

# Recycling revolutionary

By **SHELLEY GRECO**

Angela Carter is creating a recycled revolution for next month's Cult Couture fashion show.

The Waterview artist has created two garments for the event which are both made from old plastic bags.

"I am really interested in recycling and repurposing and seeing more value in things, rather than just disposing of things," the artist says. "I guess it is part of my creative journey, just trying different things."

Cult Couture showcases original pieces by designers across the country, all hoping for a share of the \$12,000 prize pool.

Now in its 12th year, the council-organised event has attracted 180 entries.

Each garment will be judged by a panel of industry experts including New Zealand designer Adrian Hailwood, fashion museum curator Doris de Pont and fashion editor Dan Ahwa.

Mrs Carter, who gained a bachelor of fine arts at Whitecliffe College, has two designs in this year's event under the Recycled Revolution category, where all garments must be made from rubbish, cast-offs, recyclables or pre-loved material.

Her Hydra design is made of red plastic bags from The Warehouse, repurposed sheets and tulle and the white Coralline entry is made with Foodtown bags, woven into one continuous piece of material.

"Coralline embodies my love of dress making, celebrating my whakapapa, my mothers and grandmothers and their creativity," the dressmaker says.

"It is this that has inspired my own journey into dress making, fashion and an obsession with fabulous textiles."

The mother of two collected the bags in 2004, before the introduction of environmentally-friendly bags. She has done various exhibitions and sculptural and installation projects but this is the first fashion event the artist has entered.

"I am really excited to see them alive. I make art so that it can be seen or talked about.

"A big part for me, of making art, is having other people see it and seeing what their reaction is and what they think."

Mrs Carter's husband, Rob, is also an artist and is in his first year of a masters degree at the Elam School of Fine Arts.



**Sew what:** Angela Carter has created two garments made from recycled materials for the Cult Couture fashion show.

Photo: **SHELLEY GRECO**



**Finished article:** Angela Carter models one of her dresses made from recycled plastic bags.

Photo: **SUPPLIED**

■ Cult Couture is on November 2 from 8pm to 10.30pm at Genesis Energy Theatre, Vodafone Events Centre, 770 Great South Rd, Manukau. Tickets cost \$25.

See [ticketmaster.co.nz](http://ticketmaster.co.nz) or call 0800 224 224 to book. See [mermaidspurse.org.nz](http://mermaidspurse.org.nz) for more information about the artist and her work.