Turtle Turtle

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Digital printing is a unique method designers use to bring designs to life. It is cleaner with less environmental issues involved as apposed to hand dyeing and stamping. I wanted to create a piece of wearable art using digital printing technology that would be visually stunning with depth and dimension.

My inspiration for "Turtle Turtle" was taken from photo of a turtle, which I saw while visiting the Grand Cayman Islands. The shell was different shades of brown and tan with a very distinct pattern. The original photo of the turtle shell was altered in Photoshop using color balance and brightness/contrast to create colors of purple, yellow, red, orange, and teal. Using Photoshop, I extracted a wedge shape of the altered shell to create sixteen wedges for the skirt. These wedges were used to form the circle, which later became the skirt. Dividing each wedge was a rectangular shaped teal segment to add contrast. The front and back of the bodice were created using a part of the above mentioned turtle shell design. The overlay design for the dress was the same for the circle skirt as the underskirt; however, the overlay for the bodice was different, which contains an angular design in teal with a decreased opacity to make it more transparent. On the skirt, the overlay pattern was offset

from the pattern of the underskirt giving a three dimensional illusion.

The pattern was created using traditional pattern draping methods. It was then scanned into the OptiTex program in three pieces (front, back and skirt). Using Photoshop, the garment pattern pieces were arranged in an engineered fashion to fit the created design, and were then converted to fit the pattern pieces using the Adobe Photoshop. The images were then printed onto two fabrics using the Mimaki TX2-1600 digital fabric printer. The under dress was printed on silk charmeuse fabric, while the overlay of the dress was printed on silk organza. The bodice lining of the dress is polyester, and a separate skirt lining of polyester and four layers of colored tulle beneath.

The dress pieces were then cut from the fabric printed pattern and constructed using tradition garment construction techniques. A zipper was added on the right side for closure purposes. The skirt was hemmed with the underskirt attached to the overskirt to keep the teal lines together with a simple ½ inch turned up hem.

I think that this design captures and creates depth and dimension with the two different fabric layers and color combinations. I also think that the teal lines create depth as well as enhance the overall design concept.