

Enslaved

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My garment is inspired by the works of Jacob Lawrence during the Harlem Renaissance. The mood he created with his art, by using bold colors and geometric shapes, was one that allowed others to empathize and understand the experiences of specific time periods throughout African American history. Jacob Lawrence depicted the African American life as he knew it and used the experiences of his life in his art to educate and enlighten others. This moved me to create a garment that would have the same effect on its viewers. I created a garment that portrays the reality of being an African American in today's society.



I used techniques learned throughout my first year of Fashion & Textile Design at NC State University to create an original garment with a compelling engineered print design using images that I painted using gouache. I had to print multiple times to make sure the colors were as bold as I intended them to be. I also constructed a prototype to make sure the fit of my garment was perfect before I printed my final pattern pieces. Overall, after much planning and testing I was able to create a garment that clearly shows my inspiration and reveals my own experiences and thoughts.

The work of art that I created is one that brings to light many of the harsh realities that society attempts to hide on an everyday basis. This garment is especially significant to those who are subjected to the harrowing inequalities prevalent in society. I envision a world that embraces diversity and strives toward equality of all persons, no matter their gender, age, color, class, etc. The garment I have created shows my vision by exposing others to reality and allowing others to truly empathize and think about something that is right in front of them. I didn't want to create

just another beautiful garment. I wanted to create something shocking that shows passion and significance. With this garment I am one step closer to realizing my far-fetched vision.

