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Textiles

Rose Red in Fashion

By attending The Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology between mid January to mid April 2016, one can explore the special fairy tale exhibition which highlights clothing being used to symbolize character's traits and roles in the stories that they are apart of. Their costumes hold importance and must be thoroughly observed by the audience to capture the connection between the garments and the identity of its possessor. Meaning is placed on different articles of clothing which assist in showing pinnacles of the story and/or its characters. In this Fairy Tale Fashion exhibit, high end fashion designers' outfits are displayed that represent the fantasy and storytelling of different fairy tales and focuses on the symbolism of dress.

One outfit in the exhibition is full of red. A woman's ensemble is shown which is taken from a fall 2013 collection by Thom Browne (Munoz, 2016). Browne is an American designer whose work has been front lined in the world of fashion, especially in New York City (Business of Fashion, 2016). He's had the opportunities to work for major designers such as Giorgio Armani and Ralph Lauren (Famous Fashion Designers, 2016). In 2001 he created his own line with five men suits that over the years evolved to full collections that often gets recognized by museums around the globe (Thom Browne, 2016). After Michelle Obama was seen in one of his pieces during the 2013 presidential inauguration, Browne became one to watch for women's wear (Cole, 2015).



Figure 1. Thom Browne women's ensemble from his ready-to-wear fall 2014 women's collection illustrating Rose Red (2016).

The costume itself is a story. Red was the color of focus with rose details making up the entire top portion of the suit and a touch of it at the bottom. The jacket gave a broad effect to the shoulders that complimented the padding of the undulating skirt (Moore, 2014). The textiles used were Prince of Wales tweeds, gabardine and applique lace (Michault, 2013). Tweed is a shaggy wool-blend fabric that is normally used for coats and suits ("iTextiles 3.0 - Terminology: Tweed", 2016). The fabric has diagonal ridges and matte twills ("iTextiles 3.0 - Basic Weaves - Performance", 2016). Although the exact fabric count is not recorded, the drape is stiff, inferring the count to be high ("iTextiles 3.0 - Basic Weaves - Performance", 2016). Sophistication is given to this textile ("A Brief History of Tweed", 2016). The roses bring feminine qualities to the masculinity that surrounds the average use of the fabric and the silhouette of the costume. The impression of the character wearing this piece will be an advanced woman who is independent and strong.

The costume states Rose-Red's personality from "Snow-White and Rose-Red". She was an outdoors type of character who was always occupied (Bartleby, 2016). She was very fond of roses and kept one from every tree by her mother's bed (Bartleby, 2016). The flowers tell of her being free to roam and the color showing she's daring to do it alone. She is always seeking adventure and not afraid of what can be encountered. Beauty and elegance is natural in her persona.



Figure 2. Look 21/31 of Vogue's Fall 2013 Thom Browne Ready-to-Wear Collection Slideshow (2013).

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