**Running heading: CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 1**

Christian Dior X Claude Monet

Midterm Paper

Miranda Hiralall

New York City College of Technology

**CHRISTAIN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 2**

Abstract

In this exhibition, minimalism and maximalism curated by Melissa Marra Alvarez has displayed historical high fashion with the elements of art (Minimalism/Maximalism. (n.d.)). In this paper I will portray this idea using fashion designer Christian Dior and the painter Claude Monet. Throughout history, Dior has been known for his maximalist fashion. Dior inspiration on Monet has created many great pieces using the elements of design (Deutsche Welle. (n.d.)). The garment influence by art it help to voluminous the structure of rhythm, symmetry, balance, proportion, juxtaposition, dominance and repetition (Stamberg, S.2013). Each element help to detail every specific piece of the garment. In the year of 1949, 2012 and 2013 Dior Haute Couture shows the inspiration of Monet paintings (Martabogucinska, 2015).

Dior and Monet love for nature help to inquire a painting style of impressionism in their work (Martabogucinska, 2015). “Impressionism and haute couture also share a love of female beauty”( Exhibition in Granville showcases Dior and Impressionism. (n.d.)). Impressionism is a “new way to observe and depict the world in their work, foregoing realistic portrayals for fleeting impressions of their surroundings”(How Impressionism Changed the Art World and Continues to Inspire Us Today. (2018, October)). This painting style help Monet and Dior create realistic things in their work which makes good content.

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 3**

**Introduction**

Christian Dior inspiration of Claude Monet has influenced the artwork style of impressionism in his collection. Dior fascination on nature helped him use impressionism in his work to his advantage. His maximalist design outline his garments with bright colors and a lot of embellishments. It played a substantial role within the structure use of light and color in his garments. Monet technique on contrast of color created an unusual blend in his painting which help the creativity in Dior garments. Dior collection consist of Monet technique which focuses on characteristics such as shapes and colors. Dior utilize of impressionism has put to use of the seven elements of design throughout his work.

**Miss Dior Short Evening Dress X The Path Through the Irises**

After World War II Christian Dior collection of Haute Couture wanted to represent an idea of the “New Look”(Deutsche Welle. (n.d.)). In this collection he involved more embellishments on his dresses (Deutsche Welle. (n.d.)). One of the garments known as “*Miss Dior short evening dress”* was inspired by a painting by Claude Monet called  **“***The Path Through the Irises”* (Martabogucinska, 2015). He was inspired by the flowers of the landscape (Stamberg, S. 2013). *Miss Dior short evening dress* replicated the design of the flowers into fabric on the garment (Martabogucinska, 2015).This was a strapless dress with a bandeau neckline. The evening dress has a silhouette corolla-shaped skirt (Deutsche Welle. (n.d.)). It was embroidered with flowers all over the gown (Deutsche Welle. (n.d.)). In this garment he used a couple of the elements of design in specific pieces.

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 4**

**Element of Balance**

An element of design that is used in this garment is balance. Balance is the principle that the parts or features of a garment have equal visual weight (Principle of Fashion Design (n.d.)). From the neckline to the hemline of the gown it is equally balanced (ART ATTACK. (n.d.). The composition of the elements on each side of the gown is mirror image (Rees, Roberts, N. 2018). It is symmetrical balanced. Each side of the garment is equally reflected which is similar to the painting by Claude Monet (Rees, Roberts, N. 2018). Monet painting shows a symmetry of the flowers facing each other and leaving a negative space between to create a visual image of a pathway (Martabogucinska. (2015, May) ). The influence of Monet painting have Dior utilize a symmetrical balance in his design (Rees, Roberts, N. 2018).

**Element of Dominance**

An element of design he emphasis on “*Miss Dior short evening dress”* was the dominance of color. Dominance is based on the “ greater visual weight, the more an element will attract the eye and exhibit dominance”( Bradley, S.2015). Reports, S. stated in this article “Dior translated Claude Monet's "*The Artist's Garden at Giverny*" with its diagonal swath of purple irises in areas of shade and sun into a dress covered with purple and touches of green and adorned with chiffon petals.” The solid colors and the mixture of the neutral color influences comes from the painting of ***“****The Path Through the Irises”*(ART ATTACK. (n.d.)).The contrast of the neutral color and a lavender color creates a visual excitement to the artwork of design (Stamberg, S. 2013, September). The pop of the lavender color in spots of the dress grabs the viewer's attention.

