

## Fashion with Function

One of the core concepts key to clearing up misunderstandings about wearables is exactly that: it is the realm of portable computers worn on or as an extension of the body, rather than an implanted piece of technology, which falls under bionics. With this important detail established the world of wearables becomes very clear to see: it has been used, innovated and improved over decades, and has become more and more commonplace to see being used every day in a multitude of fashions, with even more on the horizon. They are incredibly commonplace as tools to have access to specific information available at convenience somewhere on your body, often a wrist/leg attachment that monitors and feeds information about your body back to you in a simple readout. Other pieces, such as eyewear wearables seek to enhance the sense, often in the form of augmented reality or even virtual reality, with the physical spaces you live in either being supplemented or even entirely replaced with digital counterparts, making it a growing part of entertainment and information relay/feedback. As with any technology, its introduction into the ecosystem of existing technology and networks means that use and productions patterns change to suit the developing system with this new technology, as it often supplants the old and introduces new ways of doing things. Many key factors must be considered when it comes to a wearable beyond its role and function: its visibility, display, interaction and even its targeted actor (user) must be designed or considered for the wearable to have success. Once an item has its function defined, it often becomes a matter of designing it. If it is designed to be seen, not only does *how* it is worn impact its methods of use and its aesthetic, but furthermore depending on brand or builder it may have constraints placed on production so that the wearable falls into the designed look of a company, even if they do not often design wearables beyond simply function. All in all, with the rapid development and integration of wearable technology, the careful thought applied to both its function, place in the system and even aesthetic, there is still much that wearables in their multitude of uses can offer to even larger parts of everyday life.