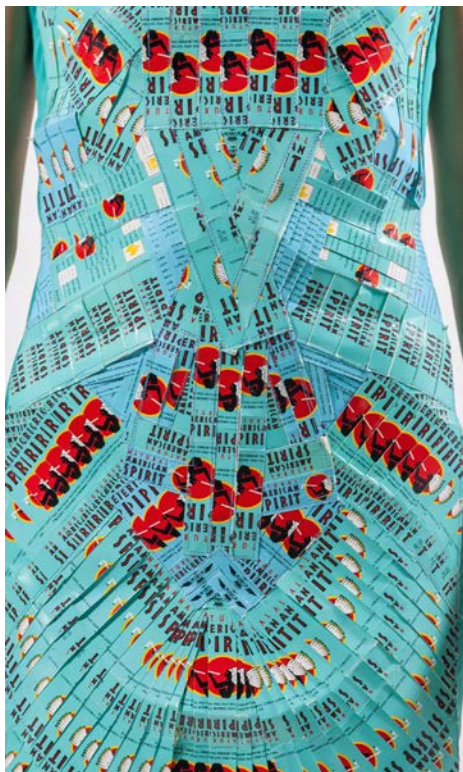


Collected, Cut and Recreated Dress

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The purpose of this design was to create an eco-friendly dress made out of recycled materials, American Spirit cigarette boxes; the design was inspired by the concept of sustainability and motifs of Native American textiles. Something about the graphic design and triadic color scheme of the blue American Spirit cigarette boxes appealed to me so much that I stashed away every one I came across over the past five years with the idea that I would do something with them one day. American Spirit cigarettes are made by the Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company. This company prides itself on its sustainable practices. To further the company's values of sustainable practices, these used cigarette boxes were repurposed and remade into a wearable garment. When the challenge arose to create a garment made out of recycled materials, I decided to use these boxes in an aesthetically dynamic way.



The base of the garment is a four-panel shift dress with cut-away armholes and a v-neckline, made out of 100% plain-weave cotton fabric. The side panels were left unembellished so that the garment could shape to the wearer's body and be more flexible. The consistent change in color gradient from turquoise to a light blue was used to highlight the natural curves of the female body and create symmetrical surface design. To transform the used cigarette boxes, each cigarette box was cut into one-inch strips. By weaving and overlapping the one-inch strips according to their color and graphics, the dynamic patterns of the surface design were created. Native American textiles inspired the surface design of the recycled cigarette boxes. Navajo blanket makers and pueblo weavers often used geometric patterns,



symmetry and repetitions in their designs. The symmetrical balance, alternating rhythm focusing on repetition of a regular sequence, triadic color scheme (blue-yellow-red), and tone-on-tone color coordination created visual impact and kept up the theme of the original recycled cigarette box design. These one-inch strips with Native American textile motif patterns were topstitched to the base in order to fasten them together. Thus, this dress introduced a novel sustainable design technique using the recycled cigarette boxes, and unique surface design using the historical motif of Native American textiles.