

Youth Culture

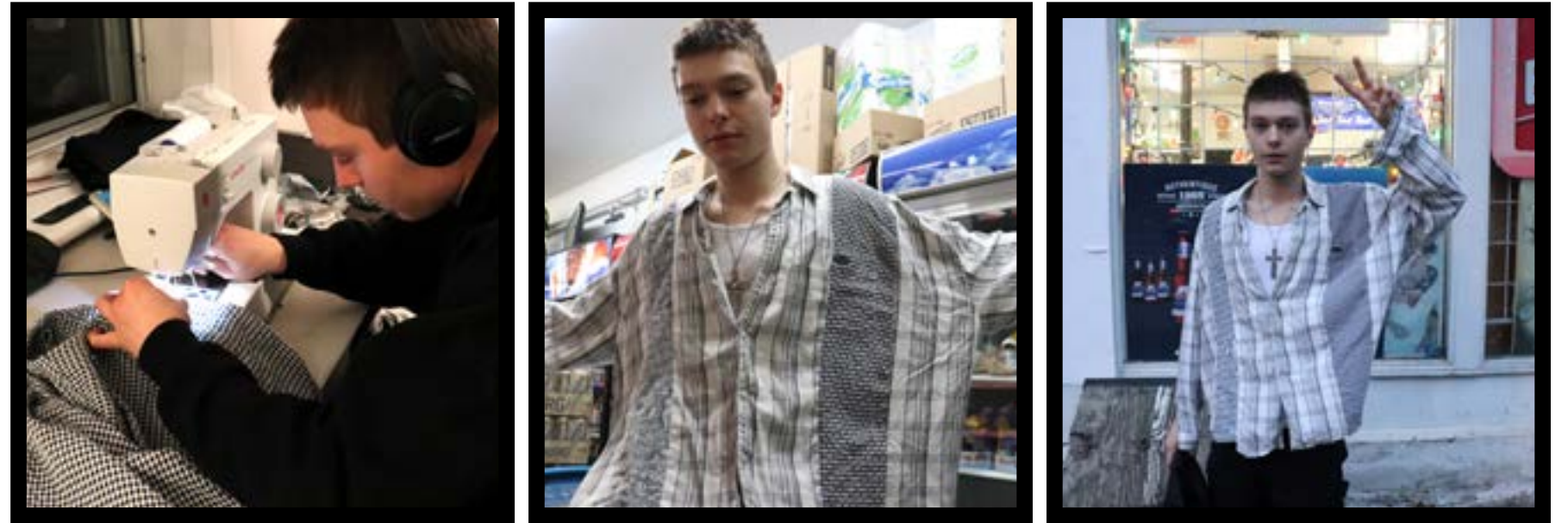


What does it mean in 2019?

The way that the youth has been perceived within the last 20 years by older generations has been everything but positive. Lazy, reckless, immature and disrespectful are some of the first adjectives that come to mind. The youth may not be the most laudable part of society given that some of these characteristics may be true, but the constant polarization of stereotypes forced upon the youth and into their minds has taken its toll, severely affecting their ambitions and what they think is possible to achieve. Society is constantly pressuring the youth to follow a certain norm, and to live a certain way. Despite this what the youth really needs is freedom, and a chance to make an impact on their own, an opportunity to change the way they are perceived by others.

The Power of Technology

Although youth culture is a crucial part to society in 2019, it hasn't always been that way. Youth culture has significantly been gaining traction over the past couple decades, with the youth starting to choose what they want to do with their lives, even if it may not fall under society's typical standards. There are several reasons as to why that could be, but there seems to be one that is much more prominent than the others: the internet. The internet is a fairly new concept in today's world, but has already changed it drastically, for the better and the worse; you can even go as far as saying that the internet is a curse and a blessing. The internet has given the youth a bigger voice so that people can hear them around the world, allowing them to connect with people farther than their own city, which would they would not have been able to do otherwise. They participate in important movements, and make sure their impact is seen. In Illroot's latest interview, they talk to a Nova Scotia native, "White Trash Tyler", who grew up in an extremely small town and expected to work at an oil plant for the rest of his life. His passion was videography, and through the internet, he was able to grow his career and connect with more people who shared the same passion. Eventually he was offered a deal by Netflix, and directed his first documentary focusing on one of the most influential artists of the decade.



The older you are the more engulfed you become in everyday life. You start to worry about money, work and other commodities. In turn, your creativity starts to get washed out, as you have less time for the things you enjoy, and life begins to feel mundane. While the youth is aware of this and it is something many of them have to deal with, they don't let it affect their creativity. This exposes them to all sorts of things, allowing them to understand the complexity of the world, and the problems in it. Instead of letting it control their lives, they use it as inspiration. But in a day and age where everyone is trying so hard to be individual, everyone ends up looking the same, and doing the same things. This may seem like a bad thing, but there is actually a silver lining to it. This results in more people pushing the boundaries of what is possible, opening up their own minds to new things and testing what they know and what they are capable of. In the world of fashion, Parsons professor Jessica Glasscock, sees clothing as an art form, and a tool of self expression. She believes that it is intimately connected to the body, telling stories of the person who made it. This can be applied to all creative endeavours, stemming from climate change activists, feminists, musicians, and anyone who is trying to convey a meaningful message. What truly matters is authenticity, and as long as someone put their heart and soul into what they are creating, they should know they've already made a difference.



Youth Culture in its True Essence

In 2019, everyone needs to understand that there is an immense diversity within youth culture and that it does not pertain to a certain age, race, or gender. Youth culture is undeniably everywhere, and there's no avoiding it. It's a movement, a lifestyle and a dream. It is accepting of everyone and is a symbol for those who aren't afraid to stand for what they believe in, for those who want to see a positive change in the world, and ultimately for those who have total creative freedom over themselves, and what they choose to do with it.



YOUTH IS A CONCEPT

