

## Báthory

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The title to this piece references Countess Elizabeth Báthory, known as the Blood Countess, who was rumored to bathe in the blood of virgins to remain beautiful and youthful, the epitome of the sin of vanity. This piece is designed to evoke the beauty and engulfing power of sin. References to sinful behavior in the modern world are often flaunted in an ostentatious and brash manner. This design converts these themes to something grand and tasteful. The angular shape of the garment was inspired by the look of one carrying many shopping bags, a metaphor for being greedy. The paint details are a metaphor for gluttony, depicting oozing drips of syrup one has spilt on oneself. The color red was chosen not only for its overall demanding presence but also for its undeniable connection to wrath and lust.

To create this piece I used a very thick interfacing as an inner layer of the skirt to give it support and create the box effect, while still keeping it fairly

flexible and adding a little bounce into the garment. The neckline of the bodice also features this interfacing to keep it upright and crisp. The detailing was done using gold and bronze fabric paint. The paint was carefully dribbled onto the dresses neckline, back, and back inside to create falling drips. Overall the piece is not just a garment but a mixed media piece.