

6/24/2020



PAPER ON  
SKIN  
2020

## THE TASMASIAN



Cynthia Hawkins | TAS

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## The TasmAsian

This year, I would like to use this opportunity to celebrate my culture and as a dedication to all the Asian that reside in this beautiful place called Tasmania. I remember when I first arrived to Tasmania over a decade ago, I was hesitating to go out and meet people. First, was the accent I have when I speak English, and my awful grammar, and my skin colour is different. Often when I go out or do something, I felt like many people will look at me, “Oh, look, an Asian girl...”. I was feeling a little uncomfortable back in that time. But, I was never taking my time to get to know the local. Eventually, I figured that, if I spend some time to learn and know the localities, it isn’t bad after all.

Me, coming from a big city in Malaysia, was brought up in a fast paced and different environment. I was taught that money is important and should aim for a “better life” in a materialistic way. I find myself eat, talk and walk faster than anyone here in Tasmania. It was weird. Back in Malaysia, the closest beach/sea or wilderness is about 2 hours away from where I live, but here, it is almost at my doorstep and the beauty of nature is available at our finger tips. And I get wallabies, rabbits in my backyard. Occasionally, many blue wren birds will land on my yard and chirping away. It is quite amazing.

I have learned that life is not about what we owned or how much money we got. It is about living our life fullness by embracing what is around us, the people, the view, the place, the sea breeze, the beautiful sunshine. I have made a lot of friends and met a lot of beautiful people that is local, doesn’t speak my language but they made me feel very welcome and have me as one of their own.

And I often shared my culture by sharing food and our festivities with my friends. So, I get to stay true to myself, without surrendering my heritage and forget where I come from. In the piece, I have featured many beautiful things and places I seen in my entire time in Tasmania. The beautiful Rhododendron Garden, Stanley Highfield House, “The Nut” and Cradle Mountain are all featured in different component of the garment. I remember the very first time I arrived to Tasmania, the very thing that mesmerise my eyes was the beautiful Albino peacock, also made an appearance in my piece. A mixture of Asian influences such as Dragon (represent the king/man), Phoenix (represent the queen/woman), cherry blossom were also painted. Alongside with some patterns that were inspired by Qing Dynasty ancient outfits and embroidery.

The 12 years I have lived in Tasmania, I am yet to discover many more beautiful places around the state. THE TASMASIAN, is a piece of artwork I created to celebrate all the Asian

that have lived here or wanting to call this place home. Paper was an important medium in the city of Burnie. And it is still being celebrated until today. It is a perfect medium for me to create a piece of artwork to celebrate the culture and people with different heritage. All I can say is I am proud to call this piece of paradise, Tasmania my home.

**Material:**

Butcher paper and recycled paper, manila card, mounting board, florist gauges, wire, various paint.

**Closure:**

Stick on Velcro, handmade wire loop and hook.

**Binder:**

Various adhesive.

**Technique:**

Papier mache, paper clay, paper sculpting, paper cut out, hand-spanned paper string, origami tessellation.

By,

Cynthia Hawkins

# Mood board



# Component

## *Bodice*



Bodice – binding agent: various of adhesive and paper masking tape.

- Tasmanian devil on the papier-mache bodice sleeve,
- Hand embossed waratah and
- Hand painted cherry blossom.



Bodice

- A hand moulded papier-mache dragon head that were made with 100% butcher paper with 1 single piece of florist gauge on nose component.



Bodice

- A phoenix; made with papier-mache moulded body with hand embossing details.
- Paper fringe feathers.
- Hand-spun paper string wrapping around feather-boning.
- All feathers involved 2 kinds of florist gauges to hold the floating shape.



Bodice

- Side waist feature chinese-inspired component with the chinese symbol/word “家” translated to “family” or widely use as “home”. Florist gauge is use to create the embossed effect.

# Skirt



The skirt shaped were made with many metal wire and manila card, were then wrap it with cling film. Papier-mache technique then applied on top. The skirt frame removed after the papier-mache is in shaped.



- The skirt is then covered with paper clay that is made with butcher paper, recycled material & pvc glue; for strength.
- The dress is then sanded with an electric sander to get the dress in shape, and smoother surface.
- To achieve a silky smooth surface, another layer of papier-mache is then applied on top.



