

Tiered Chromium

Designer: Elizabeth Kraidich, Mentor: Ellen McKinney, Iowa State University, USA

Keyword: Couture Techniques, Textile Innovation

Measurements: Bust 34 1/2", Waist 25", Hips 35", Length from Shoulder 54"

Mentor Statement

This work was completed as part of a creative design processes course. The purpose of this mentorship relationship was for the student to explore and apply fabric manipulation techniques to create a wearable art piece. The purpose was met by first educating students about the purposes and hallmarks of wearable art. A number of creativity exercises were assigned and given feedback on. Then each student created a notebook of twenty fabric manipulation techniques. Students shared their notebooks with each other through a gallery walk, as well as received written feedback from the instructor. Students then sketched wearable art designs incorporating a minimum of three explored wearable art techniques. The instructor discussed the sketches with each student and assisted them in selecting the best one. Throughout the garment design process, the instructor observed and supported each student with advice and resources, as needed. For example, this student was advised to use a special seam type to attach the caning to other fabrics in the ensemble.

This particular student's work is of extremely high quality. It has a strong conceptual goal, which has been met through successful integration of three different types of fabric manipulation. The fabric manipulations are excellently achieved. The cane weaving is particularly difficult and unusual for a garment, yet perfectly executed. Good quality materials in a beautifully coordinated colors were used. All aspects of the garment construction are professionally executed.

Design Statement

The goal of *Tiered Chromium* was to create a modern two-piece garment inspired by geometric and linear shapes. Three fabric manipulation techniques such as: caning, weaving, and appliqué were used to create geometric shapes and lines. Caning was used to make hexagonal shapes and was repeated in the appliqué design along with other geometric shapes. The weaving on the bodice's back and sleeves mimics the woven lines used to create the cane. Metallic colors of white, black, silver, and rose gold were used throughout the garment to add cohesiveness and sleekness to the design. Contrasting colors are used to differentiate the design elements from the smooth black base fabric of the garment.

The bodice and pants were designed for wearable art and limited production. The design process began by flat patterning the garment without yokes or panels. Once the fit and shape of the top and pants were the desired intent, side panels on the pants and bodice yoke were created. The appliqué design on the pant were drawn on the pattern piece and then made into a stencil. Three separate pattern pieces create the appliqué's design and run the entire length of the pant. Suede lace strips were hand woven on a 20" by 30" frame to create the caned fabric. After the weaving was completed, sheets of cane were cut from the frame, and pattern pieces were cut from it. The back bodice and sleeve pattern pieces were cut, pattern drawn with chalk, slits were cut, and suede lace strips were woven through.

Cane is a type of weaving created when horizontal, vertical, and diagonal line interlace each other at different points of the weave creating a design. Traditional caning created small hexagon design in the spaces between the weave found on the bodice and pants. Silver and white colors of suede lace woven in the cane make a contrast between the rows and columns of lines and highlight the hexagon shape created. The same silver and white suede lace was woven into the bodice's back and sleeves. The 1 to 1 change in silver and white color on the back and sleeve weave displays the same color pattern of the cane. The vertical weave mimics the vertical weave patterns created in the cane and the vertical placement of the appliqué design on the pant. The appliqué design has hexagons, triangles, and

other geometric shapes in it. Silver and white are the main colors of the design and add cohesiveness to the garments overall design, because the two colors were also used in the weave and cane. The base layer of the appliqué is rose gold and distinguishes the white and grey colors of the appliqué. The left and right leg appliqués are mirror images and displays the same bilateral symmetry found in the cane. The sheen of the crepe back satin in the appliqué, silver suede lace, and pleather base gives the garment a modern feel by imitating the colors and texture of metal.

Date Completed: 02/11/2016

