



# ISABELLA LI KOSTRZEWA

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Experienced Fashion Designer with a specialization in sustainable, gender-free design. Proficient in zero waste pattern making, utilizing vintage and waste materials, and creating adjustable garments. Founder of Isaboko, a brand dedicated to radical solutions for the future of fashion.

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## EDUCATION

### Parsons New School of Design, BFA in Fashion Design, NYC, NY

Earned academic and departmental honors with a GPA of 3.81. Selected as the graduation speaker for the School of Fashion. Recognized as one of the "I-D" magazine's top 10 Parsons Graduates.

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## EXPERIENCE

### Isaboko May 2023 - Present

Founded and developed a sustainable fashion brand in Brooklyn, NY. Led a diverse creative team, overseeing design development, production, marketing, sales, and educational outreach. Successfully increased sales, brand notoriety, and online presence.

### Mentor, Parsons Paris Sustainability Class, Kaplan 2021 - Present

Mentored students, providing guidance on assignments and ideas. Evaluated and provided feedback on student projects. Maintained regular communication with over 75 students, ranging from 14 to 26 years of age.

### Research Assistant, Plus Size Patterning Book, Parsons April - September 2023

Tested and provided feedback on six patterns for effective communication and adaptability to various body shapes. Worked under the supervision of Dr. Lelia Kelliher. Conducted research and outreach to over 100 brands regarding their plus-size fashion lines.

### Design Assistant, The SERIES NYC April - August 2021

Collaborated on the design and creation of handmade garments for a growing sustainable, gender-free novelty brand. Worked closely with the head designer to realize concepts and produce pieces for the market.

### Design Fellowship, YEOHLEE New York March - June 2021

Contributed to social media efforts, developed a mini-film series for the website, and expanded the online brand presence. Assisted with design and production work, including creating custom crochet pieces for the brand.

### Finalist on Project Runway Jr Season 2 July - October 2016

Competed in a highly pressured TV show, showcasing design and sewing skills, on-screen performance, and problem-solving in weekly challenges. Achieved finalist status, creating a 6-look collection as one of the top 4 contestants.

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## AWARDS + ACHIEVEMENTS

### Global Fashion Summit Boston - Round Table Guest September 2023

Invited as a panelist to discuss the future of fashion education at the Global Fashion Summit in Boston. Shared insights alongside 15 deans and educators from major fashion design schools and the Vice President of CFDA Educational Programming.

### Guest Sustainability Lecturer, Parsons Academy August 2023

Delivered a lecture on Isaboko's founding and its radically sustainable design practices. Conducted a zero-waste patterning workshop for a group of 16 pre-college students.

### CFDA x Swarovski Re:Innovation Generation Design Scholar 2022

Received the CFDA award focused on advancing sustainable design ideas, aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals (climate action, gender equality, responsible consumption and production). Recognized as the largest undergraduate scholarship awarded by CFDA.

### Fashion Scholarship Fund Winner, Neiman Marcus Scholar 2022, 2023

Awarded the Fashion Scholarship Fund scholarship as a Neiman Marcus Scholar, demonstrating a commitment to ethical and sustainable fashion. Developed successful case studies for Dickies and Bode, showcasing expertise in sustainable fashion practices.

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## PROGRAMS

### Aalto Circular Design Summit, Helsinki, Finland August 2022

Participated in an international design program in Helsinki, Finland, focused on sustainable design innovation. Collaborated with students from around the world to advance the circular economy, sponsored by the European Union.

### Redress Design Awards, Hong Kong, China August - September 2021

Designed and executed a sustainable fashion collection, demonstrating expertise in eco-friendly fashion techniques. Showcased the collection at Hong Kong Fashion Week and received recognition in Vogue Hong Kong. Competed in the renowned Redress Design Awards, the world's largest sustainable fashion design competition.

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