Flux line, managing silhouette development, fittings, and full production cycles from concept through delivery
- Building Aegis, an AI-powered pattern digitization and re-grading platform — Phase 1 (PatternTrace) live; Phase 2 grading engine in development
- Designed and delivered 6 seasonal collections managing full development cycles from concept through production; grown made-to-measure commissions 40% YoY through relationship-driven outreach
- Fashion Trust USA Finalist; editorial coverage in Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, and i-D within first two years of launch

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**c.Vernoy** — New York City 01/2024-02/2025

Creative Director — Luxury Knitwear

- Spearheaded creative direction across functional knitwear categories, aligning with business objectives to deliver luxury apparel for the UHNW market
- Led team of 3 through end-to-end product development specializing in cashmere and noble fibers; curated a 120+ SKU collection across 3 delivery drops with luxury Italian manufacturers
- Defined seasonal creative vision and presented collection narratives directly to ownership, translating brand positioning into commercially viable product strategies

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**Sandy Liang** — New York City 03/2022-03/2024

Freelance Womenswear Designer

- Directed womenswear design across knits, wovens, cut-and-sew, and outerwear over 4 collections, managing tech packs and garment specifications for 80+ styles per season
- Coordinated directly with overseas factories to maintain quality standards across fit, construction, and material execution from initial development through final approval
- Integrated AI moodboarding and digital collage workflows for trend forecasting, reducing concept phase by 25%

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**FIT, SUNY Korea** — Seoul, SK 06/2019-08/2022

Adjunct Professor — Fashion Design

- Developed and taught undergraduate fashion design courses in concept development and Western costume history for 6 semesters across in-person and virtual formats
- Faculty Evaluation: "Excellent" (co-Professors); Student Course Evaluation: 4.52/5.00
- Mentored 45+ students via portfolio reviews; 8 placed in national and international competitions; built a pedagogy centered on craft-as-intellectual-discipline and systems-level design thinking

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**Converse (Nike Inc.)** — Boston, MA 03/2016-06/2019

Senior Womens Apparel Designer

- Created commercially viable global apparel collections across 4 seasonal lines, driving 13.68% YoY revenue growth through cross-functional collaboration with development teams across the US, Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea, and China

- Managed a design pipeline of 150+ styles per season with full line sheet delivery across cut-and-sew, knits, wovens, and outerwear categories spanning women's sportswear and lifestyle
- Led sustainable material sourcing, transitioning 22% of the line to recycled or organic fabrics and establishing material innovation protocols later adopted brand-wide

**Converse (Nike Inc.)** — Boston, MA

06/2014-03/2016

Materials Designer II

- Engineered up to 300 SKUs per season meeting global environmental and performance standards
- Partnered with Nike Advanced Concepts on cross-brand material innovation, contributing to the development of 3 patent-pending textile treatments
- Introduced a digital material library system that reduced sample duplication by 30% and improved cross-team sourcing efficiency across global product categories
- Collaborated with textile mills in Japan, Taiwan, China, Italy, and South Korea on fabric development and exclusive fabrications for premium product tiers

**Opening Ceremony** — New York City

08/2008-06/2014

Senior Womens Apparel Designer

- Created innovative runway and ready-to-wear designs across women's categories, pioneering novel garment construction techniques with an editorial aesthetic
- Oversaw cohesive brand alignment on apparel, material, color, trim, and embellishment for Onward Kashiya license collections spanning 200+ SKUs annually
- Designed 24 collections and 8 capsule collaborations with international designers, driving 40% wholesale account growth and sell-through rates above 85%

## Awards & Recognition

**Fashion Trust USA Finalist** — Pisces Rising — 2026

**Global Graduate Fashion Scholarship**, Fast Retailing (Uniqlo) — 2021

**Marie Claire Fashion Our Future** — Sustainability and Innovation — 2023

**Press:** Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, InStyle, i-D, 1 Granary, Today Show

## Education

**Parsons, The New School**

BFA, Fashion Design, 2008

*Thesis centered around sustainability, inspired by hand-me-downs  
movement-specific design*

**Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY**

MFA, Fashion Design, 2023

*Thesis explores posture and*

## Skills

### Design & Making

Draping & Patternmaking  
Adobe Illustrator / Photoshop  
Sewing & Garment Construction  
Hand Drawing & Flat Sketching  
Material Research & Sourcing

### AI & Technology

CLO3D / CAD / 3D Prototyping  
Claude / ChatGPT / Gemini  
Midjourney / Stable Diffusion  
Notion (Ops & Database Systems)  
AI-Assisted Development

### Leadership & Strategy

Creative Team Leadership  
End-to-End Product Development  
Technical Design & Specification  
Supply Chain & Vendor Management  
Brand Strategy & Art Direction