

Blue Cypress; Brushstrokes IV

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The purpose of this project was to demonstrate the visual connection between artistry and the interpretation of renowned artwork translated into expressions of fashion design. The free flowing form of cypress tree and the color palette of the night sky were the inspirations from Vincent Van Gogh's painting, *Cypresses* (1889). The main objective of this project was to incorporate Van Gogh's unique brushstroke of artistic interpretation of nature by using felting techniques to create a wearable art piece.

In order to express the gradation of blue to black night sky colors 8 shades of blues and black merino wool roving were used. A mixture of different shades of blue, navy, and black wool fibers made it possible to achieve the somewhat ombré effect of the painting. To create a durable, lighter in weight than traditional all-wool felt, a nuno felting technique was adapted by using black silk chiffon as the base fabric. The fibers were arranged so that the backing fabric showed very slightly down the center of the panel in order to create the appearance of unorganized brushstrokes. After arranging fibers on the chiffon, hot, soapy water was applied and rolled with a bubble wrap. The combination of heat, moisture, and agitation caused the wool fibers to migrate into the black chiffon fabric, creating a wearable fabric.

To construct the dress, the front and back felted panels were needle felted, steamed and hand slipstitched onto the black backing fabric to prevent stretching. Then, the felt panels were lined and connected with stretch knit side panels. The stretch side panels were added to counterpart the non-stretchable felted panels for a better fit.

Materials – Merino Wool Roving, Silk Chiffon, Polyester lining, Polyester/Lycra Stretch Knit



