

Midterm Essay Title Page:

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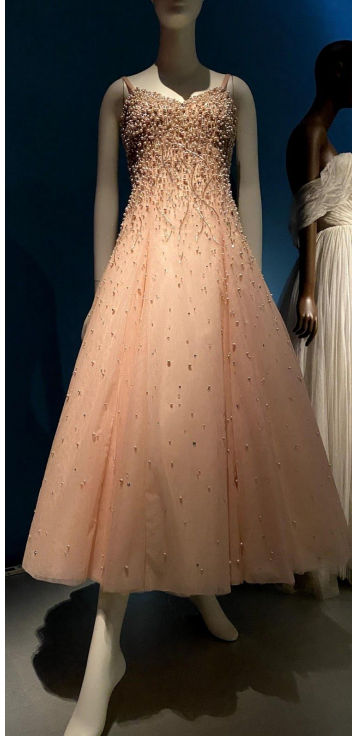
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Dress is an important part of civilization. As an assemblage of modifications and supplements to the body (Eicher, 1992), dress plays a huge role in society and culture. Culture includes arts and other norms of human societies such as dance. The Fashion Institute of Technology also took a step towards including both dance and dress in its "Ballerina: Fashion's Modern Muse" exhibit, which was created to show the grand impact dance costumes have had on fashion throughout the years. The exhibit also helps depict the significance of Ballerina's dress to the understanding of their mobility in such dress during their performances.

One of the pieces showcased in the exhibit was Marc Happel's 2018 embroidered pink tulle wedding dress. The color psychology of a light pink such as this represents something "sweet, pretty, fleshy, and raw" (Bell, 2020). With the dress being more pastel, the value has white added to it (Bell, 2020). It also is not considered a shade but a tint since it is created from the colors red, a primary color, and white (2020). The line represented with this garment is diagonal, which signifies action, such as the movement of ballet and is described as dynamic (2020). The dress also appears to be balanced. The sequins look to be symmetrical on both sides. Repetition is heavily used throughout the exhibit in terms of function but lacks in terms of color and silhouette with the other garments. There is a sense of rhythm as some mannequins are placed in front of others, such as this one, making it appear more dominant. Proportions were made equal as all mannequins were the same size and didn't appear next to anything inadequate to its scale. There is a slight juxtaposition and contrast between Happel's dress and the dress it is placed next to, Oliver Messel's "Princess Aurora" costume. Happel's dress has a long empire silhouette with a fitted bodice and Messel's dress is short with a tutu silhouette. Both silhouette's play an important part in the ballerina's mobility through their dance form. If the garment was fitted rather than loose it would be difficult to dance in. Messel's dress is also long sleeved in

contrast to Happel's spaghetti strapped design. Majority of the texture of the dress appears to be rough due to the embellishments on the top half of the dress. The jewels reflect light because of its shine. The bottom portion of the dress appears to be smooth and soft which suggest femininity (2020).

Just as dress influences art and dance, society has a great impact on dance as well. A major social issue going on today, Black Lives Matter, has affected dance tremendously within the past few months. According to Siobhan Burke (2020), New York protesters joined together back in June in order to conduct a peaceful protest across Harlem and collectively perform the 'Electric Slide'. The event was called Dance for George and was designed to pay tribute to George Floyd as well as call attention to black artists in entertainment industries, like dance, and their craft (2020). Alison Bedell, a woman, and co-leader of this march, demonstrates how women's roles in society have changed. Women no longer have to sit silently in the background but can stand as the voice of many to fight for a change. Happel's dress might be soft and pretty but there is more to women than what is seen on the exterior. A culture's ideals are represented by its dance forms and dance continues to be one of the most important forms of expressions in society's philosophy of life.



Marc Happel (born in Iowa, 1955)
Embroidered pink tulle wedding dress
designed for Sara Mearns
2018, New York
(FIT Museum, 2020)
Captured by D. Hueston

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