Eye-Spot a Lucky Moth

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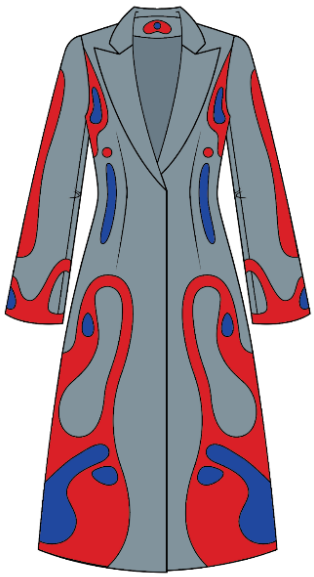
Design Mentor Statement: Submission was part of a junior-level Contemporary Tailoring and Design course I taught in Spring 2022. This is a core course requirement for apparel design students. Students are required to design a jacket of their own design and are responsible for all patternmaking, sample making, fittings, and pattern adjustments, along with following industry tailoring practices for the final jacket. The student adjusted the jacket block to an A cup and then completed additional patternmaking to achieve the desired design. This student had an ambitious surface embellishment design inspired by moth wings and had an 11-week deadline.

Embellishment execution was discussed with the student and various options were executed by the student. After experimentation with three different options, the student chose to stitch bias strips to the edges of each embellishment, grade, clip, iron, and top stitch in place. While this technique was the most labor-intensive of the options, the student wanted the best application no matter the additional hours it took to achieve this. The student spent many additional hours in the studio to complete this jacket and arranged time with me outside of class to ensure the jacket was executed to the best of her ability. My mentorship included in-class discussions on her design, patternmaking, fittings, and overall execution of the jacket along with additional meetings to discuss embellishment execution, glass eye application, and quality workmanship. Her ambitious design, work ethic, and overall quality of construction are what made me want to sponsor this project for submission.



Statement of Purpose: The Eye-Spot jacket pulls from a collection of the designer's favorite things. Initially inspired by the complex bilateral symmetrical patterns found on moth wings, this coat was quickly influenced by an obsession with luck and superstition (Turner, 2020). The title is itself a play on words, referencing the eyespot designs located on moth and butterfly wings used to ward against predators, much like the evil eye wards off negative spirits. The color combination is an ode to design faux pas; this jacket is meant to stun. It is meant to spin the eyes of the viewer while simultaneously not allowing them to look away. There is always more to notice—more to wonder about. This coat is a culmination of ideas previously thought impossible to execute.

Aesthetic Properties and Visual Impact: Vibrant red and blue wool, personal favorite color combinations as they have long been associated with luckiness, were used against a muted cool grey wool to create a striking contrast (Casas & Chinoperekweyi, 2019; Chen & Ohrn-McDaniel, 2016). Meticulously constructed with movement in mind, the eye is guided from top to bottom, and front to back. After noticing the symmetrical shapes, the eyespots will become visible, creating a sense of life and personality in this once-inanimate coat.

Process, Technique, Execution: A bodice and skirt block were used to draft the jacket block and then modified to specific measurements and cup size (Armstrong, 2010). The darts were merged into a single fisheye dart at the front and back waist and the front and back pieces were lengthened and adjusted to flare from the waist down. The working patterns were completed by adding the necessary ease for structural elements, and a collar pattern and respective facing patterns were patterned (Armstrong, 2010). The sleeve pattern was adjusted to fit the armhole and to flare from the armscye to the hem. Lining patterns were created from the working patterns after a successful prototype was made and adjusted. Every embellishment spot on the coat was handmade, and therefore, a paper pattern was drafted for each individual spot, and a smooth rounded edge was created by attaching a facing to each one. Each spot was carefully and intentionally planned, each designed to complement the others. During assembly, the pieces were constantly checked for symmetry, as this was a main feature of the garment. The shell is 100% wool fabric, including embellishments, with a Bemberg rayon lining. The jacket contains all necessary structural elements, including weft interfacing, twill tape at the roll line and lapels, as well as shoulder pads and sleeve heads at the armscyes. Glass eyes, used for plushie making, were added to the front waist, upper back, and sleeve hem to further enhance the eyespot concept. On the inside, a spot has been added to the back neck facing for added hanger appeal and interest.

Cohesion: The *Eye-Spot* jacket creates cohesion through a limited color palette and symmetrical, organic shapes throughout. Solid-colored fabrics, all with the same fiber content, prevented the applied design from appearing too busy or disorganized. The extra spot attached as a hanger appeal makes the overall design feel intentional, and the symmetry further enhances that every piece was planned prior to its creation.

Originality and Innovation: The idea for the *Eye-Spot* coat evolved over days of brainstorming designs. Originally wanting a geometric design on a similar silhouette, the designer was struck with inspiration to create something more organic and original. Sketches began to resemble moth wing patterns, and as soon as the comparison was made it was impossible not to follow the concept to completion. This is an entirely unique garment.

Measurements: Female medium (size 6-8) 34” 26” 35”
Date Completed: April 10, 2022

References

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