

Undergraduate Research Symposium Submission

Title – Spindles of Stardust

Program of Study – Fashion Design

Presentation Type – Choose one of the following: PowerPoint (Remote)

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Category – Creative and Artistic

Abstract

The overall purpose of this garment is to represent the beauty, intricacy, and weightlessness that can be found in the spiral galaxies of outer space in a wearable piece that is congruent with modern fashions. While couture garments and wearable art are certainly pieces to be admired, they are not often relevant once taken off the runway. Through the design of this garment, relevance with the runway as well as wearable formal wear have been embodied, bridging the gap between these two areas of fashion. The inspiration of a spiral galaxy was chosen due to the variety of colors found in these galaxies, as well as the beautiful movement they display. While a much of natural beauty is observable with the naked eye, a great deal are still overlooked. This piece draws attention to just one of these forgotten wonders, embodying the elegance and beauty that exists in our universe. The galaxies are massive, yet are made up by smaller details that come together to form the whole. This principle has been largely implemented into the construction of the garment. A major inspiration piece lies in the metallic spiral detailing of the belt and straps, which swirl in a similar manner to the galaxies they represent. The bodice reflects this metallic effect as gold threads are woven into cream brocade, which has been constructed with a fitted waistline and modified sweetheart neckline. The skirt is made up of sixteen separate panels of organza, each manipulated to spiral down, creating volume throughout. The skirt of the dress is also a functional piece, as the organza panels attach to the removable belt. When the belt is removed, a solid gold skirt is revealed. This aspect brings both functional and convertible aspects to the garment. These details, while unique but understated on their own, come together to create an image of the effortless movement and magnificence of the galaxies. This representation not only is unique and bold enough for the runway, but is also functional enough to be worn to a formal event. The creation of this garment shows a seamless blending between these two areas of fashion; a crossroads where high fashion meets sensible fashion.

Design Details

Completed Design



Sarah Blanke  
Research Week Symposium Submission







## Design Inspiration

### Spiral Galaxies



This garment was inspired by the beauty, intricacy, and weightlessness that can be found in the spiral galaxies of outer space. I was intrigued by the variety of colors found in these galaxies and wanted to capture them in an elegant and subtle way throughout this dress. The galaxies are massive, yet are made up by smaller details that come together to form the whole. I wanted to implement this principle into the construction of the garment. Spiral detailing can be seen in the belt and straps, as well as in the way the skirt effortlessly swirls around the body. These details, while unique but understated on their own, come together to mimic the movement and hues of the galaxies.

Design Sketches





## The Fabric

### Gold Striated Woven Brocade



This fabric is used in the construction of the bodice of the dress. It was initially chosen because of the way the metallic gold threads ripple through the cream-colored brocade, imitating the way that stars twinkle within the galaxies. The woven brocade also gives a unique texture to the dress, and makes for a lightweight bodice that is sturdy enough to keep its shape. The fabric was draped and fitted to the dress form through a series of measurements, with darts being placed to hug the ribcage.

2" Metallic Gold Swirl Trim



This gold trim, one of the more focal details of the dress, has been used for both the belt of the dress and the straps. The spirals perfectly display how the spiral galaxy swirls within itself, giving an unending, shimmering effect. For the belt, the trim was left at two inches with three rows of spirals. However, for the straps and edges of the bodice, the trim was cut into separate strings of spiral discs. This made an understated, more delicate detailing of the bodice.



Gold Blended Silk Woven



This blended silk fabric is used for the skirt of the dress, lying just underneath the organza overlay. The lightweight, silky feel of the fabric encompasses the weightless effect of the spiral galaxies, while continuing the gold color down from the belt. It has been taken in at the waist to fit the bodice, and flows down from the underneath the belt of the dress.

### Organza

The organza makes up the top layer of the skirt. This is a central design element, as the fabric spirals down from the waistline of the dress. As the stardust and planets seem to airily swirl around the galaxies, the organza was styled to reflect this image. To create a unique and flowing effect, fourteen separate panels of organza were cut and positioned around the belt of the dress and finished off to create precise lines and angles. Making up these fourteen panels of organza are four different colors, highlighting the various colors found in the galaxies. These four shades are pictured below, each relating to a different hue that can be seen in the inspiration of the dress.

Gold Organza



Champagne Organza



Taupe Organza



Cream Organza

