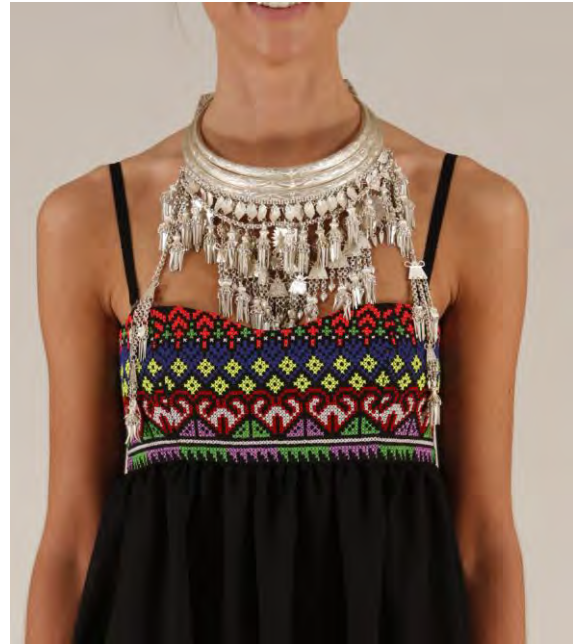


Hmong Tradition

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Hmong, embroidery

“Hmong Tradition” was inspired by my cultural heritage. I was born in Thailand and learned traditional cross stitch embroidery from my mother; like many Hmong women, she embroidered fabrics to send to the US as a means of supporting our family. My design was inspired by traditional colors and fabrics, but updated to reflect current global fashion trends. Having lived in the US since I was four, I did additional research studying cultural artifacts. Hmong embroidery is traditionally worked on aida cloth, which has a woven grid on which the traditional cross stitch is worked. This fabric was used for the front bodice of the dress. The embroidery took 74 hours to complete.



The back of the dress features a detachable chiffon train which repeats the colors in the embroidery. Worn with the colorful layers the dress is appropriate for Hmong cultural celebrations; with only the black layer, the dress is appropriate for any black tie event.



French seams were used on the skirt for a professional finish; the hem was hand rolled. The skirt lining in the back is shaped like a heart to symbolize respect for family and culture.

The dress is worn with a traditional Hmong silver *saw*, an ornate necklace, believed to ward off evil spirits.