



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Suzanne Rogers Fashion Institute Announces its Third Cohort

August 13, 2019 – Toronto, ON – [The Suzanne Rogers Fashion Institute \(SRFI\)](#) at Ryerson University's School of Fashion in the Faculty of Communication and Design is pleased to announce the third group of Fellows entering the program. Recent Ryerson School of Fashion graduates Adrian Arneri, Michal Perelmuter and Julia Payton, and current student Lynne Hey, will join the Institute as newly appointed Fellows.

"This investment in the future of Canadian fashion has achieved national and international success," said Suzanne Rogers, honorary patron of the SRFI. "I am proud to watch these exceptional emerging designers raise the bar for the Canadian fashion industry as they strive to make their mark at home and abroad."

Fellows' receive the benefit of a personalized program aimed at actualizing their career objectives. The one-on-one approach gives Fellows the opportunity to create short- and long-term strategies that guide them to their end goals.

"We give the Fellows a toolkit to enter into the world of fashion with a better understanding of their unique design perspective and a support system to lean on in order to grow," said Robert Ott, Director of the SRFI. "Being an SRFI Fellow is more than a title; it is the confidence to pursue your dreams without the burden of personal finances. It provides the Fellows with the determination to aim higher."

The SRFI supports nine Fellows, each journeying into the fashion industry at various academic and professional levels. The newly named Fellows will join Alexandra Armata, Matin Mithras, Stephanie Moscall-Varey, Olivia Rubens, and Jonah Solomon.

Adrian Arneri

Adrian Arneri is a womenswear designer inspired by music, film, and culture with a design aesthetic that references his childhood including his love for the Spice Girls and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Since graduating in 2017, Adrian has designed custom work most notably for Schwarzkopf Canada and *ET Canada*. His designs have been worn by *ET Canada's* Sangita Patel to the Golden Globe Awards, Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards, and most recently the Screen Actors Guild Awards. In 2018, Adrian made his television debut as a contestant on the fashion design competition show *STITCHED*, which aired nationally on Slice TV. As Adrian continues to develop a niche for his label, he looks to gain experience by immersing himself in his passion for popular culture and using it to define his design aesthetic.

Lynne Hey

Lynne Hey was born in Durban, South Africa and moved to Canada at a young age with her family. Her childhood was spent exploring creativity through drawing and painting. In her early adolescence, Lynne began using fashion as her primary creative medium.

Lynne became fascinated with styles from alternative subcultures and films from the mid-60s and 70s like Roman Polanski's *Apartment Trilogy*, *Deep Red*, and *The Exorcist*. Her interest in the horror genre and depicting elements of the macabre have become key reference points to her design aesthetic. Lynne will be travelling to continue her research development for her fourth-year collection debuting in spring 2020.

Michal Perelmuter & Julia Payton

Michal Perelmuter and Julia Payton are the design duo behind the label avrgbbs. Nostalgia, play, and fantasy are integral to their process as they create garments with illustrative motifs, intricate embellishments, and textiles made from latex and upcycled materials. As two queer designers, their relationship and identity give them a unique perspective and approach to design.

In the summer of 2017, Michal and Julia travelled to London, UK to intern and develop their collaborative undergraduate thesis. Inspired by childhood creativity, they created a 5-look collection titled “Won’t you play with me?,” and an interactive book meant to reignite adult creativity. After graduating, their second collection, “The tale of two average and nostalgic babies,” opened Fashion Art Toronto in April 2019. In September 2019 they will be moving to London, UK to evolve their imaginative world.



Adrian Arneri



Lynne Hey



Michal Perelmuter
& Julia Payton

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Media Inquiries

The Suzanne Rogers Fashion Institute, Dylan Kwacz, Program Coordinator, Tel: (416) 979-5000 x 6530, srfi@ryerson.ca

About The Suzanne Rogers Fashion Institute

The Suzanne Rogers Fashion Institute (SRFI) in the Faculty of Communication and Design at Ryerson University is a program dedicated to supporting emerging Canadian fashion designers nationally and internationally. Serving third and fourth-year Ryerson fashion design students and recent graduates, the Institute educates and provides mentorship, awards and international opportunities to new talent in fashion craftsmanship. The SRFI was made possible through the generous \$1 million gift from The Edward and Suzanne Rogers Foundation. For more information, visit www.srfi.ca

About Ryerson School of Fashion

The School of Fashion in FCAD, the Faculty of Communication and Design, is Canada’s leading university fashion program from over 70 years of leadership in fashion education. The School is a part of the FCAD ecosystem that consists of nine leading schools in creative fields. The School continues to transform the fashion industry by centring inclusive, decolonized and sustainable approaches throughout our teaching, research and creative activities as well as industry and community partnerships. For more information, visit www.ryersonfashion.ca

About Ryerson University

Ryerson University is Canada’s leader in innovative, career-oriented education. Urban, culturally diverse and inclusive, the university is home to more than 45,300 students, including 2,600 master’s and PhD students, 3,800 faculty and staff, and nearly 198,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, visit www.ryerson.ca