

Kelcie Bryant-Duguid

Description Outlining Design Concept and Materials Used.

Design Concept: 'Pretend Print-cess'

Child inspired **dress-up fairy tale – nostalgia**. Sundresses: are worn by girls growing up and finding their place in the world. They represent the feminine. There is a familiarity about a simple sundress, a shared consciousness. This innocent garment evokes **memories of childhood** and represents a simple, yet powerful image of domestic life and the journey of women. It is a universal symbol.

The **silhouette** of my paper garment is inspired by the **multi-tiered sundress** much like the ones I wore as a child. The finished paper garment: **a gown with 'princess' qualities** consists of an ornate bound, back-lacing bodice and long sweeping lace trimmed skirt – perfect for the imagination when **playing pretend**. The **papier-mache rabbit mask** completing the outfit lending an unknown mysterious yet fun carnivale feel allowing the wearer and viewer to be transported to a faraway place. The mask hides ones identity – perhaps mimicking the uncertainty of the unknown adventure that lies ahead.

The **nostalgia** of reflecting back upon childhood but also looking through the eyes of a child is a recurring theme explored in this work. The **dress acting as a canvas** upon which the story is told to the viewer. Elements of the dress are stitched and **illustrated with embroidery-like touches**; **broderie anglaise** lace paper trims are incorporated in the skirt ruffle hems to mimic/replicate those found on dresses from my own childhood.

Hand-painted watercolour designs feature on the **bodice** panels. Design influences from childhood are **symbolic** and include: **floral images, blue birds and rabbits, heart and home, a tree of life, and sun and moon** designs translated through **Polish inspired embroidery**. The **colour blue** is chosen for **royalty** and is strongly influenced by traditional **Danish hand painted Delftware pottery** designs. The overall colour of the work is **white**, representing **purity and innocence**.

The **tiered skirt** is comprised of layered, laminated gathered papers with a printed, collaged, painted surface. Subtle imagery of **garden flowers** and **whimsical text** are intermingled with simple **graphic printed**, paper floral elements attached to the substrate.

Accessories are inspired by **storybook and faerie tale illustrations** that capture the imagination along with fashion references seen in **paintings** and books I have studied in school. **Hand spun and knitted fingerless gloves** (nods to both Alice in Wonderland and Sleeping Beauty), a **small stitched and printed locket book** inspired by the jewellery fashions of Victorian times, a **crochet flower** (the rose garden flowers from Alice) **corsage** inspired by ribbon chokers from French Impressionist paintings (Manet's 'A Bar at the Folies-Bergere') and a **pure white Venetian style carnivale mask** in the design of a rabbit (Alice again – with allusions to the passage of time).

The dress weaves an idyllic and whimsical narrative on a dramatic and discernible **silhouette**, through carefully chosen **imagery**, using **illustration, print and text** to portray a land of make-believe and pretend, of enduring **hope and possibility**. A reminder of our dreams and of what might be. Perhaps a refuge we as adults dream of returning to - a moment in time that was less demanding and filled with wonder.

Materials

Found and purchased papers: washi tape, crepe paper, raffia paper, rice paper, watercolour paper, greaseproof kitchen paper, paint charts, silver eyelets, thread, ribbon, cotton.

Techniques

Stitch, printmaking, collage, papier-mache, painting: watercolour, acrylic, graphite, ink and other mark-making tools.