

## Broken Lace

Annette Ames, Marymount University, USA

Keywords: Design, lace, sheer

I was inspired by the resemblance of lace trims to architectural moldings and stone carvings to create *Broken Lace*. I wanted to draw attention to the three-dimensional qualities and possibilities of heavy cotton laces stacked and overlapped to achieve a molding-like effect. The tubular shape of the lace-encrusted mosquito-netting dress recalls the 20s; I strove to make the feeling evocative of both the contemporary and the antique. The nylon mosquito netting was chosen for its sheerness, strength, and slightly plastic look. The choice of denim, which is 95 % cotton and 5% spandex, for the slip-style under-dress was arrived at through experimentation with many fabrics and several styles. The denim gives a slight texture and youthful feeling in contrast to the antique feeling of the lace, and the deep indigo color beneath brings out the shades of gray of the lace. The cotton laces—some new, some vintage—are hand dyed in shades of gray with fiber-reactive dyes. I developed the patterns for the over- and under-dress through flat patternmaking. The laces were applied to the dress while on the form by basting; then they were hand stitched, machine stitched, or fused onto the mosquito netting.

