

Midterm Dress 1 & 2

Written By

Stefon Davis

BUF 4900

Dr. Adomaitis

New York City College of Technology

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Figure 1. Red Valentino Dress. This figure illustrates Valentino's red ballerina dress

### **Texture**

Texture can be described as the surface or feel of the fabric (Pegler, 2010). When looking at the red dress one can tell that the body of the fabric is light. It is comprised of soft silks and satins which portrays femininity (Pegler, 2010).

### **Line**

Line refers to the way that the mannequins are arranged (Pegler, 2010). From observation, one can see that the mannequin is positioned vertically, portraying height, strength, and dignity (Pegler, 2010)

### **Proportion**

Proportion is the relationship between the garment and its different parts (Pegler, 2010). The core of the garment covers the breast and crotch, the intersecting leather straps are providing support for the collar and torso, while silk laced sections act cover for the delicate areas.

### **Balance**

Balance can be referred to as symmetrical/asymmetrical or containing equal visual weight (Pegler, 2010). The “Y” silhouette plays as the base of symmetry for the dress. The outer areas have equal amounts of transparency.

### **Juxtaposition**

The term juxtaposition refers to two things close together with contrasting attributes. The juxtaposed elements in this dress are the “X” and “Y” silhouettes.

When comparing the dress to the quote one can infer that today’s women are assertive and powerful. One can also infer that women are in control, taking leading roles. For instance; Elizabeth Warren, Ursula Von Der Leyen, and Margrethe Vestager are all politicians who go against substantial banks, large tech companies, etc. to ensure that they did not take advantage of their market power, scams in colored neighborhoods, amongst other impurities. These ladies portrayed the power that was not commonly associated with women.



Figure 2. Howard Greer Evening Dress. This figure illustrates the “Odile” evening dress

### **Howard Greer’s Odile Evening Dress**

One dress that is a real eye catcher in the Ballerina: Fashion’s Modern Muse Exhibition at the Fashion Institute of Technology is Howard Greer’s Odile Evening Dress. This *monochromatic* black dress could be seen from across the room. Sparkling embroidered sequins

cover the core of the dress. The sequins start at the shoulders; overlaying a print similar to paisley. The lining of the embroidered breast area have jagged edges that are *adjacent* to the back.

One can see that the abdomen area of the dress is filled with more sequins as the print of the embroidery expands. Underneath the embroidery is silk tulle, which is very sheer. The bottom of the dress is equipped with layers of silk tulle to portray a more robust look. The ends of the tulle are cut to resemble feathers. The black *hue* of the layered tulle gives the dress its distinctive “Black Swan” look.

The *saturation* of the sequins throughout the dress is high. The sequins aid in the luminosity of the dress, giving it that sparkly look. One can see that the top of the layered tulle is outlined with sequins. The color black is a very mysterious and intriguing color (Pegler, 2010). When a woman wears a black dress she is portraying that she is elegant and powerful. Thought Catalog (2018), states that black is recognized as the most appealing color. The color black brings out the essence of the room, portraying a professional and seductive atmosphere.

## REFERENCES

Ballerina: Fashion's Modern Muse. (2020). The Museum at FIT, New York, NY

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*Figure 1.* Red Valentino Dress. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/museumatfit/in/album-72157713522662773>

*Figure 2.* Howard Greer Evening Dress. <https://exhibition.fitnyc.edu/ballerina/?url=ballerina-as-bird/IL2018.18.5-1>

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