The front of the skirt featured scenery of albino peacock, blue wren birds and varieties of floral.

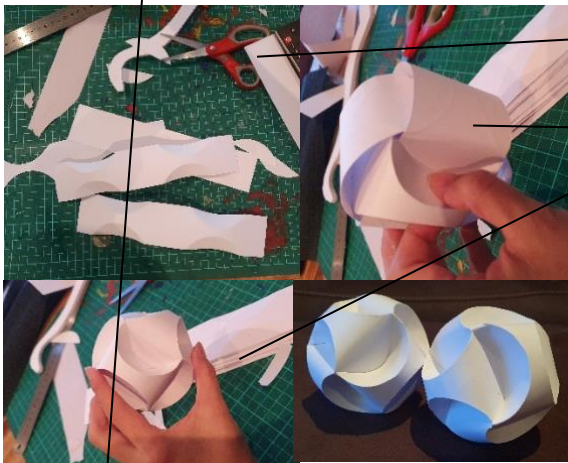


The back of the skirt featured the iconic scenery of Cradle Mountain.

## Headpiece



Headpiece featured a numbers of hand folded paper orbs that present chinese lantern; chinese lantern represent brightness that would lead our path to a brightness future and life, a symbol of wisdom and luck.



- 3 pieces manila card measured and cut into shapes.
- The 3 pieces then loop together and bind with tape. Gently pushed the carved curved edges to form the orb.



1 piece of shape and cut mounting board is used as the foundation of the main headpiece. 2 U-pins hairpins is then attached on top, securing the pins with papier-mache technique.

- The orbs are all hand painted with varieties of patterns.
- Hand-spun strings are made to create the fringes.
- The string is use to hang the orbs on the foundation of the piece.



**Shoes** – 100% made of paper minus non-slip pad on the bottom of the shoes.



- 1 side of the shoe is painted with the scenery of “the nut” in the beautiful suburb of Stanley. The iconic Highfield house is also featured.
- The other side of the shoe featured the scenery from the Rhododendron garden in Ridgley.
- The other 2 flip side of the shoes featured some Asian inspired scenery.



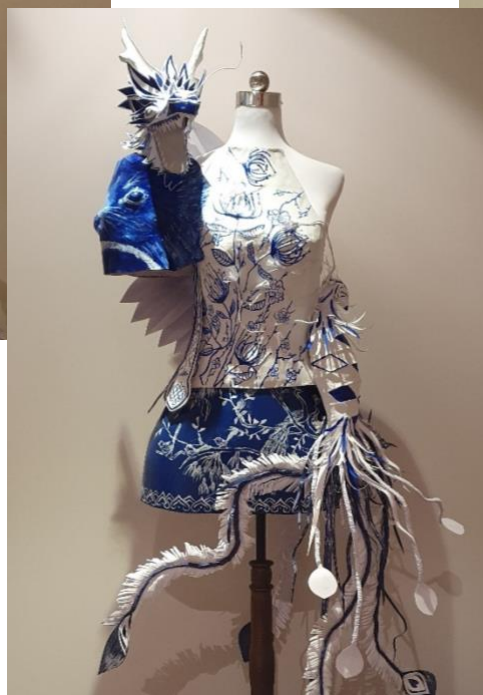
- The foundation of the shoes was made with thousands of layers of butcher paper for strength.
- The heel consists of over 500 pieces of cut butcher paper that were compressed and hold in shape with masking tape.
- 2 sides of the upper components consist of compressed over 700 pieces cut butcher paper.
- A pair of shoes were use to create the shoes with papier-mache technique.
- All components is then joined with various of adhesives.
- Both shoes are then shaped with masking tape, and the multiple layers of papier-mache applied on top to achieve a concrete like hardness.
- The shoes are then sanded with an electric sander to achieve a smooth surface.
- They are then painted with acrylic paint.



A handcut Tasmanian Tiger scenery is added in the heart of the shoes, held with hot glue.

## The TasmAsian – *putting everything together*

- ❖ Stick-on Velcro is used as the skirt and the bodice closure.
- ❖ Many handmade wire loops and hooks added to the piece to hold the phoenix wing and feathers.
- ❖ A small insert component is created to hold the phoenix on the bodice. Strong adhesive is then applied to hold them together permanently.



# Gallery

