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08/01/2023

Moda Hoy! Latin American and Latinx Fashion Design Today

The exhibition "MODA HOY! LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINX FASHION DESIGN TODAY": FIT in the Museum showcases decades of Latino and Latina design, providing visitors with an understanding of the history of Latino fashion and the development of exotic Latino culture (Conde, 2023). Latina/Latino dress has deep cultural roots tied to the Latino community's history, traditions, and identity. Clothing styles are influenced in different ways by Latin American indigenous, European, and African heritage. The vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and unique textiles in traditional clothing reflect the region's rich cultural tapestry (Root, 2023).

One admires this exhibition's "Leather Corset Dress" by Colombian designer Jorge Duque. This piece's primary color is brown, a standard color in nature, representing the color

of the earth, soil, and trees. In fashion, brown conveys a sense of naturalness, simplicity, and stability, making people feel close to nature.

Brown is a classic neutral color, not as severe as black or cold as gray. It gives a sense of stability, elegance, and classicism, suitable for formal occasions to show confidence and calm.

The Leather Corset Dress incorporates totemic elements characteristic of Latin America



Figure 1: Photo taken by Michelle: Leather Corset Dress

and yarn to create this dress. The bodice is sheer, and the model's skin tone can be seen through the tulle, thanks to the designer's use of brown, a classic neutral color that is not as serious as black or cold as grey. It is a classic neutral color, not as severe as black or cold as grey, and it also expresses confidence and stability. At the same time, this piece contains eight design elements. This brown leather corset dress yarn incorporates totemic elements characteristic of Latin America with a subtle and striking *line* design. The corset section is streamlined to emphasize the wearer's curves, complementing the Latin American totemic elements (Adomaitis, 2023, Lecture Visual Merchandising, pg.52-53).

Moreover, using yarn creates light vertical lines at the hemline, adding a soft touch to the overall look. The overall design of the skirt presents an energetic rhythmic flow of Latin American totem elements on the upper body, bodice, and legs. The Latin American totem elements on the upper body, bodice, and legs create a dynamic rhythmic flow, and the yarn fabric gives the skirt an elegant undulating *rhythm*, adding a sense of lightness to the overall look (Adomaitis, 2023, Lecture Visual Merchandising, pg.57).

This leather corset dress yarn presents a very *balanced* design. The corset and skirt portions are in just the right proportions to make the top and bottom proportions appear coordinated and proportional. At the same time, the *totemic* elements characteristic of Latin America are harmoniously blended with the yarn, not too abrupt or too many elements, but balanced with each other, adding movement and mystery to the overall look. This *balanced* design gives this dress perfect visual harmony (Adomaitis, 2023, Lecture Visual Merchandising, pg.55). The *form composition* of this brown leather corset dress designs the corset part as slim and tight, highlighting the curves of the body; the skirt part adopts the light draping of the yarn, forming soft vertical lines. The overall *composition* presents a dynamic and elegant contrast, making the wearer look confident and charming in fashion (Adomaitis, 2023, Lecture Visual Merchandising, pg.57).

This leather corset dress shows a transparent element of *contrast /juxtaposition*. The corset part is made of leather, presenting a solid and powerful feeling, while the integration of Latin America's characteristic totem elements gives an impression of strength and passion. On the other hand, the skirt is made of lightweight yarn, creating gentle vertical lines that show elegance and a sense of flow. This *contrast/juxtaposition* element makes the dress look powerful and soft, presenting a unique fashion charm(Adomaitis, 2023, Lecture Visual Merchandising, pg.56). In addition, the *dominant* element of this dress is utilized, the totem element, which is characteristic of Latin America, highlighting the unique cultural charm. It gives the dress a fashionable style and shows the personality and style of the wearer (Adomaitis, 2023, Lecture Visual Merchandising, pg.56).

Finally, the leather corset dress utilizes *repetition* in its design. Latin American totems are cleverly repeated in the corset and lower body to create a dynamic pattern that enhances the visual effect. This repetition gives the dress a more unified look, adding visual appeal and enhancing the wearer's radiance (Adomaitis, 2023, Lecture Visual Merchandising, pg.57).

Latino/Latina fashion largely influences and intertwines with life. Latino/Latina fashion reflects the unique culture and identity of this community. Through traditional dress, distinctive totems, bright and vibrant colors, and ornamentation, Latino/Latina people express their roots and history in fashion, allowing them to still maintain their cultural identity in a foreign land. Latino/Latina fashion elements are gradually being embraced and integrated by the world, becoming part of the international fashion scene. Furthermore, through fashion presentation, they can show the outside world their pride, uniqueness, and respect for history and tradition (Alexandra, 2015).

The need to recognize Latino artists is due to their indispensable contributions to the development of culture and the arts in the world. Latino artists have enriched all areas of fashion, music, and painting through their unique perspectives and creativity. Their work

conveys a deep historical and cultural background and a profound reflection on social issues and human nature. Recognizing Latino artists also encourages more people to pursue their artistic dreams and provides more opportunities to showcase their talents. Recognizing and acknowledging the achievements of Latino artists helps them achieve greater recognition in the art world and promotes the development of multiculturalism(Cheryl & Debora,2021).



Figure 2: Michelle Wu Feng at the Exhibition

Reference

- *Figure 1: Photo taken by Michelle: Leather Corset Dress*
- *Figure 2: Michelle Wu Feng at the Exhibition*
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