

# Dre Smith's Cutting-Edge Style



*By Erica Townsend*

Uptight, high strung, old and extremely bossy! This is what tends to come to mind when you think of a fashion designer or artist. However, this is not the case for Dre Smith.

Smith is a 21-year-old extremely talented and artistic young man. As a full-time student Bowie State University you can imagine he has a lot on his plate. Nonetheless, this is nothing compared to the drive and passion he has for fashion. Bold, daring and different these words have played a huge role in the naming of his clothing line, which is self-explanatory having the very bold and unique to fashion name

“UNFVIR SOCIETY” emerging from his frustration with the unfair world of artistry.

Fun and exciting is what one would use to describe Smith's workspace. A small but quaint and comfy room, filled with self-made paintings and pieces of fashion inspirations from Chanel to Michael Jordan. His vintage hats and neon portraits seem to come to life and dance across the room, underneath the black and red light that has now become so familiar to him. Such an intimate setting, but with a dark twist. It's like walking down a dark tunnel with that uneasy unsettling feeling that creeps up the back of your spine, but right before the fear strikes it's cut off by the

beauty of the writings on the wall. This space is nothing short of artistic greatness. But besides the feel of the room, his always eager and ready-for-the-world smile, brings another pleasant and inspiring feel to the room. Smith is definitely an artist to look out for in the future.

Aside from being a student, Smith is trying his hand in the world of art. He said that art was always interesting to him. It intrigued him, but he never thought he could do it. However, somehow through frustration with his personal life and societal issues, Smith came up with his first piece of artwork titled “Expression Mask,”

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# Dre Smith Has Designs on His Future

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a spray painted picture of what looks to be a happy face at first glance but transforms into a sea of faces. Including, sadness, nonchalant feeling less to even a horned smiley face grinning. All representing the emotions he experienced while painting the piece. Of course he's still working on his clothing line. Drawing up new ideas and sketches of what's to come for his fall and winter collection. But in the mean-time he's a hard-working student focused on graduating seeing as though this is his senior year.

Growing up in a small town, Smith always imagined more for himself. Starting from humble beginnings and not being able to afford the clothing he wanted he decided, "Why not make my own? Why spend money on other people's clothing when I could create my own?" This was the single most important thought that drew him to starting his line. He first dabbled in actually creating his line when he was in the 10th grade. Designing T-shirts, socks and

hats. However, the T-shirt was the very first item he made and sold. After the releasing and launching of "UNFVIR SOCIETY" in 2008 Smith hasn't stopped since. His motivation and inspiration now comes from his love of music, current events and community issues. The line definitely has a rebel, urban and freedom of speech feel.

*"The very bold and unique-to-fashion name 'UNFVIR SOCIETY' emerges from Smith's frustration with the unfair world of artistry."*

This hasn't changed much over the years although Smith has. His past has definitely lit the flame, but hasn't even begun to start the fire.

When asked about the look of UNFVIR, Smith said. "It's the Dre look. No two people can wear UNFVIR the same. When people put my clothing on, I want others to

know that's a Dre design because it is mine. But I want them to make it their own."

What the future will hold is quite simple to him, but ambitious and huge to another. He said that UNFVIR SOCIETY isn't just a clothing or art line. He would like it to be a corporation and brand. He plans to have different branches of businesses underneath the UNFVIR SOCIETY name. This includes a clothing line, art galleries, museums, lounges, photography and a music label. It's all about freedom of expression, making something your own and progression. Rebellion and individuality should scream out whenever you wear, see or hear the words UNFVIR SOCIETY.

"I don't always understand or get why people like my clothing or art. Mainly because my art, it's for me. As for my clothing I don't know. I haven't found that thing or that spark, I haven't begun to reach my potential with it. But once I do find that thing, I think I'll understand why people like my clothing."