



## Pikeman's Mini-dress

Casey R. Stannard, Louisiana State University, USA

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Bust: 36", Waist: 27", Hips: 38"

Pikemen were foot soldiers who utilized long, steel-tipped spears in an attempt to fight off attacking cavalry (Stone, 2013). The armor worn by Pikemen in the 1600s included corselets and plates that protected their thighs from enemy attacks (Stone, 2013). These soldiers were common place and fairly expendable in a war effort. However, their armor was still highly intricate and represents a fusion of war technology and handcraft (Stone, 2013). The synthesis of technology and craft was also featured in the most recent exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Manus X Machina* (Bolton, 2016). Therefore, the purpose of this design was to visually represent the Pikemen using technological processes while still incorporating hand-sewing and craft elements.

The designer chose to create a mini-dress with a bell-shaped skirt to mimic the shape of the Pikeman's armor from the 1600s, which would have been worn over full breeches. The garment was designed using Rhino 3D software. A block was drafted in Rhino and manipulated. Then, the decorative designs were added to each pattern piece. The pieces were arranged into three markers to be cut from three royal-blue suede hides. Each marker was cut separately in the laser cutter. Next, the design was machine stitched together. The skirt panels were stitched onto grey, textured polyester, which added contrast in texture and color.

The design was beaded by hand to mimic the rivets in the Pikemen's armor. Brackets were sewn onto the skirt panels to mimic armor as well. However, the design featured feminine bows with points instead of hardware. The design was fully lined, bias binding was used to finish the edges, and boning was sewn into the skirt to create the bell silhouette. A short, shirt and cowl were also created to mimic the hem ruffle and create cohesion in the design.

This design is significant as it utilizes unique historic inspiration. Laser-cutting and 3D software were also used in combination with handcraft techniques to create this design.

Bolton, A. (2016). *Manus x machine: Fashion in an age of technology*. New York, NY: Metropolitan Museum of Art Press.

Stone, G.C. (2013). *A glossary of the construction, decoration, and use of arms and armor: In all countries and all times*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications.

