

Infinite Symmetry

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- Couture techniques, Textile innovation, Sustainability
- Measurements: shoulder to shoulder: 47" / hip: 34" / length: 62"
- Design statement: (150 words maximum):

I have always been captivated by the potential of infinity and the beauty of symmetry. I have thought if the infinity is one of the natures of God, the symmetry is the manifestation of God's beauty.

Infinity is an abstract concept describing something without any boundaries. Theologians have considered the infinity as one of the characters to describe the absolute perfections of God. God is the Infinite One who is defined as the First Cause of all existing things, or as the ultimate ground of all reality, or as the one self-existent Being (Berkhof, 1949). The idea of infinity is also employed in a variety of study field. In modern mathematics, infinity is used for the solution of many practical and theoretical questions ("Infinity", 2016, para. 1). Actually, the fractal object is one of the most interesting examples in mathematics to reveal how to be reiterated and magnified indefinitely without losing their structure. In addition, perspective art works utilize the concept of points at infinity, or imaginary vanishing points, located at an infinite distance from the observer ("Infinity", 2016, para. 19).

Symmetry and beauty are often claimed to be bound up, particularly by mathematicians and scientists. H. Weyl examined the possible link between symmetry and beauty, in his famous book, *Symmetry* (McManus, 2005, p. 158). According to art historians and philosophers, the psychological and aesthetic properties of symmetry are binding, order, law, formal rigidity, constraint, boredom, stillness, monotony, fixity, stasis and simplicity (McManus, 2005, p. 160).

Through my garment, I aimed to deliver those properties of symmetry with the structured and subdivided face of folding. The entire structure of the dress has complete bilateral symmetry. To be more accurate, it is 'ornamental or crystallographic symmetry' as was mentioned by H. Weyl (McManus, 2005, p. 158). The shape of the sleeves was derived from the infinity symbol (∞). In order to give the feeling of the infinite distance, a vanishing point was created in the center of the round shape of the sleeves and also in between the legs. Besides, I intended to express the limitless sublime beauty to be expanded into the space by positioning shoulders opened and upward and making all edges of the skirt extended outward. Detailed observation reveals a small unit being repeated continually, which was inspired from the principle of the fractal. I used the hand-pleats technique to design a structure delicately where smaller units are repeated and expanded into a larger shape. After drawing an origami pattern for folding, exquisite and beautiful pleat patterns were obtained through several times of practice. As for material, transparent and dull salmon colored polyester organza was used, emphasizing the sense of space through the attenuating distinction between dress and ground.

References

- Berkhof, L. (1949). *Systematic theology*. [Kindle ebook]. Retrieved from <http://www.amazon.com>
- Infinity. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved May 25th, 2016, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinity>
- McManus, I. C., (2005). Symmetry and asymmetry in aesthetics and the arts. *European Review*, 13 (2), 157-180.

