

Distorted Reality

Madison Palen-Michel, Kent State University, USA

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'Distorted Reality' is one out of a four-piece collection that I completed over the course of a year. Having grown up in theatre, I was very intrigued by the means in which an actor portrays a character and wanted to translate that into my collection. To me, there is beauty in the way that an actor can build layer upon layer of emotion and background story in order to become someone else. There is a hidden reality to the whole process, being your self, yet being some one else at the same time. I wanted to portray that, as well as, the way in which an actor transforms and morphs into a character.

Throughout my piece, 'Distorted Reality', I worked to replicate the energy created through acting by carefully manipulating the use of textiles, drape, and fabrication techniques. I wanted there to be a lot of luster and elegance, so I worked closely with velvet and washed silk. I wanted to portray how actors work through stages of development by building layer upon layer. I began developing my own design that would be created into a textile using a laser cutter. I took different human forms and morphed them into a pattern in order to create my design. I wanted the representation of



transforming humans to be shown, but in a subtle way. It took many attempts to perfect the design, seeing as the depth in which the laser burns depends on the gradient of black, white, and grey.

The way in which an actor changes form creates movement and energy; I wanted to replicate this movement by having silk cowl drapes move across the body, lying on top of the velvet. I carefully draped each cowl up across the shoulder and pinned it down to stabilize it. Then I stitched each cowl down, by hand, half way to create restrained fluidity. After stitching each cowl down half way, I attached a self-facing to the back to create a clean finish and attached it by hand to the velvet body.

An actor develops a character with layers of makeup, costume, and emotional development. Similarly, I worked to develop design details by



varying the weight, feel, and luster of the fabric. To create additional depth, a removable scarf was created with snap closure on the side. It too is self-faced. The dress can easily be worn with, or without scarf, once again emphasizing the relationship of building layers within an actor.

Materials: Washed Silk and Velvet

Date Completed: March 2014

Measurements: Bust: 30in, Waist: 25 1/4in, Hip: 32 in