

# FASHIONISTA

From Seven Lakes High School to a fashion design internship in New York City, this Katyite is making her dreams come true

Written by Elizabeth Padgett | Photography courtesy of Lana Redman

Lana Redman's collection was released during London Fashion Week



Seven Lakes High School alumna Lana Redman is making her mark in the fashion world. Beginning with a fine arts class in Katy, she has now worked with top designers such as Vogue, Alexander Wang, Coach, and Tommy Hilfiger to name a few, while her own collection was released last year with retailer Nineteenth Amendment.

## Finding the Runway

Growing up in rural Texas, Redman didn't have a big interest in fashion until she entered high school. While she had always been artistic and creative, she had never explored working with fabric. "Project Runway was all the rage back then and I definitely caught the fashion bug when I realized I wanted to do the things that the contestants were doing," she says. "Now I am selling my work alongside some of those same contestants. Seeing things come full circle makes me really happy."

## London Fashion Week

Redman made the big move to New York City after receiving her acceptance letter into Parsons School of Design. Citing Alexander Wang, Marc Jacobs, Donna Karan, and Anna Sui as her favorite designers, Redman felt there was no better way than to learn from the same instructors who teach today's top talents. "I knew that if I wanted to pursue design seriously, I would need to learn from the best," she shares.

During her senior year at Parsons, Redman was chosen by her graduating class and faculty to represent her school and New York City,

in collaboration with fashion journalists, in the United Kingdom. Redman says, "I was partnered with a writer who documented my process during my senior year while I created my senior thesis collection. As a part of the collaboration, the feature on my collection was released during London Fashion Week."

## Space Center Inspiration

The same portfolio later garnered Redman a nomination as 2014's Parsons Designer of the Year. For her senior thesis collection, she returned to her earlier inspirations and developed a collection that represented both her upbringing and heritage.

"My first comprehensive body of work was inspired by textile technology in space suits by NASA. This inspiration definitely came from being raised so close to Houston. My dad also works in this field, so it was a way for me to take my dad's passion and connect with it through the lens of fashion." Redman describes her collection as being for a customer who is fascinated with the story behind their garments. She says, "My collection was based on 11-layer garments connected with silicon joinery. I knew that these designs were for a customer who was really seeking to make a statement and appreciate the conceptual background." Redman has recently started developing accessories with the same design principles in mind.

Ensembles pictured are original Redman designs



# LANA REDMAN

## A Country Girl at Heart

Redman currently resides in Los Angeles and still speaks fondly of her time here in Katy. “The thing I loved most about growing up in Katy was how it was the perfect small town experience,” she says. “The Katy that I remember was one still surrounded by fields and wildlife. I appreciate all of the new developments and additions to Katy in the past years, but I will always have a special place in my heart for the rural Katy that I remember growing up in as a kid.”

Whether academics, sports, or arts, Redman says her education in Katy ISD prepared her for a career. “Katy ISD holds its students to a far higher standard than the rest of the nation, but I didn’t really realize this until I left. I am very thankful for my education and especially for the support of the arts that Katy ISD provided, which allowed me not only the best teachers, but the best facilities and supplies available.” When she wasn’t in class, you could most likely find Redman hanging out at Katy Mills, Sushi Hana, Dunn Bros., and the fields around Hickory Creek.

## Katy Influences

The knowledge Redman has gained throughout her time at Parsons and internships with Vogue, Alexander Wang, and Marchesa is incomparable, but she cites her biggest influence as Kim Glasgow, her art teacher at Seven Lakes High School. “She was the most influential teacher and mentor I had. Not only did she push me to create my best possible work, but she is the definition of a true teacher. She laid the foundation for all of my fine arts knowledge, and I still go to her for advice to this day. I would have never pursued a degree in design if I hadn’t been placed in her class and was able to grow under her mentorship.” **KM**

*ELIZABETH PADGETT is a professional writer and feels, as Lana does, that boots are a year-round item.*

