GUEST LECTURE

Patssi Valdez

by Patssi Valdez •
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“Before I went to the U.K. I had already decided to make a dress called Queen to honor the journey.”

Valdez crafts a skirt of pleated black butcher paper with a corset of cardboard and black duct tape. Sleeves are formed from discarded and knotted elastic. The model’s hair is ratted into an oversized regal pouf and encircled with a headband of recycled costume jewelry. To complete the fantasy, Valdez collages the image of the model wearing Queen onto the vast lawn of a stately home in the English countryside.

An Aztec goddess appears to pose in the garden of the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City adorned in a costume made from Sumi ink on butcher paper. Hanging price tags form a
decorative border, while dangling oversized earrings are fashioned from styrofoam balls covered in metallic paper. Hair and makeup reflect Valdez’ own iconic look.

A third model appears as a glamorous movie star, a woman of color, superimposed onto a trendy London street scene. A “No Movie” logo is stenciled with spray paint onto butcher paper printed with a film motif and styled into a chic costume. A very large cardboard- and–duct tape hat—fit for Ascot—is embellished with a fringe of swinging price tags. Dramatic makeup, black gloves and drugstore sunglasses complete the look.

—Jane Chafin

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