

Hyde

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Mentor Statement

Hyde was completed as part of a senior-level design course in which I was lab instructor. The purpose of the course was for undergraduate students to create a clothing collection. This student designed a wearable art collection inspired by a literary concept. My mentorship role was to provide assistance throughout the design process including consumer and market research, inspiration research, ideation, prototyping, evaluation, presentation, and promotion. I interacted with this student weekly on a scheduled one-on-one basis. During these meetings we discussed general progress, potential and/or existing design challenges and possible solutions, and any other design related issues. After completion of the course I encouraged this student to submit their work to ITAA due to the elevated level of creativity and inspiration, rigor and thoroughness of design process, construction quality, and impeccable attention to detail. I sponsor this student for inclusion in the ITAA design exhibition as they have developed and executed an exceptional ensemble that creatively incorporates unique inspiration, traditional hand-craft, and new age technologies.

Design Statement

Background

Hyde integrates surface design techniques, digital technologies, and traditional patterning methods to create a wearable art ensemble. This ensemble was inspired by the novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. In the novel, Dr. Jekyll is viewed as an upright, honest man whereas Mr. Hyde is the opposite: brutal, hideous, and corrupt. However, unbeknownst to everyone else, Dr. Jekyll *is* Mr. Hyde; they are one in the same. Dr. Jekyll attempts to overcome his “other side”, to no avail. These moments of turmoil between good and evil were explored and are visually represented in this ensemble.

Process, technique and execution

After reading the novel and researching the themes behind the story, ideas were sketched out. Draping and flat patterning techniques were utilized to generate patterns for the top and bottom. A prototype was created and altered according to design preferences and to address fit issues. The asymmetrical skirt pattern was digitized using Optitex and adapted into Illustrator for the incorporation of a print design. The print design was hand-drawn with Clip Studio Paint and engineered onto the digitized pattern with Photoshop. Next, the skirt was digitally printed on cotton sateen. After the skirt was constructed, torn strips of chiffon were sewn to the open side of the skirt to create fringe. Finally, clusters of beads were attached by hand where the fringe met

the skirt. The skirt is finished with facing at the waist and an invisible side seam zipper.

For the slashed top, various fabrics including cotton broadcloth, organza and chiffon were layered and sewn together. Symmetrical lines and shapes (for slashing) were stitched through the layers of fabric. The top layers of fabric between the stitch lines were slashed and distressed to create a frayed texture and to show red fabric underneath. Lastly, beads were handsewn onto the base red fabric at various areas between the slashed openings.

Aesthetic elements and visual impact

The seemingly simple yet intentional color scheme of red and black captures the dark tone of the story. In contrast to a refined silhouette, the surfaces of the garments appear rough and textural. The reveal of red underneath black symbolizes discovery of an individual's "Hyde". The slashing on the top reflects characteristics of claw marks, which relate to the "creature-like" descriptions of Mr. Hyde. The significant struggle between two sides of one's self is portrayed in the skirt's asymmetrical silhouette and form. One side is smooth and refined, while the other is overwhelmed with a long fringe. This drastic contrast in texture and form create a feeling of conflict and unrest. The ripped aspects of fringe on the skirt coordinate with the coarse look of the top to create a sense of balance. Beading on both of the garments mimic the appearance of wounds and scars and provide various points of emphasis. Finally, the organic red lines create movement that guides the eye throughout the ensemble.

Cohesion and contribution

Hyde encompasses a dark concept with originality and artistry. Each of the applied techniques in *Hyde* serve to tell pieces of a story that interact as a cohesive whole, altogether transforming a literary work into a wearable ensemble.

References:

Stevenson, R. L. (2003). *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Other Stories*. Barnes & Noble Books. (Original work published 1886)

