

GALINA MIHALEVA

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Dr Galina Mihaleva's work and research deal primarily with the dialogue between body and dress, driven by the idea of having both a physical and a psychological relationship with a garment as a responsive clothing - wearable technology. Prior to joining NTU, Galina thought at Arizona State University for more than 15 years costume design and designed for world-renowned choreographers in USA, ASIA and Europe.

In 1993 Galina left Bulgaria and moved to USA to study at Arizona State University. She holds a B.F.A. and M.F.A. in fine arts and Ph.D. in Visual Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia, thesis: "The role of the designer in the era of Smart textiles and Wearable technology". As an extension of her education in 2011 she earned an Image consultant certificate from the Fashion Institute and Technology in New York and in 2013 she received her certification in Smart Textiles, from Gent University in Belgium. She is the founder of Galina Couture in Scottsdale Arizona, where her team develops exclusive collections of one of kind designs. Her interest in fashion lies in exploring the extent to which we experience fashion (emotional, intellectual and sensual aspects) and how we might be able to accomplish a higher state of connectivity between the body and our clothing. Her art and design work has been shown in festivals, galleries and museums across United States, Asia, Central and South America and Europe.

In 2007 she was nominated for the best design award at Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum. Beyond in-depth analysis of cultural values she combines traditional tailoring methods while developing and using new materials and innovative construction proses. Unbounded by the old rules, Galina now offers her work as a testimony to the power of beauty and expression, and to the transcendent human spirit.

Wearable Technology between Heritage and Innovation

This paper will focus primarily on the understanding of how the modern technological revolution is transforming the design process: the cultural heritage of traditional textile technique and craft a key element of creativity and inspiration for smart textiles and design relate to social behaviour and personal identity. Since the late 20th century, designers, artists, chemists, and engineers have experimented with incorporating various technologies into textiles in order to enhance their functionality and aesthetic qualities. The functional apparel design culture brings an interdisciplinary approach to wearable technology design, and its structured design process offers designers a means of organizing and addressing issues and identifying new variables to be considered in future work. Supported by a theoretical foundation regarding the evolution of clothing, a designer is obliged to adapt to the environment as dress have evolved to suit the society it bears custom to. It will include a discussion of four projects, conducted in collaboration with

Arizona State University, to illustrate the wide range of possibilities of wearable technologies in fashion design. To begin, the *Transcendence* (2012) and *Blue Perception* (2011) prototypes showed how wearable technologies may influence human interaction with others perceived by others and manages her/his personal space. Innovations in the field of textiles also offer new possibilities in dance performance, enabling dancers to more fully immerse themselves in all major elements of performance. The *Re- Flux* (2013) utilized special textiles that interacted directly with external technologies and multimedia to create a unique viewing experience. Last but not least, the *Textiles memory scopes* (2013) offers new way of interaction in the same space. As technologies continue to evolve, their potential use in smart clothing grows exponentially.

