

Golden Fleece Sheath Dress

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In designing the Golden Fleece Sheath Dress, my main goal was to move out of my “comfort zone” of using actual fabrics. I desired to create something extremely dissimilar to other pieces I had created before. In the research that I conducted beforehand, I did not come across any dresses made out of puzzles. Beyond that, I was certain that I could construct a puzzle dress in a different way than had been attempted before and I believe that my dress accomplished that goal.

Another goal that inspired this piece was to support the growing cultural trend of “going green.” As people are becoming more aware of their own personal impact on the environment, upcycling has become a major trend; that is, using and reusing items that would otherwise be thrown in a landfill for new purposes. In my piece, I was able to exemplify that by repurposing an old puzzle and turning it into a unique garment. Therefore, this piece was inspired by the fact that when puzzles are recycled they lose their use due to lost pieces. In designing a garment with puzzle pieces, tape, and thread, the seemingly useless puzzle pieces were given a new purpose in which their usefulness is left intact.



In constructing this piece, some of the puzzle pieces were first spray painted gold for a more uniform and fashion forward look and then they were self-laminated with strips of packing tape. During this part of the process, certain of the puzzle pieces were separated for their specific color and used as a design detail on the front of the dress. After this, the strips were sewn together into two long puzzle panels with a sewing machine using a basting stitch so as not to tear the tape. Lastly, strips of puzzle were then attached on the tops of the puzzle panels for straps and strips of tape were attached to the sides of the front panel to act as fasteners when tied in the back of the garment. As a final design detail, I used an old tie and sewed it up the inside to form a belt for the garment to add interest at the waist.

This garment is a prime example of how any object can retain its usefulness in the field of textiles and apparel design.

Reference:

The complete photo guide to sewing. (2009). Minneapolis, MN; Creative Publishing International.