



Cornell **CAU**
Education Vacations

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Dear Participants,

French couturier Madeleine Vionnet was inspired by the silhouettes of the traditional Greek chiton and peplos, finding them interesting because of the way a simple rectangular cloth could circulate and interact with the body through a system of tucks and folds. She stated, "the couturier should be a geometrician, for the human body makes geometrical figures to which the materials should correspond." Draping is a method for creating original designs with fabric on a three-dimensional body form.

I look forward to welcoming you to the course Fabric and the Human Form. We will experiment with materials and proportion through hands on activities, observing the interplay of fabric, shape, and silhouette. We will visit special collections and exhibits, including the Cornell Fashion + Textile Collection, for inspiration and understanding the value of material culture.

In the spirit of sustainability, we will incorporate and up-cycle old garments and vintage textiles, cutting, molding, marking, and joining fabric to create original designs. Tools, materials, and supplies will be provided; however, you are welcome to bring your own, too. For instance, you might have a favorite pair of scissors you will want to use. Perhaps you are inclined to collect unique textiles but are unsure what to do with them, this will be a wonderful opportunity to transform them into wearable art.

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns as you prepare for the course. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Best,
Catherine K. Blumenkamp