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 5**

**Element of Repetitive**

Moving onto the next element of design used on this “*Miss Dior short evening dress”* is repetitive. Repetitive element of design “is the use of design elements, details or trimmings more than once in a garment. A feature can be repeated regularly or irregularly” (The Principles Of Fashion Design. (2016)) . The pattern of this dress is the repetitive design. The color on the floral embellishment is consistent all around the dress (Writers, T. 2013). The chiffon fabric design of the flowers is duplicated around the dress which shows the sequence of the evening gown (Wedding Inspirasi. (n.d.)). Just like the painting of Monet, the pattern is consistent (Reports, S. 2013). It is repetitive with color and the structure of design. The form of the dress is symmetrical. It has a tight top with a cinched waist and voluminous skirt to create a curve in the body form (Pujalet-Plaà, Eric. (n.d.)). It is equal on both sides of the garment. As it implies on the dress it shows in the painting with the use of color and symmetry.

**Fall/Winter 2012 Haute Couture X The Artist Garden at Giverny**

Another piece of Christian Dior I would like to talk about is collection of Haute Couture in 2012. As the new creative director for Dior, Raf Simon wanted his first collection to bring back history which was similar to the “New Look”(Deutsche Welle. (n.d.)). As a maximalist designer he played with the form of the dress to embrace the form of the body (Horyn, C. 2012). The impressionism in Dior work shows the relationship of the movement since 1947 so he wanted to keep the influence (Impressions Dior. (n.d.)). One of the pieces Simon design was influenced by the painting called ***“****The Artist's Garden at Giverny”oil on canvas, 1900 by Claude Monet* **CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 6** *(*Stamberg, S). He used the same techniques like Dior used in his collection (Wedding Inspirasi. (n.d.)). This specific garment was a strapless dress with a tea length. It was made with white organza and embroidered with pointillist degraded chiffon (Horyn, C. 2012). It has a double face bustier with spots of lavender and yellow color (Horyn, C. 2012) He used a couple of elements of design in this piece.

**Element of Rhythm**

Simon creating this dress involved a lot of ingredients of design which involved rhythm. Rhythm is an element “When you repeat elements, the intervals between those repetitions can create a sense of rhythm in the viewer and a sense of movement” (Soegaard, M. (n.d.)). The rhythm in this dress entails the structure and details of it (Romantique, & Rebel.2015)). Simon use pointillism on his dress which is a form of design of individual pure color dots pack together (Chattyfeet, & Shovava. 2018). The pointillism design create this gradient look (Writers, T. 2013). It has this progressive rhythm where it goes from a solid color to a variety colors. The upper part of the gown is completely white whereas the bottom of the gown is spotted with a lavender and orange color (Kulesh, A.2013). Then on the hemline of the dress it is yellow color (Horyn, C. 2012).The transition of colors on the painting is reflected on the dress. The flowing rhythm of the dress shows a change of color.

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 7**

**Element of Proportion**

This dress also shows emphasis on its proportion. “Proportion refers to the relative size and scale of the various elements in a design” (Jirousek, C.(n.d.)). The proportion in this dress is the shape of it. It creates the center of attention on the form of the body. The strapless dress has a bustier and the bottom has an A line skirt where it is structure to imitate a curve to your body (Writers, T. 2013). Simon fabric use of degraded chiffon help to create a floral look which works with the shape of the dress (Reports, S. 2013). The use of fabric of taffeta helps the dress to voluminous its texture (Rees, Roberts. 2018). The influence of the painting of *The Artist's Garden at Giverny by Claude Monet*help to create a blossom flower look on this dress (ART ATTACK. (n.d.)). His painting style of pointillism help to create this flare into this dress (Horyn, C. 2012).

**Spring/Summer Haute Couture 2013 X “Poppies”**

Last but not least I would like to talk about another collection inspired by Claude Monet painting. In his Spring and Summer Haute Couture collection of 2013 he created this “Three layered embroidered multicolored tulle and silk bustier evening dress” (ART ATTACK. (n.d.)). His inspiration came from *Claude Monet, Poppies, oil on canvas, 1873* (Writers, T. 2013). Just like the rest of dresses this was inspired by nature (Reports, S. 2013). The dress solid color was red and embroidered with different types of flowers (Rees, Roberts, N. 2018). In this dress it shows two elements of design which helps to structure the dress.

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 8**

**Element of Juxtaposition**

One of the elements of the design that creates content in the dress is the juxtaposition on the dress. Juxtaposition is “The fact of two things being seen or placed close together with a contrasting effect” (Juxtaposition in Design. (n.d.)). Similarly to the canvas, the juxtaposition in the dress shows the harmonious blend of the elements (Nguyen, L. 2013). On the bottom of the dress to the waistline there's poppies embroidered on the dress (How Impressionism Changed the Art World and Continues to Inspire Us Today. 2018). Then it is cut off with a white wildflowers design which leads to the top part of the gown (Nguyen, L. 2013). The top part of the gown is applique with all types of flowers in different colors (Rees, Roberts, N. 2018). The designs looks like it is sewed in with color fabric to create this look. The juxtaposition of the dress comes from the design, color and texture. In this dress the elements complement each other and shows a bigger meaning of the design which is the nature of the garden.

