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Internship Midterm Essay Exam

BUF 4900

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The term “statement sleeves” doesn’t only define a sleeve that covers one's arm but rather a powerful and dramatic addition to any garment. A statement sleeve has the power to elevate an ordinary garment to an extravagant one. Going for a look that features statement sleeves is a bold choice of style because it’ll bring attention to one's garment and have them stand out amongst a crowd. Statement sleeves can reflect the wearer’s personality and personal style because clothing is always a powerful tool to express oneself. Sporting a garment with statement sleeves displays a great dramatic element and individuality. The uniqueness about statement sleeves is how versatile they are, they can be worn as a serious, feminine or masculine interpretation. The significance of statement sleeves is that if one takes a simple ordinary dress or blouse and incorporates a statement sleeve to it, it can elevate a garment to a unique piece. A subtle alteration can dramatically transform the overall look of a garment.

The color of the garment is significant because the color of a garment can evoke different emotions to the audience. Customers judge whether they’ll purchase an item based on color, they consider the color before they consider the price, fit or size (Bell & Tetanus, 2017).

This garment in particular is a deep emerald green that reflects a precious gemstone's hues which makes the dress exude depth and luxury.

The color of the garment is best described as emerald green, which is a deep but vibrant shade of green. The shade emerald green originates from the emerald jewel, reflecting luxurious rich tones of green that portrays the color and feel of the precious gemstone. The shade is a true rich green but has slight hues of a blue undertone.

1)Line: The garment is presented in a vertical line. The way the dress is presented in a vertical line is going against visual merchandising traditions in which a mannequin usually displays a striking pose instead of standing in a straight line. For instance, the reason this dress is displayed in a vertical line is to make the audience focus on the details of the dress. By positioning the garment in an upright position, it draws more attention to the fabric and structure of the garment. Furthermore the mannequin's upright, steady stance and the placement of her hands exudes an aura of elegance and sophistication.

2) rhythm: the rhythm is how the movement in the garment changes from element to element. The rhythm of the garment is cohesive. The cohesion shows in the way the puffy sleeves are symmetrical on each side of the arm. The lower part of the garment, the skirt, has a consistent rhythm. The skirt has an underskirt which causes the skirt part to be extra voluminous and puffy. A rhythmic movement throughout the dress is the pleating of every part of the dress, the skirt, the bust and the sleeves.

3) form: the form of the garment is overall the silhouette of a dress. This garment is the definition of a ball gown with its fitted bodice and waist area then flaring out into a full skirt. The sleeves on this garment are arguably the most unique and the focal point of the design of this garment. The sleeves are exaggeratedly voluminous and puffy up extended to the waist part of the dress then transitions into a tightly fitted sleeve with a slightly darker shade of green.

4) balance: the garment's balance has both symmetrical and asymmetrical elements to it. The symmetry of the garment shows how the right side of the garment is a mirror image of the left side. The dress features super puffy and exaggerated sleeves on either side. The garment may have some informal balance to it but it remains visually and aesthetically balanced, for example the sharp cinched waist in comparison to the puffed statement sleeves. But with the rest of the elements in the dress, it creates a harmonious look.

5) contrast/juxtaposition: A dramatic contrast and juxtaposition is evident in the garment. The first striking juxtaposition is apparent in the sleeves. The statement sleeves are dramatically puffed on either side transitioning mid arm into a sleek, fitted sleeve silhouette. The puffed sleeves are accentuated even more by the garment's petite waist. The juxtaposition of the fitted upper body contrasts with the bodice and the voluminous full skirt.

6) proportion: the proportion is the relationship between the different elements and parts of a garment. Even though the puffy sleeves and full skirt don't align together in the garment, their placement creates a cohesive proportional overall look. All the different elements of design is what gives this dress harmony. Back in the 1820s and 1830s, this design of dresses and statement

sleeves which is called gigot was worn by wealthier women for the purpose of making their waist appear smaller. This was achieved by creating exaggeratedly puffy features in the garment that weren't necessarily proportional to the rest of the garment to contrast with the fitted bodice creating the illusion of a narrower.

7) dominance: the ball gown is monochromatic in the color, emerald green. with an addition of slightly darker hue of the color for dimension and depth. The statement sleeves of this garment is what dominates it. These statement sleeves displayed in the garment I chose are called leg-of-mutton sleeves. Leg-of-mutton sleeve is an exaggerated sleeve defined by fullness and exaggeration of the sleeve by the shoulder and mostly focused on the upper arm (masterclass, 2021). This exaggerated silhouette was most popular during the 19th century.

8) repetition: the repeating idea is the same color being used all throughout the garment. Another element of texture is the pleating found in each section of the dress individually. The top part of the skirt displays pleats as well as in the bodice right over the waistline you can see pleats all throughout the waist and bodice area. The fabric is pleated at the top right by the shoulders then puffs out into a puffy sleeve. There's repetition and there's also harmony between opposite elements like the voluminous and fitted parts.

The texture of the garment appears to be smooth and shiny. The surface of the material has a pretty sheen which is a telltale sign of satin. The satin material reflects the light in a beautiful manner. Though the material of the garment has a shimmer and appears soft, the texture appears to simultaneously be rough to the touch. The subtle sheen of the garment enhances the depth of

the rich green color of the dress. While the garment maintains a structured silhouette, the silky sheen fabric provides the dress with the perfect amount of femininity.

The statement sleeve surely influences life and vice versa. Clothes have an immense impact on our emotional state, confidence and personality. This connects back to the earlier point, self expression, statement sleeves and statement fashions are a great form of self expression.

According to north western university found that “wearing specific articles of clothing impacted the wearer’s psychology and performance” (mandal & kumar, 2022). This wasn’t surprising. I've personally experienced this and have witnessed people I know have that realization as well. Just as wearing sweatpants can induce feelings of laziness and insecurity, dressing up can boost one’s confidence and productivity. Suggestions that can focus on changes in the statement sleeve is that we should modernize the “statement sleeve” trend according to our society and the zeitgeist of time. Statement sleeves were all the rage through the 1820s and 1830s for many reasons that held power for the zeitgeist of time back then. The way we can modernize the statement sleeve is by using sustainable fabrics, unique patterns and designs and minimize the volume of the puffed aspect in order to achieve a more wearable, contemporary look.

Designers of the statement sleeves and fashions should be celebrated and deserve that recognition for empowering individuals of all walks of life to celebrate themselves loudly and with confidence. When one is choosing pieces to wear for a special occasion, people usually lean into attention grabbing bolder fashion, making a statement themselves and statement sleeves are an essential element for a bold look. By wearing statement sleeves, not only do individuals push the boundaries, they're also honoring the designer's creative vision and helping them tell their stories through their designs. “Their (the designers) achievement amounts to a reshaping of the

industry—not by fitting in with male-led corporate rules but by steadily ignoring them, trusting their own instincts, living how they wish, and opening wide the creative space for a whole generation to thrive” (Mower, 2019). It’s important to recognize that designers have changed the way we dress and redefined the boundaries within the fashion industry. Influential designers have strong influence on reshaping the fashion industry, the culture, empowerment and trends, therefore they deserve celebration and appreciation.

Resources:

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