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Dishcloth couture wins People's Choice at DesignTECH exhibition

A striking couture gown made from dyed dishcloths has won the first ever People's Choice Award at the HSC Design and Technology exhibition, DesignTECH.

Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth said the exhibition features innovative designs and inventions by 25 Design and Technology students who studied for their HSC in 2008.

"Around 2000 people voted for their favourite exhibit in this year's Dyson People's Choice Award," said Ms Firth.

"The clear winner was Carlos Bouman, formerly of Bradfield Senior College, who designed *Dishcloth couture*.

"It is an extraordinary piece," Ms Firth said.

At first glance, the eye-catching, multi-colour layered gown gives no hint of the disposable dishcloths, which Carlos dyed in multiple vats before drying and ironing them.

"It also uses recycled mosquito nets, nightgowns and bed sheets," said Ms Firth.

"Carlos has described the work as 'a creative explosion', combining non-conventional materials and industry techniques to create a high fashion garment.

"He wanted to see how far he could push himself creatively at the same time as exploring issues like consumerism and excessive waste."

"Congratulations Carlos, and best wishes for a successful career in fashion design.

"Thank you also to all the people who have visited DesignTECH and supported the state's talented HSC Design and Technology students.

"Thousands of people visited the three-month long exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum," said Ms Firth.

The People's Choice at the DesignTECH exhibition is sponsored by Dyson.

The Board of Studies NSW runs DesignTECH in association with the Department of Education and Training to highlight the talent and skills of HSC Design and Technology students.

The exhibition closed at the Powerhouse Museum on Wednesday 18 March 2009.

From March 25, the exhibition will travel to Grafton on the first leg of its regional tour.

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