

Gracefully Pleated

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The inspiration of this dress came from Grecian arts and works of Madame Grès, one of the most brilliant couturiers of twentieth century. Madame Grès is famous for her Greek-inspired silk jersey dresses, which drape around female body, enhancing movement (The Museum at FIT, n.d.). Influenced by the inspiration, I wanted to create a dress that wraps around and flows over a female body naturally with minimal structure. As a woman walks in this dress the folds and pleats move freely and gracefully with her body movement. The woman who would love to wear this dress has tastes for fine classical style items, loves arts and likes to show the natural silhouette of her body. This dress can be worn for attending special events such as an evening at the opera, award ceremonies, and art gallery openings.

The design process started from researching on the works of Madame Grès and ancient Greek garments, and then sketching my own ideas. My fabric choice was 100% silk jersey for its remarkable quality of softness. The bright pink color is in harmony with the soft feminine drapes. The overall silhouette was designed to be asymmetrical to generate eye movements. Numerous numbers of pleats were intended to create surface interests.

The main technique used for this dress was one-of-a-kind draping technique; I used silk jersey, the fashion fabric, to drape directly on a dress form without using muslin or making patterns. Using one-of-a-kind draping technique helped me to play with the fabrics and explore ideas for I was able to instantly visualize the drapes and folds as fabrics were pinned on the dress form. Small pleats were hand pleated as I draped on a dress form, and they were either machine stitched over or hand tacked to secure in place. After draping was completed, I used a hand needle and contracting color threads to mark the sewing lines while the fabric pieces were pinned on the dress form. Next I removed the pieces from the dress form, laid them flat on a table to mark the seam allowances and then



machine stitched the pieces together. The edges were carefully finished with hand rolled baby hem. The dress was completed in April 2013. The measurements were bust 36", waist 28", and hip 37".

