

The Fashion that comes from the Fairytale

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Words and Art make a story

Fairytales are embedded in our childhood much as the alphabet song or nursery rhymes. These stories can range from shining knight heroes who slay dragons to princesses kissing frogs. Imaginative and timeless, fairytales fall far from normality. Besides the setting in fairytales, “...Clothing and accessories are often vividly described, enhancing the sense of wonder integral to the genre” (Hill ,2016). The exhibit *Fairy Tale Fashion* showcases inspirations turn into garments that can symbolize the selected story.

Alice in Wonderland

Falling in the rabbit hole, readers explore the world Alice ends up in. A story that is so iconic and timeless that Disney portrayed it in a movie. Readers are introduced to familiar scenes in everyday life like tea parties, gardens and rooms. Alice sees many wacky characters, such as the rabbit with his iconic pocket watch, the Cheshire cat and playing cards. As readers note towards the end of the story, Alice was dreaming, illustrating the imaginative possibilities that would not occur in the real world. The exhibit’s section of *Fairy Tale Fashion* takes these creative characters and symbolizes them into a garment.

Army of Playing Cards

The guards are walking, carrying clubs, then follow the royal children and finally the King and Queen of Hearts appear (Carrol, pg. 66). Manish Arora manages to capture the scene of the guards with a blue mini dress. It is decorated with the four suits of playing cards but only displays cards ranging from the two to ten. These cards are only on the lower half of the dress.

The shoulder pads are a conglomerate of face cards: the jack, queen and king cards. The choice of picking “powerful” cards to be the shoulder pads adds an extra effect of power to the wearer. The garment displays the hierarchy that is shown in Lewis Carroll’s introduction of the royal court. When viewing the dress, people may assume the wearer is someone of status or may observe the scene Alice witnessed when arriving to the Queen’s court. Seg-waging from symbolism, viewers can note the material of the blue mini dress. The material used for the dress seems to be foam, most likely EVA foam as it can provide more thickness and it is sturdy. EVA foam is heavily associated with the cosplay community, who help bring fantasy worlds into the real world and bring the character to life (Gezcy,2019).

References

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Figures



Figure 1. Army of Cards by Manish Arora