

Mindscape

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Feminine, organic

Taking the time to explore what is really happening inside our complex minds is something I believe as human beings, we do not do enough. It can scare us to dig deep into what is unknown. We may discover something that we don't like or that surprises us, but it may also lead to something new or wonderful that we never knew was there. This gown, titled *Mindscape*, was created from taking a moment of meditation to look within. The challenge posed was to imagine yourself somewhere and take in the surroundings as inspiration. What are the sights? The sounds? The smells? The amount of life or lack there of? I am often inspired by elements of nature, and I found myself surrounded by endlessly tall trees that protruded into the heavens. The nature was the most vibrant of autumn colors, with flowers and vines growing wildly over the trees and the ground. This dress was born from this imagined place in my mind, or my mindscape.



Through draping, I created a sleek silhouette flowing into a trumpet hem, much like the trunk of a tree, by inserting 6 triangle gores into the seams on the skirt. The black raffia is couched onto the gown in long strips to represent the vertical lines of the tall trees. The colors get more vibrant from the bodice to the floor as it flows from ivory into gold and into bright red. The



fabric I used is 100% silk organza, all hand-dyed, with a cotton blend fabric as the under skirt for comfort. The flowers are also hand-dyed silk organza, sculpted and stitched on. They trickle from the front of the gown over one shoulder and into the back representing the way I observed nature growing freely in my imaginary scene. While stitching the raffia it was almost as if I had no control over which direction it wanted to be stitched or how it would manipulate the organza. The raffia is organic and unpredictable just as nature is, and just as our minds are. The garment was finished in fall 2013 and is size 0-2. This gown not only represents me as a designer, but it is a piece of my mind, pulled out and exposed through the creative combination of fashion and art.