

Catacombs Gown and Evening Jacket

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From afar, this ensemble reads as romantic, with soft folds of ivory chiffon contrasted with the gentle sheen of black cotton sateen. On second glance, however, the look opens up to reveal its macabre inspiration. The embroidered lines of the jacket shift from delicate tree branches to the curling, sinuous lines of human veins. The printed fabric, subtle from a distance, becomes covered in skeletal hands, reaching out towards one another. The whimsical evening gown, though seemingly dream-like, turns nightmarish upon closer inspection.

This eveningwear ensemble borrows inspiration from the iconic Parisian Catacombs. The morbid destination turns death into a work of art, and this gown attempts to do the same. The softly draped chiffon gown mirrors the color of bones housed in the Catacombs, and the black jacket echoes the dark, cavernous interior of the tunnels. The jacket features couching, with ivory thread tightly embroidered over fluorescent yellow cord, creating glowing, vein-like lines. The skirt of the gown showcases blue and grey screen-printed hand bones, created from the designer's own anatomical renderings. These detailed textile techniques subtly suggest the corporeal inspiration, while keeping the look romantic from a distance.