

Glass to Fabric: Dale Chihuly's Blown Glass Inspired Design

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The purpose of this swing coat is to expand the legacy of one art form into the other. For my creative work, world-renowned Dale Chihuly's blown glass sculpture designs translated into fiber art. The shapes, texture, color in objects and scenes from the natural world inspired my imagination to visualize it on fabric. On this coat, the motif on the back and the shoulders are based on Dale's Sealife Tower and the motif on the front is based on his Icicle Tower. I selected the Sealife Tower as it provided me a perfect free flow of design energy and color coordination. I chose to place it on back starting at hem and converging towards the upper back creating harmonic poise on a solid textured background. I decided to add variety in color by including the gold yellow for the Icicle Tower in front. I achieved a balance amid unity and diversity.



I sewed this swing coat from a donated boiled wool fabric in off black color. The seams were thoughtfully chosen to take advantage of unraveling quality of the boiled wool fabric and to

manage seam bulk. The coat has top-stitching detail. The fabric was a perfect canvas to create a captivating design with needle felting using special needles with directional notches. The needle entangles the loose fiber and embeds it in the fabric. After needle felting, I steam pressed the design areas from the wrong side to felt and embed fibers in the base fabric weave. Then I finished hems with buttonhole stitch using a fine merino wool yarn in exact matching color to make it unnoticeable.



This work facilitates transposing one art form to the other expanding their scope. Making art builds knowledge and transforms lives (Ingold, 2013). New inspirations and designs give impetus to current art forms. Needle felting is an art form of repetitive yet therapeutic motion, and that is similar to other art forms such as embroidery, weaving, and knitting. This work can follow Stannard & Sanders (2015) footsteps to explore it through the lens of Uses and Gratification Theory.

References

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