

Malachite Love

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The purpose of this design was to create a feminine look inspired by the Malachite Kingfisher bird. The Malachite Kingfisher resides throughout Africa and is identifiable by its bright metallic blue and purple colored feathers against a tan body. The birds often have a spotted pattern made of shiny, metallic colors in the blue and purple feathers. The patterns of color are in an oval shape on the bird's body.

The designer took inspiration from the colors of the bird, the shapes of the pattern, and the movement of Malachite while in flight. Tan fabric was utilized for the body of the dress similar to the tan body of the bird. An oval shape cut-out on the back of the garment was inspired by the oval-shaped patterns in the feathers. The designer chose a blue waistline bow as an accent color to mimic the blue highlights found on the bird. Shiny pearl beads were added to the back of the garment to represent the spotted patterns. As the wearer moves in this gown, the bottom of the skirt gently glides across the floor. This silhouette was chosen to create a graceful movement as the individual glides across the floor similar to the poetic nature of the birds while in flight.



The garment was created utilizing both flat pattern and draping techniques. Several yards of white gathered tulle was sewn to the interior of the dress to create fullness in the skirt. The dress is completely lined with a nude-colored jersey knit. All edges were finished with a bias tape. An invisible zipper serves as the closure for the dress at the CB seam below the oval cut-out. Hook and eyes secure the top of the garment above the oval cut-out on the back of the bodice.