

Le Plan de Paris – Giverny

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A summer spent in Paris and an excursion to Monet’s Giverny garden led design and color inspiration for this design. In August 2014 five designers with a common interest in hand crafted textiles found ourselves together in Paris. Discussions on creativity, creative scholarship, dyeing and felting textile techniques, inspired the group to organize a design retreat the following spring. The purpose of the design retreat was to explore new methods of textile and surface

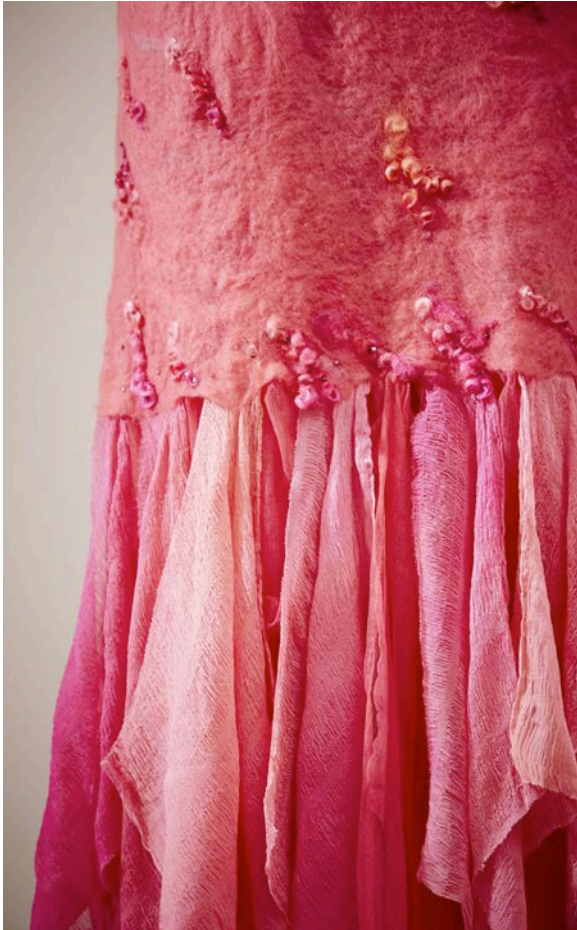


design. During the retreat, dialogues about the design process enabled each designer to develop work that pushed their skills and excited their creative spirits.

As an adventurous designer, I researched nuno felting and then dove right in to design a whole garment based on my design concept rather than to develop felted yardage. Nuno felting is a variation of felting that uses a sheer fabric as a base for wool roving. To achieve a whole garment felted design, an enlarged garment pattern is developed (to allow for shrinkage during felting). Fibers are laid down on the fabric base following the surface design concept. An impenetrable layer separates the back and front of the garment during the felting process so the two layers do not bond together.

A sleeveless sheath dress with a wide neckline, shoulder seams, and no closures was designed. The nuno felted, whole garment felting process allowed exploration of a new method of controlling fit, since the shrinkage during felting

can be controlled in areas of the garment as needed. This technique is also a sustainable design zero-waste method as the entire width of fabric was used.



Hyacinth silk tulle is the base fabric for the dress. Hyacinth wool is balanced by neutrals and highlighted by curly variegated wool to provide visual interest and connect to Monet's Giverny garden inspiration. Silk chiffon was acid dyed in complementary colors, then torn into squares to develop a handkerchief hemline which was incorporated into the felted edge. The remaining tulle hangs behind the handkerchief hem, draping toward center front. Hand rolled hems and beading complete the design details.