



KOREAN TRADITIONAL CERAMIC

-"CHUNGJA"

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I am a Korean by birth and heritage; My roots lie in the ancient traditions of Korea. My attempt in this design is to make connections not only between East and West but also between two 3-dimensional arts, ceramics and dress.

The garment is composed of two pieces—a fitted long skirt with wider bottom and a coat with fitted bodice and full round skirt. The fitted long skirt with wider bottom is inspired by Korean traditional ceramics. Its shape and neutral beige-green color are reminiscent of "Koryo" Dynasty's "chungja"—traditional ceramic—in the 14th century. The deep slash in the back of the skirt shows my Western influence, exposing woman's legs as a symbol of sexuality.

The shape of the coat with fitted bodice and full round skirt is inspired by ballet costumes, the "tutu" in Degas' paintings. The full round shape with folds is also associated with "joomuhni," the Korean traditional small purse symbolizing "good luck."

The full round shape of the skirt is supported by tulle underneath both sides of the skirt. Its color, khaki, similar to that of "chungja," increases the image of "chungja" in the garment. The subtle elegant patterns on the fabric also reminds us of those on "chungja."