Rhythmism

Jennifer Kim, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

Keywords: Zero waste, painting, cotton


Rhythmism was inspired by the silhouette of Chanel's 1960's women's' suits and the brush strokes of the 50's action paintings, especially those by Franz Kline. The silhouette has been rendered modern and comfortable in $100 \%$ organic cotton fleece and interlock knits. As a designer and painter, I have made choices in color, scale and application of line to bring the energy of the brush stroke to the garments. The wild and spontaneous strokes of line express powerful emotion and energy, and also recall the complex tweed of the Chanel suit.

This ensemble was created in a course researching zero waste fashion techniques. In order to achieve zero waste, my design strategy was to utilize $100 \%$ of my fabric in creating silhouette
and the accompanying fabric manipulation. The fabric was hand-dyed to derive the desired colors and is inspired by 2015 fall/winter color forecasts. The ensemble was created using patternmaking and draping and a muslin was created to mock up the concept. Strips from the drops were cut into varying lengths and widths and stacked to create the fabric on the pattern prior to assembling. The pattern is machine stitched and the garments are finished with an industrial serger.

This look consists of a turtleneck top that is long sleeve on the left and sleeveless on the right, a skirt, and a blazer. The top has two layers in the front and is symmetrically curved at the bottom to match the curvature on the side of the skirt.

