

# 2014/15 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Young Photographers Alliance Award



**CAMERON DURHAM**

Photography

Freshman

Parson's the New School of Design



From an early age, my brother and I were exposed to many art forms. We attended local ballet, theatrical and musical productions as well as art openings and lectures. Piano, violin, theatre and dance lessons were integral parts of our homeschool curriculum. This exposure to the arts initiated my love to tell stories through photography. After graduating high school, I took a gap year to study photography and build my portfolio at the Glassell School of Art in Houston. My teachers pushed me to experiment with different processes and explore alternative methods of expression. Working full time at a restaurant, I practiced photography in my free time. Cinema and fashion have inspired many of my images and I use styling, setting, wardrobe and theatrics to tell stories in the pictures I made at Glassell. I became part of a nurturing photographic community in Houston that encouraged me to devote all my time to my true passion to have the career I wanted and pushed me to apply for a BFA. I researched my options and decided Parsons New School of Design was my best option due to the school's renown fashion programs and location in New York.



**Worldstudio**  
FOUNDATION



*the professional association for design*

## CAMERON DURHAM

Photography



My love of cinema, theatre and costumes piqued my interest in fashion photography, but not necessarily the entire industry. Fashion photography is typically portrayed as being commercial and seems to promote a somewhat wasteful and vain consumer lifestyle—not an aspect of the industry I admire. Raised as a vegetarian in an environmentally and socially conscious family, it would feel wrong to violate my values and perpetuate those wasteful lifestyles. Instead, I want to use fashion as a tool in my artwork (rather than create photographs explicitly to sell clothes), by blending the fine art and fashion genres. There's a way to positively influence society through art without being overly didactic, something I feel driven to achieve at Parsons. By using healthy models in recycled, inventive wardrobes, I'll use my photography to promote values of environmental consciousness, sustainability and resourcefulness while promoting a realistic and healthy body image.



Having an accessible arts community is something I strongly care about because I was influenced so much by art events I attended in my adolescence. In high school, I enjoyed doing charitable community service and used my photography to publicize a local ballet company. I currently work with the the Houston Ballet's community outreach department and with a new art gallery that fosters the type of art community that influenced me. At Parsons, I will seek out opportunities that promote these communities in my internships and volunteer work. Doing pro bono work in the past has helped me gain invaluable experience, so I plan to continue this work to help charitable causes and help the public experience art. This is type of community involvement I feel is necessary to be a good contributor and citizen of the world.

