### It is only in water,

I can move freely.

A collection by



We make fashion accessible, dignified and easy-to-wear.





"Werable helps us focus on what we can do instead of what we can't."

#### - CLAUDIA POH

Werable is a design studio founded by Parsons School of Design and Central Saint Martins alumna, Claudia Poh and Potato Productions. Werable (A play on the words "We are able" and "wearable".) was conceived to make fashion accessible, dignified and easy to wear.

She's a guest speaker at Harvard Law School, Parsons School of Design New York, London College of Fashion and NTU, with a focus on inclusive design and design thinking.

Werable believes that adaptive fashion won't just exist to help people get dressed. It will enable people to do amazing things that no one else can do.

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#### **About The Collection**

Together with Paralympian swimmer Yip Pin Xiu, Werable aims to bring accessible adaptive styles to the runway.

Wenable removed zippers out of fitted dresses and other forms of occasion wear, innovating new ways to wrap clothing around the body using gravity, straps and magnets.



# "When I'm coming home late, my mom stays up to help unzip my dress."

- YIP PIN XIU

Zippers can be a real challenge for people who experience reduced dexterity. Pin Xiu shared that whenever she had events that ran late, her mom would wait up to help her unzip her dresses.

Werable innovated a range of wrap dresses and swapped out finicky fasteners for magnets.



Scan to watch the demo.







#### The Bunching Problem

We also noticed that tops and clothing tend to bunch in the front of the torso when Pin Xiu was seated. We realised that vents and cut outs could be effective in alleviating any bulky fabric. We layered separates and coordinated high waisted trousers to match.



# Inspiration from the 1770's.

We discovered an adaptive function within an artefact from the 1770s at the Henitage Conservation Centre. Sack-back gowns were often layered over petticoats or underskirts. They had front openings or slits on their dresses.

We applied this construction to the collection and introduced a vent to prevent fabric bunching at the waist.







#### Freedom in dress, movement and life

Pin Xiu shared photographs of her very first swim and this informed the construction of look 2 along with it's colour palette.



Steel blues, soft warm greys, ivory and pops of cornflower blue were curated for the colour palette.

Pleated waves are lined with Tencel lyocell.



## Wrap skirt in 4 simple steps.



Scan the QR code to watch the demo.

# 01:

Lay the skirt out on a surface. You may do this on the bed too.





Sit on the skirt, and locate the ends of the skirt.

02:





04:

Reach the other side of the skirt and link up the magnets.





## **Design & Dignity**

We observed that two hands were needed to tie medical gowns. What happens if the wearer only has mobility on one arm?





Close up of detailing





## **Exploring Unwearables**

We observed common wardrobe pieces and learnt the turtleneck and the zipper dress required maneuvering around to wear and take off the garment.

We fashioned a wrap dress that allows you to dress independently with one hand and secured with a magnetic buckle.







## Wrap Dress in 4 simple steps.



Scan the QR code to watch the demo.





**D1**: Pass the affected arm through.



**D3** Pass unaffected arm through.

**O4** Reach back and bring forward to fasten.

High fashion may seem contriadictory for an inclusive brand, but it's a necessary step forward to champion a spirit of acceptance. We learnt that even if we designed a functional walker, people opted for umbrellas as walking sticks instead.

### WERABLE

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