

Weaving for Justice

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Weaving for Justice is a two-piece, 1970's inspired look, designed to honor those who were killed and injured in a horrific event that happened on mid-west university Campus. The crop top and bell bottom pants have a hand woven, triaxial surface design. The strips of fabric which make up the weave include two sets of color gradients inspired by the 70's, yellow to purple and teal to red colors trending at the time. The black and white strips contain the names of the individuals who were killed and injured on that ominous day, along with a quote from the Scranton Commission calling the event "unnecessary, unwarranted, and inexcusable" (Lewis & Hensley, 2020).

This design was developed to be showcased as one part of an exhibit to honor the 50th anniversary in commemoration of the historic event. The fringed crop top and bell bottom wide leg pants were designed to replicate 1970's fashion (Sessions, 2018). The fabric design for the fabric strips for the hand weaving were first developed digitally. Two sets of color gradients (yellow to purple and teal to red) with a 1/2" width, inspired by 70's fashion were developed in Adobe Photoshop and digitally printed on 100% linen fabric. In contrast to the colors, black and white wordings with an applied gradient were printed as well. Stripes with color gradients were printed onto the fabric diagonally at 45 degrees from the fabric grainline, so when the strips were cut those edges would not unravel. The digitally printed fabric was then cut into 1/2" strips to be weaved by hand. This design is also a continuation of the first designer's pursuit of a design goal of developing surface designs expressing sacred geometric patterns with textiles (XXXX, 2020).

The process started with developing garment patterns using a flat pattern, then a woven surface for the crop top and the pants were created using triaxial hand weaving techniques. Triaxial weaving is made on three axes, vertical and two diagonals. Two sets of strips with gradients, yellow to purple and teal to red were used for the two diagonal axes and black and white strips with words were used for a vertical axis. As a result, the surface of the finished garments has a three-dimensional optical illusion appearance.

This design has integrated handcraft triaxial weaving techniques to create a garment design addressing the reverberations of the historic event that happened on a university campus in 1970. This design was developed to demonstrate a creative and original way to both commemorate a tragic historic event and inspire others to continue the pursuits of activism and social justice by applying triaxial hand weaving combined with digital textile printing in an effort to remember and honor those who gave up their lives to stand up for what they believed in.

References:

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