

## The White Paper Bride

Ashton Roach, Janice B. Haynes

Delta State University

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feathers accented the halter top.

### Cohesiveness

The feather and paper theme is maintained throughout both pieces, with a stream of soft tulle cascading around the side edge to tie pieces together rhythmically.

### Aesthetics and Visual Impact

This wearable art wedding gown incorporates the elements by following design principles, resulting in an unusual and compelling design work.

### Contextual Review and Concept

A study of wedding gowns, prompted by a tour of London's Victoria and Albert Museum, coupled with a review of fashion repurposing, inspired the design context. The concept was to repurpose, or give a new purpose to (Merriam-Webster, 2015), white paper for a wearable art wedding gown, particularly for use as a store display piece, but with actual wedding events also a possibility.

### Process, technique, and execution

The repurposed materials included white copy paper, white and silver feathers from an earlier project, and remnants of nylon tulle. Aluminized polyester/cotton ironing board fabric was purchased for the underskirt and the self-lined midriff tube top silhouette. Silver polyester lame' formed the underskirt hemline ruffle and silver glittered grey crinkled polyester formed the train. White paper pieces were edge painted silver, cut into feather shapes, and hot glued onto the base fabric. Small white feathers were sewn among the paper feathers on the skirt and top. Silver holiday

### Design Contribution and Innovation

The white wedding dress, according to Begley (2015), has been credited to the Victorian era, from Queen Victoria herself. Red was then a popular bridal color, but Victoria broke tradition, with white later heralded as fitting for a bride, symbolizing purity and innocence. Victoria was an early proponent of economy and fashion repurposing, as exhibited when she repurposed the lace from her dress more than once. Today's fashion repurposing phenomenon, as well as experimental materials and designs for special occasion gowns, seem to be themes impacting the fashion industry, particularly the couture collections. Interest in fantastical looks for fashion and costume, and the idea of the store as theatre (where this white paper gown welcomed shoppers) are concepts that continue to pique people's interest and create drama.



### References

Begley, S.C. (2015, Feb. 10). The White Dress That Changed Wedding History Forever  
<http://time.com/3698249/white-weddings/>

Repurpose. In *Merriam-Webster's online dictionary* (2015). Retrieved from  
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