



By Deborah Afolabi '23

Photograph by Dr. John Pankratz

Desiya Smith is a fashion design and merchandising major from Albuquerque, New Mexico but resides in Philly. She has been a member of the Students of Caribbean-African Association since she was a freshman, and has served as the organization's treasurer during her senior year.

DESIYA

Any campus jobs?

My freshman year I worked at Jake's and Peg's.

What are your hobbies/interests?

I enjoy sewing, shopping, dancing and spending time with friends and family.

What is your favorite thing about Albright?

My favorite thing would have to be the annual fashion shows.

What is your favorite thing about art?

I love that art brings out the different perspectives and creates a conversation.

What is your preferred art form(s) and why?

I would have to say visual art because of my love for designing and arts and crafts. I would consider performative art a close second because there is more of an interaction with the art.

What major projects/works/shows have you done/ been in?

I have participated in every AAS fashion show since I came to the school; whether it was helping back stage, performing with SOCAA, or modeling. I have also modeled for Club Vogue and the fashion department's fashion shows. And just recently I modeled and designed my first collection for the first ever Divine Fashion Show.

What has being at Albright done for your artwork?

I have learned so many new skills over the years especially during these last two years of my college career.

What inspires your work?

I am inspired by pretty much anything. I take inspiration from trends, nature, events, just anything.

What accomplishments have you had within your art medium?

I was recently published in Reading Magazine for my designs that were presented

at the Divine Fashion Show. When performing with SOCAA for the first time for the Annual Airbands showcase, we won first place.

How has your art impacted the world around you, or how do you think it has or can?

A small impact that I would say I have made here at Albright was with my bag collection. Not many people knew that sewing machines could do as much as I used it for. In the future I want my work to have an empowering impact on people and make people feel comfortable to wear anything and feel they can do anything in my work.

Do you have any advice for future students? If so, what is it?

My advice would be to stay calm even when things seem to not go your way. If you end up on a different path consider it a perfect mistake and make it work for you. Never give up!

What are your plans for the future/after graduation?

After graduation I plan to do internships to continue to learn about the fashion industry and gain experience all while working on making my own collections. I want to start my own brand of swimwear and lingerie and eventually have my own store.



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