

Balance or Imbalance

Injoo Kim, University of Cincinnati

Key word: asymmetry, hand-manipulated pieces of ribbon woven

My interpretation explores the fine line between what is beautiful and what is ugly. It is inspired by the stubborn manner in which hope grows – even in the midst of disaster, destruction and poverty.

Trapped in the midst of disaster and destruction, our modern world teems with chaos and uncertainty. The confusion we face today evokes, in a sense, the disordered aftermath of any war. Images from the time reveal eerie, scarred landscapes, seemingly devoid of promise. By utilizing elements of dimensionality and asymmetry, I have attempted to create a sort of "ugly chaos," which is representative of the imbalance that we have endured in post-war years past – an imbalance that continues to afflict our world today.

I have chosen to contrast and temper this "ugly chaos" by utilizing a delicate palette and recycled yarns, both of which symbolize that, even from great turmoil, there can be healing. The world is forced to heal – flourish, even after the conflicts are over. Perhaps our entire planet may eventually experience a rebirth, a return to balance, order and beauty. My intent is to inspire a path leading us out of our tumultuous past and present, and into a more harmonious future. My aim is to evoke the fragile power of hope in the face of chaos.

This piece was machine knitted with hand-manipulated pieces of uniquely repurposed rayon ribbon woven into 100% fine wool. The rayon ribbon pieces are interspersed throughout the garment (tunic/dress). The garment pattern was developed, measured and then entered into the



Design A Knit computer program. The instructions were printed for knitting the shape of the garment. A machine linker was used to do the seam.