Charlotte, North Carolina



Destruction from the Flames Stephanie Brannam, Illinois State University, USA Keywords: bleach, design, inspiration

I chose natural disasters to be my inspiration because of the impact they have on the world. They bring chaos and destruction and escalation to the already uncontrollable weather. The purpose of this dress was to make the flowers look like they were on fire, indicating such natural disaster as a forest fire. The skirt is a low-high silhouette with a train attached to indicate the spread of the fire as well as it continuing to come up on the dress. The bodice of the dress is grey to symbolize the smoke from the fire rising from the flames and up to the sky. The black flower lace was used on the sleeves to add some contrast from the top.

For the continuation of the fire effect, I spray bleached the black cotton fabric on the skirt and train to get a rustic red color and make the fabric look like it had been burning. The flowers were sewn on and splattered painted black to look this way as well. Black paint was splattered on the gray top at the bottom of it to indicate the smoke coming up because of the fire. The black and gray fabric used for the dress is cotton, the black lace fabric used for the sleeves is cotton/nylon blend, and the lining fabric made of polyester. The garment was made using a size 10 dress form and draping techniques to create the silhouette.

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