



Title: Blooming Moth Dress

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Design Statement:

The surrealistic imagery and harmonious color sense featured in my collaborator's paintings inspired me to develop a series of digitally-printed fabrics, which then inspired a series of related dress designs. The intention of this process is to illustrate the direct influence fine art can have on fashion design. Fine art painting provides inspiration for my two-dimensional fabric designs, and the integration of those 2-D designs into a three-dimensional garment is my design challenge – to form a beautiful 2-D design into a creative and innovative 3-D form, using the human body as the supporting structure and the 2-D design as ornament. I chose this painting because of its beautiful colors and composition.

Using an artist's surrealistic painting of pink lilies on a blue background (see bottom right image) as an inspiration for a textile print and an apparel design, the 100% cotton woven fabric utilizes a digital enlargement of the entire painted image on the front of the dress. Reversing the image on the back created matching side seams. The printed fabric was draped on the mannequin in numerous ways, keeping in mind that the scale of the print dictated that most of the surface had to be shown, and not hidden in pleats or seams. Eventually the fabric almost folded and draped on its own, finally creating a simple envelope-shape with strategic openings that adorns the body in numerous configurations. A belt was tied around the waist, and the main body was folded in different ways underneath to show different parts of the print. Separate colors are featured when the side points of the dress are folded toward the center or away from the center, either emphasizing the warm colors of yellow, orange and pink or revealing the cooler colors of blue and purple utilized in the painting. Other silhouettes are also created by being belted in different ways - in front only or in back only through slits in the side seams, or all the way around. Different volumes were also explored while inflating the dress with a fan during the photo shoot. There was no cutting or waste in the main body of the design. Printing errors were used for the neck ties and a pair of tie belts. The title was taken from the bud-shape of the dress when in repose, and the blooming of the flower into the shape of a moth when parts of the

dress are held out to the sides. Non-conventional, transformable, wearable form make a major impact in this dress, along with a harmonious color story and a surrealistic surface pattern.

Celebrating color and exploring its expression in texture, pattern, and form, this design integrates two-dimensional textile design with three-dimensional fashion design. Designing and creating original textiles has enhanced my ability to design innovative garments. I focused on developing a contemporary garment that utilizes natural fibers, and traditional production techniques mixed with contemporary manufacturing technology.

