

## DIY-er Maker: Fashion and creative arts thrive in Rochester

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Alex Gruttadaro opened the Makers Gallery and Studio last May with his wife, Anni, and business partner, Edward Zachary Graham. It's a café and space where artists and makers can collaborate, host events, show work, and make art. As a fine artist with a background in art education, Gruttadaro currently teaches private classes and has more offerings in the works. March will feature three exhibits, including a collaborative effort with the founders and contributors of local favorite Instagram account Explore Rochester.

The three launched the gallery with the show *Process*, in which the artists' works were purposely left unfinished, reflecting the gallery space still being a work in progress. With the work of Wall/Therapy muralist Nate Hodge setting the stage, it was an appropriate fit for Rochester designer Sofie Cerankosky. In the spirit of the *Process* exhibit, she's currently documenting her design work while it's in progress. This includes the spring collection she is revealing at Peppermint's *Sewn Seeds* annual runway show on March 20 at Restaurant Good Luck, which her father co-owns.

Cerankosky began sewing and creating designs at the tender age of four and has continued to hone her craft. She made her runway debut in 2011 at Greentopia's *From the Ground* fashion show and went on to win its creative design competition in 2014. Now fifteen, she attends school, works part-time at Peppermint, and spends her summers at Fashion Institute of Technology taking college courses. Born in Brooklyn, Cerankosky says that New York City life feels natural to her. "Fashion is the only option for me," she says. "It's everything I think about—everything I do. Some kids focus on cheerleading. I sew."

**Lilac queen reigns supreme**  
Cerankosky's current collection connotes a dark, "evil queen" vibe, but flow-y looks in a lighter palette will prevail at *Sewn Seeds*. With spring around the corner and Pantone embracing two delicate hues for 2016's Color of the Year (see page 28), pair an edgy black top with a soft pastel bottom for an in-between season solution—and a subtle nod to Highland Park in bloom.

Asymmetrical top and lilac skirt: Sofie Cerankosky  
Boots: Forever 21



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### Sitting pretty

For inspiration, Cerankosky looks to the houses of Alexander McQueen and Vivienne Westwood, as well as C/MEO Collective, an Australian fashion label. "I pay attention to shapes and colors versus trends," she says. "It helps me to be unique." If you like the simplicity of an LBD (Little Black Dress) but don't want to come down to the level of a BW (Basic Woman), select a flattering cut with uncommon details like graphic patterns or adorned necklines and cuffs to add interest. With built-in accents, you'll save time ruminating in front of your jewelry armoire, and your lines will look as sleek as a mid-century modern chair.

Fit and flare dress with pearl neckline: Sofie Cerankosky  
Boots: Forever 21  
Chair: Abode





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### Long cool woman

As *Vogue Paris* editor-in-chief Emanuele Alt once said, "I'll stop wearing black when they make a darker color." Vertically challenged? Nothing elongates a physique like a monochromatic look in an inky hue. To keep the look inspired, add texture with striking fabrics and eye-popping accessories.

Laser cut tunic and leggings:  
Sofie Cerankosky  
Boots: Gap  
Aztec-inspired pillow: Abode





**I got it from my  
mama**

Cerankosky attributes her involvement in the Rochester fashion scene to her mother, who owned Park Avenue's popular lingerie boutique and runway favorite Devil May Care. Her 2011 recycle-themed debut featured newspaper flowers on a vintage bodysuit. The underwear-as-outerwear trend has been a favorite among celebrities like Rihanna, Ellie Goulding, Gwen Stefani, and Victoria Beckham. For a smart lingerie-inspired look, focus on your best features and set the foundation with attractive and supportive undergarments—this is not the time to don a tattered bra or granny panties! Cerankosky likes the look of embroidered European appliques, but they can be quite expensive. Adding a Forever 21 bralette and subtly sophisticated accessories from Parkleigh help keep this peek-a-boo look both chic and affordable.

Mesh dress and shorts:  
Sofie Cerankosky  
Bralette: Forever 21  
Boots: J. Crew

Credits:  
Accessories: Parkleigh  
Models: Julia Merrell and  
Morgan Wheatley  
Hair and makeup: World  
Hair  
Artwork: Nate Hodge