

MARGARET HATCHER

"I was first introduced to fashion when I got a Barbie doll at age 7. Later, in my junior high home economics class, I discovered I really liked sewing. Pretty sure I was the only one who did. After graduating from Art School, I found myself searching for a creative path to follow. A friend suggested I might want to "help out" making roller skating cacti costumes for a western musical he was writing. I was intrigued. Three design meetings into the project I was the only costume person left to design the whole show. It was an overwhelming amount of work, but the reward of seeing what I had made come alive moving on the human body was exhilarating.

"I'm inspired by the physical materials available to me. I need "stuff" to make costumes with, while a painter may simply need paint and canvas. If I can't procure the materials needed, I need to make them as I did when I cut out, fused, and hand-painted hundreds of cloth grape leaves to make three "Grapevines." Why make a weeping willow gown? Because I found boxes of fake willow branches at my favorite party supply store. After discovering clear drop shaped beaded curtains, I was able make the "April Showers" costume. Thrift stores and my recycling bin now provide me with a wealth of stuff.

"I created a costume specifically for the Sonoma Art Walk to attract attention to *Tiddle E. Winks Vintage 5 & Dime* store. I didn't consider that daylight saving time would have ended and my costume would be in the dark. I threw lights on it at the last minute, and realized I needed to incorporate lights into the costume the next time. Then it morphed into being complexity about lights! And that's how the trio of Holiday lights happened."

The Details

Born in Modesto, Margaret spent her early years in rural Calaveras County. She moved to Southern California at age nine, attended 8th grade in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and her senior year of High school in Lima, Peru. After high school, Margaret attended Instituto Allende in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, for six months studying batik, weaving and jewelry making. Her undergraduate studies were in print making and photography at Cal State Fullerton. After moving to the Bay area, she studied pattern drafting at Louise Salinger Academy of Fashion in San Francisco.

Margaret has designed costumes for dance productions, shadow plays, a video game, fashion shows, gallery installations, parades and public events. She is extremely proud to have started the popular *Trashion Fashion Show* at the Sonoma Community Center. She resides in the Boyes Hot Springs area of Sonoma with her husband, Mark Petersen, and two fashionista felines.

Career highlights include:

- Two collaborations with ShadowLight Productions, San Francisco, *In Xanandu* and *Coyote's Journey* for which she earned a Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation Designer Residency Grant, 2000
- San Francisco Opera, the Ballad of Baby Doe, 2000
- Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, Biennial Juried Exhibitions, 2003 and 2009
- Sonoma Community Center, *Mariposas y Calaveras*, Dia de los Muertos Installation, 2010
- *Angles of Enchantment*, Garrett +Moulton Productions, San Francisco, 2012
- Harrison House Residency, Fashion Show at the Station, Joshua Tree, 2014
- Sonoma Community Center *Trashion Fashion Shows* 2011-2021
- A trio of Holiday light costumes at Tree Lighting Ceremony, Sonoma Plaza November, 2021