

Evening Dresses of Dolce and Gabbana

An Essay for Fashion and Mathematics

MINJI KIM

Merchandising Planning and Buying (BUF 2255)

Professor Adomaitis

June 21, 2018

Contents

Introduction.....	P. 3
Dolce and Gabbana.....	P. 4
Background of Evening Dresses.....	P.4-5
Evening Dresses of Autumn and Winter 2013-14 Collection.....	P.5-6
Conclusion.....	P. 7

## Introduction

Most people think fashion design has nothing to do with mathematics in general, but that's not true. When designers design for one clothing, they think and spend a lot of time to make what they want. From designing to finish making clothing, designers consider that how to and what kind of lines like curve or straight and shapes they will use for their garments and how long the garments' length will be. Also, designers think about the dresses' overall design and styles will be a symmetry or an asymmetry. In addition to mathematics, designers think of how to design connecting to a concept. All fashion designers think of both of mathematics and design with concepts, but I'll especially talk about Dolce and Gabbana's works with both.

## Dolce and Gabbana

According to the e-book *Vogue on: Dolce and Gabbana* by Luke Leitch, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana are Italian designers and they open their studio together as a partner in 1982. They met first in Milan in 1981. Before they met together, Gabbana grew up in Milan and studied a graphic design, but he decided to work in fashion in Milan and he tried to call a designer Giorgio Correggiari as he heard there was a position to work in Correggiari's studio. When he hoped his call reach to Correggiari, Dolce who was Correggiari's first assistant answered and Dolce made a plan to meet in a nightclub named No Ties, where Correggiari's team had a party for the British band imagination and here Dolce and Gabbana met first time together. Because the interview was good, Gabbana worked in Correggiari's studio, but later Dolce and Gabbana left Correggiari's studio together and made their own label.

Dolce and Gabbana have made many garments and have had many collections based on their concepts in each season and based on their philosophy that *Dolce* said, "We make clothes that make you feel, make you dream an Italian dream" from *Vogue*. In most of their works, they have symbolized the new generation of Italian design. But, out of them, I would like to focus on Evening dresses of autumn and winter 2013-14 collection.

## Background of Evening Dresses

According to the *Metropolitan Museum of Art*, Dolce and Gabbana made Evening Dresses based on religion; public religious life about heavenly paradise in the Byzantine culture. Also, as *Dolce and Gabbana* said, "The art of mosaic-making is a slow and precise one" in their press notes from *Vogue*, they were inspired from the dazzling mosaics of the figures of Christ, the Virgin

Mary, and saints of the Monreale Cathedral in Sicily and they brought these images and motivations into their garments.

#### Evening Dresses of Autumn and Winter 2013-14 Collection



Figure one: Evening Dress, Autumn/Winter 2013-14

According to the e-book *Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination*, the garment is made with Beige silk organza, embroidered polychrome paillettes and seed beads, clear crystals, mother-of-pearl-encrusted stones, and red plastic tiles which means Dolce and Gabbana try to put the ideas and images of the dazzling mosaics of the Monreale Cathedral into their garments.

In overall, the garment basically has a curve line and has a very nice symmetry; the dress's floral patterns and lines are well balanced in both of left and right sides and the dress's length is not too short and long. Its skirt shape is a bell and its sleeve, neck, and skirt are cut in curved shape. In addition to its overall shape and lines, the figure detail in the top of the dress even forms a ring around. So, overall, if the designers made this garment rounded, they also tried to make different shape and lines in another dress, but in a same concept.



Figure two: Evening Dress, Autumn/Winter 2013-14

According to the e-book *Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination*, the garment is made with polychrome printed silk jacquard, embroidered polychrome crystals, seed beads, gold paillettes, and gold metal thread. With materials, the dress describes mosaic of the Cathedral very well; patterns with harmony of red and blue colors particularly show mosaic, as well as stained glass in churches. In addition to its patterns and materials, the garment has curve and straight lines, it has a nice symmetry; its everything like colors, patterns, shape is well balanced in every side like left and right, top and bottom. Also, it has pretty long sleeves, but its skirt's length is short. Likewise, its figure detail in the dress is rounded with a big ring. So, overall, everything in this garment shows it is an art and mosaic itself.

### Conclusion

Designers make their works based on concepts what they want in general, but as I have written so far, mathematics play a significant role in designing clothing. Garments cannot be interpreted without mathematics because it is related to garments' whole shape and details like lines and length. If designers make curve or straight lines, make shorter or longer of the length of clothing, and make clothing symmetrically or asymmetrically, then there are obviously reasons, such as it leads to a result that is matched with their concepts and ideas. Also, if the result is good enough, then the result can naturally attract customers to buy the garments and designers can make money from the garments. They also can make a value and a good image for their brand from customers with their garments. So, mathematics is very significant in fashion.

## References

Bolton, A. (n.d.). *Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination*. Retrieved June 21, 2018, from

[https://books.google.com/books?id=URBZDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA114&dq=Dolce & Gabbana autumn/winter 2013-14 collection&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwuiwt\\_jwuPbAhWprVkKHegBC5AQ6AEIJzA A#v=onepage&q=Dolce & Gabbana autumn/winter 2013-14 collection&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=URBZDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA114&dq=Dolce & Gabbana autumn/winter 2013-14 collection&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwuiwt_jwuPbAhWprVkKHegBC5AQ6AEIJzA A#v=onepage&q=Dolce & Gabbana autumn/winter 2013-14 collection&f=false)

Exhibition Galleries: The Met Fifth Avenue—Medieval, Byzantine, Lehman Galleries. (n.d.).

Retrieved June 20, 2018, from

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2018/heavenly-bodies/exhibition-galleries-met-fifth-avenue>

Figure one: Clothing and fashion. (n.d.). Retrieved June 21, 2018, from.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/62557882299636328>

Figure two: DOLCE & GABBANA FALL/WINTER 2013-14. (2015, March 22). Retrieved

June 21, 2018, from <http://jetsetfashionmagazine.com/wordpress/fashion/dolce-gabbana-fashion-show-fallwinter-201314>

Leitch, L. (n.d.). *Vogue on: Dolce & Gabbana*. Retrieved June 20, 2018, from.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=HwA5DwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=dolce and gabbana&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj4gYWg1OPbAhWs6IMKHSU5CkoQ6AEIQjA F#v=onepage&q=dolce and gabbana&f=false>

Phelps, N. (2015, August 27). *Dolce & Gabbana Fall 2013 Ready-to-Wear Fashion Show*.

Retrieved June 20, 2018, from <https://www.vogue.com/fashion-shows/fall-2013-ready-to-wear/dolce-gabbana>

Sozzani, F. (2005). *Dolce & Gabbana*. Retrieved June 20, 2018, from

[https://books.google.com/books?id=qhB4AAAACAAJ&dq=dolce and gabbana&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwixyIOw1uPbAhVO0FkKHUMCDHoQ6AEIMzAC](https://books.google.com/books?id=qhB4AAAACAAJ&dq=dolce+and+gabbana&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwixyIOw1uPbAhVO0FkKHUMCDHoQ6AEIMzAC)