

NEWCOSTUME  
A Column by Matthew Linde

Episode III  
CDLM: New Dead Stock



The New York label CDLM has produced four collections, each one a fresh mash-up of archetypal thrift-store garments — a sort of slow return to the reworked glamour of the 1990s that only sophisticated beau mondes truly understood.

Dead-stock furs, feathers, and leather reappear as their design dictum. For their fall 2019 collection a dowdy men's tuxedo is sculpturally stretched into a coat. Spring 2020 featured dusty tees with patched-on knife pleats. The favorably restrained fall 2020 featured a moss rubber trench, repurposed from some forgotten industrial chiffonier, erased of all fastenings save a small clasped belt to synch in the waist. Another highlight was their deconstructed wedding dress made in collaboration with fellow fringe New York ragpicker designer Giovanna Flores.

If New York rates the worst on the “big four” fashion week circuit (this is fact, not opinion), CDLM offers satiating reprieve — their highly technocratic approach to scrap is a rare alchemy to pull off in today's deskilled edutainment fashion industry. And their website? Only a cryptic landing page...

For this spread, CDLM documents their working process: repurposing a dead-stocked world of wigs, tattered polka dots, pillowcases, and retro helmets.







