

## Printemps for Mamma

Kristin Caskey, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Design, Print, Digital

This ensemble was created as one half of a mother/daughter ensemble for printemps (spring). The concept was developed to provide four key cotton items for each wearer, an easy dress, a fun coat with a great shape and big pockets, a long, soft, voile scarf for sun-protection or neck warming, and a simple Japanese style tote bag. The prints were created from gouache



paintings and ink sketches of blossoms and details from my April garden. These prints are a suite drawn from a limited number of motifs including; apple blossoms, jasmine vines, spider webs, dewdrops, and fence lines. These elements have been combined in four different finished prints with scale modifications to make dresses, scarves, tote bags, and jackets.

The wearer of these clothes is a 50 year old, active designer and mother. The dress is of cotton lawn printed with a border print. The dress has a square neck and wide comfortable shoulders. The waist is detailed with a slight empire seam and features three inch stitched down inverted pleats which define the mid-section. The dress finishes at mid-calf length with a front button closure. The A-line coat is a bold apple blossom tossed on superimposed on a cobweb pattern and is printed on cotton sateen. The

Page 1 of 2

coat is faced with self and the sleeves have a turn up cuff of a contrasting print. Large pockets and a simple neck snap closure make the coat an easy and comfortable refuge from spring weather changes. The tote bag is made of two squares of a contrasting sateen print and can be folded into a small square and stored in the coats pockets. The soft voile scarf provides an extra flourish for protecting shoulders from the sun or creating a sash or headdress.



All the pieces were created by drafting patterns, sewing and fitting muslins, and final proto-type fittings. Patterns were trued and cut in final fabric. All pieces were sewn and finished by machine and hand, seams are bound with bias cut printed voile and all garments are faced with self-fabrics. The printed fabrics were created with Adobe Photoshop and printed on a Mimaki TX2 digital fabric printer. I printed, steamed, washed and sewed all the pieces.

All the pieces were created with soft, washable, breathable cotton for comfort and wearability. These clothes will be worn for many years and are intended to become old friends.