

Catch this fun, funky play –and imagine!

Slim's, with Swatch, challenges its students to push the limits of fashion design, tailoring, dressmaking—and of their imagination

30 Sep 2018 By Raoul J. Chee Kee @raoulcheekee

Video games, spinning tops, marbles and jigsaw puzzles were on display yesterday at the atrium of Mega Fashion Hall in Mandaluyong. They weren't part of a toy convention, but rather, of the playfully imaginative designs by students at Slim's Fashion & Arts School.

The exhibit, "Laro: The Best of Student Work 2018," presented with Swatch (until Oct. 3), is

one of the school's annual activities where students get to present their handiwork to the public. Mark Higgins, the son of the school's founder, Salvacion Lim Higgins, chose among the design propos-

als of students which would be executed and put on exhibit. The students are enrolled in tailoring or in dressmaking, draping. Mark and his sister,

Sandy, a former advertising executive, have been running the school and collaborating on significant projects such as this.

Around 70 students had turned in two to four sketches on this year's theme—play (childhood games)—but only 30 designs were chosen.

Among them were two designs by Dinnes Obusan—a terno

embellished with strips of printed neoprene (simulating Chinese garters) and a Grecian gown with back panels lined with stylized sipa of gold "washers" and colored feathers.

"I bought the last seven yards of neoprene in a fabric store and ended up using every bit of it," Obusan said. He was even able to make the white outfit he wore to the exhibit opening last



Steven Tan, COO of Shopping Center Management Corp., SM Supermalls; Swatch president Virgie Ramos; actress Anne Curtis in a dress and Pac-Man-inspired cape by Claire Francisco; Mark and Sandy Higgins of Slim's Fashion & Arts School

Thursday that incorporated both the neoprene fringe and gold washers.

Isobel Juan had three weeks to

piece together her elegant jigsaw puzzle ballgown with sleeveless top. "It's my first time to be part of this school activity. I combined warm and cool tones for the puzzle pieces

because even if the theme is play, I still wanted my design to look elegant,” she told Life-style.

Pac-Man

Scenographer Gino Gonzales, who designed the exhibit space, topped some of the mannequins with Swatch clocks from the Swiss brand’s current colorful collection. Other mannequins sported fiberglass top-pers, such as a video arcade Pac-Man, an oversized blue goldfish, and a Gundam robot head.

Student Abdul Gaffar designed a dark green jusi barong with whirls of

Draped, pleated and pin-tucked jusi in jewel tones. He dyed 10 yards of offwhite jusi fabric.



Hand-painted details inspired by Chinese kites on a barong Tagalog by Damaris Chua

“It took me a long time to get the colors I wanted. I initially wanted the barong to be a dark, dark black but when sir Mark (Higgins) saw it, he said, ‘It’s working,’” Gaffar recounted.

This was not his first time to gain recognition in a graded school activity. For the launch of the book “Fashionable Filipinas,” authored by Gonzales and Higgins, in 2015, Gaffar designed a beautifully draped terno,



A requirement in his draping class at Slim’s. It was worn by actress Sarah Lahbati to the launch.

Yvonne Tabanao’s barong was inspired by Tsuru, the Japanese tile-based board game, and featured concentric circles of gray jusi and bright yellow “paper” boats. Myka Domi-nado’s yellow, hand-dyed piña silk barong had a pin-tucked grid and miniature charms in-



“Trumpo” by Victor Untalan

pired by the children’s party favorite, the pabitin.



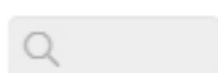
“Pac-Man” by Nicole Pineda

Exhibit viewers might dismiss these designs as child’s play, but closer inspection will reveal painstaking attention to detail, such as the hand-painted buttons of Damaris Chua’s Chinese

kite-inspired barong, and French buttonholes (locally known as “kambal tubig”) in a sleeveless navy dress with Pac-Man yellow cape by Claire Arguelles Francisco.

“That’s the challenge: to make a dress look simple even if a lot of time went into its creation,” Francisco said.

Victor Untalan took inspiration from the trumpo (wooden spinning top) for his ’50s hourglass look consisting of a jusi inner garment and a belted Mikado silk jacket. “I wanted to paint the pieces to look like wood but I had never painted before undertaking this project. Through trial and error and mentoring in school, I figured out a painting technique that resulted in a look I liked,” he said.



Search Results

“Laro: The Best of Student Work 2018” is on view at Mega Fashion Hall, SM Megamall until Oct. 3. Call Slim’s at 8873390, 09178975467; e-mail inquiries@slimsfashion.com.

