Student Fashion Shows' creativity combines design with art.
The 90-minute show featured more than 60 creative explorations of emerging designers studying apparel and textile design, who were quick to also credit their makeup artists, hairstylists and models. The runway show is a culmination of creative explorations ranging from classic to avant-garde. Students combine fine art, couture, and technical design to create original garments that reflect an understanding of global issues such as sustainability and cultural dress.

Samantha R. Crossland, designer and owner of Samantha Rei, and Matthew F. Richmond, designer and creator of The Paper Dress Code, judged the 2015 juried show. Audience members selected the "Audience Choice" winner by voting on their mobile devices. Niki Sullivan's Ampoule de Lorenzini 1 & 2 won the 2015 "Best in Show" award. Her designs were "visual representations of the electromagnetic sensory glands found in sharks." Sullivan said this year's show was highly innovative and risky, and she was proud of herself and her classmates.

Before each year's runway premier, students actively engage in the design and construction process for several months. Outside the studio, designers work with faculty to plan the show. The 2014 ATD Fashion Show For the 2014 show, 42 textile design students and approximately 80 designs were selected from more than 180 total ATD students and 350-plus submitted designs. First place went to Reflections by Sarah Kolis. The 2014 judging panel included: Target design director and MSU alumna Karen Rasmussen; Alisa Henriquez, MSU associate professor of painting; Candace Keller, MSU assistant professor of art history and visual culture; and Michelle Word, MSU teaching specialist and outreach/programming coordinator.

ATD senior and PR and promotion chair Heather Jarosz noted that while students are also responsible for volunteers, social media, models, and choreography, this only comprises a portion of the show's organization. "The major credit goes to faculty directors instructor Rebecca Schuiling (2015) and Professor Theresa Winge (2014), assisted by each year's senior and junior student directors," Jarosz says. For 2015, senior directors were Stephanie Spasoski, Emma Witte, and Maclain Credeur, and junior directors were Cari Marcotullio, Rachael Damman, and Kathleen Crowley. For 2014, senior directors were Shannon Gillespie, Rachel Bonneau, and Chelsey Wright, and junior directors included Emma Witte, Gabriel Aldridge, and Niki Sullivan. Notes Professor Winge, "Senior and junior directors' involvement extends into nearly every element of the show, providing significant professional development opportunities for these promising student designers."

Adds Schuiling, "It's a lot of hard work, but it's worth it knowing that the students get to see their work go out on the runway and hear the people's reactions to their creativity, designs and art."