

A Selkie's View

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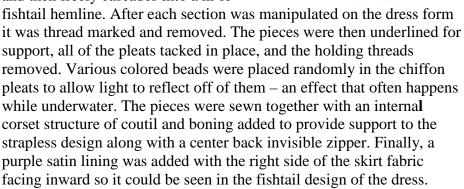
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Have you ever imagined what it must feel like to gaze at the shore while underwater? The oceans currents move your body as the sun's rays play with your vision; you feel weightless. Impishly, you envision yourself as a mythical sea creature swimming curiously along the shoreline – a selkie.

I wanted to bring this underwater experience to you by designing a strapless hi-low dress that portrayed the color, texture, and movement of being underwater. Italian chiffon featuring vivid colors, hues, and varied patterns was used for the dress as it best represented the colors seen underwater. The unique pleated affect was achieved with a smocking pleater that runs specifically spaced holding threads at the top twelve inches of fabric for the entire width of the chiffon. The dress is made up of seven different sections that were initially marked on the dress form. The holding threads in the chiffon were tightened to pleat the fabric and then draped directly onto a dress form for manipulation. Each section features manipulated fabric with a different direction and/or depth of fabric fold. The front upper bodice sections continue to drape beyond the center front of the bodice, crisscrossing at the neckline and cascading down the back of the dress. The lower section of



the dress is made up of one piece of fabric, manipulated to four inches below the waistline so it contours to the body, and then freely cascades into a hi-lo





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