**Element of Symmetry**

Another element that works with this dress is the symmetry created in it. “Symmetry is when elements are arranged in the same way on both sides of an axis” (Symmetry. (n.d.)) . This satin tulle dress design has your eye flow to one direction and move to the next direction (Writers, T. (2013). This dress has three layers of embroidered asymmetrical design (Rees, Roberts, N. 2018).The white wildflowers added to the gown in the middle separates the top and bottom of the gown (Nguyen, L. 2013). The wildflowers on this dress is designed with negative space so you can see the separation of the other two patterns (Rees, Roberts, N. 2018). This is where your eye

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 9**

flows on the dress. The primary color of the dress is red so the embroidered mixed with other colors and different shapes shows an appealing composition of the dress.

**Conclusion**

As you can see, Dior collection admiration of Claude Monet painting shows a lot of elements of design in his work. Dior as a maximalist designer shows his concept of his use of fabrics, embellishments and colors through his work. These two french designers shows their love in nature in their work. In each of the three pieces I have mentioned in Dior collection it shows the influence of the painting by Monet display through the depth of the balance, rhythm,repetition, dominance, balance, juxtaposition and proportion in their design. Dior has always have a high influence on femininity and the use of floral. Impressionism in his design work help him display it perfectly.

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 10**

**Reference:**

A day with Miss Dior. (2015, December 12). Retrieved from https://www.chansysdesk.com

ART ATTACK. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://doortodior.squarespace.com/art-attack.

Bradley, S. (2015, February 27). *Design Principles: Dominance, Focal Points And Hierarchy.* Retrieved from https://www.smashingmagazine.com

Chattyfeet, & Shovava. (2018, January 18). *How the Pioneers of Pointillism Continue to Influence Artists Today*. Retrieved from https://mymodernmet.com

Deutsche Welle. (n.d.). *The New Look: How Christian Dior revolutionized fashion 70 years ago*: Retrieved from https://www.dw.com

Exhibition in Granville showcases Dior and Impressionism. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.lvmh.com

Horyn, C. (2012, July 3). *Past, Prologue, Dior.* Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 11**

**Reference:**

How Impressionism Changed the Art World and Continues to Inspire Us Today. (2018, October 29). Retrieved from https://arttimes.co.za

Jirousek, C. (n.d.). *Art, Design and Visual Thinking*  Retrieved from http://char.txa.cornell.edu/language/principl/principl.htm.

Juxtaposition in Design. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://morpheuslondon.com

Kulesh, A. (2013,May)*. Culture.*  Retrieved from http://thegenteel.com

Impressions Dior. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.itsliquid.com/impressions-dior.html.

Minimalism/Maximalism. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/minimalism-maximalism.php.

Martabogucinska. (2015, May 11). *THE TIMELESS INSPIRATIONS OF CLAUDE MONET.* Retrieved from https://martabogucinska.wordpress.com

Nguyen, L. (2013, January 22). *Christian Dior Haute Couture Spring 2013: Raf Simons Hits His Stride.* Retrieved from https://fashionista.com

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 12**

**Reference:**

Principle of Fashion Design (n.d.). Retrieved from https://study.com/academy/lesson/principles-of-fashion-design.html.

Pujalet-Plaà, Eric. (n.d.). *Dior's New Look*.

Retrieved from https://fashion-history.lovetoknow.com

Rees, Roberts, N. (2018). *Fashion Film: Art and Advertising in the Digital Age*. Bloomsbury Visual Arts. page 157

Reports, S. (2013, August 2). *Visit the Land That Influenced Dior.* Retrieved from https://oklahoman.com

Romantique, & Rebel. (2015). *The Dior Corolla Dress.*  Retrieved from http://romantiqueandrebel.com

Soegaard, M. (n.d.). *Repetition, Pattern, and Rhythm.*  Retrieved from https://www.interaction-design.org

Stamberg, S. (2013, September 19). *Exhibit Explores How Dior's Designs Echo Impressionist Paintings*. Retrieved from https://www.npr.org

**CHRISTIAN DIOR X CLAUDE MONET 13**

**Reference:**

Symmetry. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://learndesignprinciples.com/symmetry.html.

The Principles Of Fashion Design. (2016, January 8 ). Retrieved from https://www.goldenfingers.info

Wedding Inspirasi. (n.d.). *Christian Dior Fall 2012 Couture.*  Retrieved from https://www.weddinginspirasi.com

Writers, T. (2013, July 20). *Visit the Land That Influenced Dior, by Travel Writers.* Retrieved from https://www.creators.com