

Elytra

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'Elytra' is part of my thesis collection, 'Insected', which I began in January of 2014. The collection explores the relationship between humanity and nature. I particularly focus on insects and their methods of disguise and protection.

Humans often use clothing as a way of blending in with society or covering up aspects of themselves. However, I would like to show women they have the capability to be strong while still standing out. This inspiration comes from insects' defensive mechanisms, which are often functional while still beautiful.

'Elytra' was inspired by a beetle's use of a hard shell to defend themselves from predators. These shells are often made of mesmerizing, iridescent patterns and colors. The pattern on this coat was created by hand cutting circles and triangles into wool felt. This layer was then appliquéd onto a printed Italian cotton by hand-stitching from the wrong side of the fabric.

The coat shell is made of 100% wool felt, while the accent material is a 100% Italian cotton. The pants are made of 100% silk accented by 100% genuine leather. This piece was completed in May 2014.

