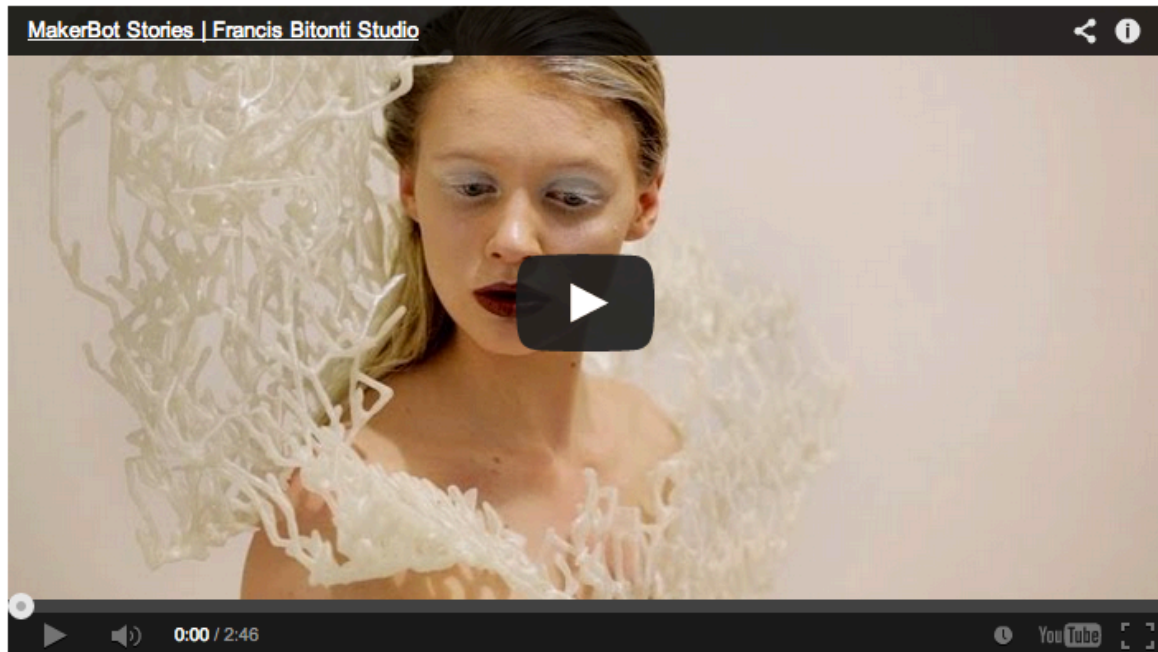


## MakerBot Stories | Francis Bitonti on the Bristle Dress



**Video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMzSnh\\_J3yE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMzSnh_J3yE)

Ica Paru, an accessories designer and model, is the first person to wear the Bristle Dress from Francis Bitonti Studio. Paru put it on a couple of weeks ago, at a photo shoot in Brooklyn. The dress is cloudlike, in two pieces, and as much an armature that poses the body as a garment to pose in.

The Friday evening photo session, which yielded the striking images below, was the first time designer Francis Bitonti saw anyone wearing the dress. “The computer is able to visualize everything accurately, I don’t really feel the need to do fittings.” he says. “I wasn’t surprised about how it fit, I wasn’t really surprised about anything.”

The Bristle Dress is Bitonti’s second work of couture developed in his New Skins computational design workshop and made on a MakerBot Replicator 2 Desktop 3D Printer. Like his previous effort, the Verlan Dress, the Bristle Dress uses MakerBot Flexible Filament and MakerBot Natural PLA Filament, only this time, Bitonti lined the tessellated skirt with fake rabbit fur.

With the translucent top of the dress, Bitonti “wanted to bleed the body into the atmosphere.” Its austere, wintry spirit also brought out the iciness in Paru, who’d been warm and chatty while she waited for Bitonti and the Bristle Dress to arrive.

Bitonti is not strictly a fashion designer; he’s also working on his Cloud Collection of 3D printed housewares. He trained as an architect, and he sounds like one when he

talks about his designs: “You’re setting up a structure, and then people bring it to life.”

You can wear the Bristle Dress if you download the files from Thingiverse. The top takes about 160 hours to print, and the skirt another 135.

<http://www.makerbot.com/blog/2014/03/12/makerbot-stories-francis-bitonti-bristle-dress/>