KELLY DEMPSEY
Kelly is a self-taught fashion designer from a small town outside of Boston. Kelly credits sifting through 25 cent bins at thrift stores as a child, to her innate eclectic design instincts that later landed her runner-up on Season 14 of Project Runway. Kelly is most known for creating highly unique textiles from unexpected & unconventional materials. Soon after, Kelly publicly debuted her creative vision in which is now known as Rack Addik.

Kelly embraces fashion as a creative outlet, and as a child, her mother ran a craft store out of their home in Massachusetts. Kelly spent countless hours watching her mother create everything from wind-chimes made from forks they found at yard sales, to hand sewn clothing. While growing up and being ridiculed for her beloved thrift store finds, Kelly felt a deep desire at around the age of 9, to transform her secondhand clothing into something completely new, to overcome the negativity & create a style all her own. From that moment, a spark ignited and Kelly has since been driven to inspire others not to label themselves by a particular situation, but instead look within to regain the power we all have.

Today, Rack Addik stands strong in celebrating everyone's own individual imagination. A product of a creative space, Kelly's knack for design has quickly made a name for herself throughout the industry.
ABOUT THE JUDGES

OLIVIA DWYER
Olivia grew up in Newcastle, ME and received her BFA in fashion and textiles at Maine College of Art in 2018. She is currently based in Portland, ME and works at MECA in the fashion and textiles department. Since graduating, she has worked as a production seamstress, product developer and sample seamstress, and continued throughout to design independently. Her personal work centers around human emotion, as well as the impact of fashion on the environment.

Olivia was the winner of Project Upcycle 2019!

NICOLE MCLAUGHLIN
Nicole is a designer based in New York City. Her first major steps towards establishing an independent practice started at Reebok, where she worked as a graphic designer. An eager autodidact, Nicole started teaching herself product design on the side by thrifting discarded miscellanea and upcycling them into wearable goods. Since uploading her first explosively viral designs to Instagram, Nicole has come to personify the intersection between sustainable manufacturing practices and DIY creative processes.
ABOUT THE JUDGES

CHRIS RAEBURN
In October 2018, Christopher Raeburn was named global creative director for Timberland. A British fashion designer with his own label RÆBURN, Christopher is respected worldwide for his responsible and intelligent design ethos. As global creative director for Timberland, he is a key stakeholder in developing the brand’s global creative vision; ensuring a holistic design approach across footwear, apparel and accessories; and elevating Timberland’s longstanding commitment to responsible sourcing, inclusivity and community. He works closely with the global product team to deliver a forward-thinking look and feel that pushes design boundaries while honoring the brand’s outdoor heritage.

A graduate of London’s prestigious Royal College of Art, Christopher became known for his re-appropriation of military fabrics and in particular for iconic outerwear created from decommissioned parachutes. His design ethos encompasses three key pillars – RÆMADE, RÆDUCED, RÆCYCLED – which complement Timberland’s dedication to steadily increase its use of recycled, organic and renewable materials. Raeburn also heralds craftsmanship, innovation and utility as central to his design philosophy, again creating a natural and authentic connection to the Timberland brand.

Prior to taking on the creative director role, Christopher partnered with Timberland on two co-branded Timberland x Raeburn collections, which were shown on the runway at London Fashion Week Men’s to rave reviews. These collaborations ultimately led to the expanded relationship. The first full Timberland collection under Christopher’s creative leadership will hit markets worldwide in FW20.
ABOUT THE JUDGES

CHRIS RAEBURN (cntd.)
Christopher’s pioneering work has brought responsible design to a mainstream fashion audience, and presents a new definition of luxury with integrity. He has won numerous awards over the years, including British Fashion Award for Emerging Talent Menswear in 2011 and GQ Man of the Year in 2015. He was also named to the Drapers Power 100 list in 2019.

In his free time, Christopher enjoys biking, running, and enjoying the many parks and trails around his home in South London. He is personally driven by a passion for nature, and furthering responsible innovation within the fashion industry to help protect the outdoors for the next generation.