

Midterm Essays

Zi Di Chen

New York City College of Technology, CUNY

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Dr. Alyssa Adomaitis

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Essay 1

Elizabeth Warren, Ursula von der Leyen, and Margrethe Vestager are all strong political women that fought and accomplished the unexpected while overcoming numerous adversities. Warren's notable accomplishment is authoring several bipartisan bills that have been passed as laws (Relman, 2020). Von der Leyen's significant accomplishment is becoming the first woman ever to lead the EU Commission (BBC News, 2020). Vestager's significant accomplishments is becoming the Executive Vice-President in the EU Commission for Competition Policy in 2014 and ordered Apple to pay the largest tax fine in history, €13 billion (Forbes, n.d.). These powerful women have voiced their opinions and solidified their place in politics, denoting the assumption that a woman has to hide in a man's suit to come out fighting has shattered (Friedman, 2020). Fashion has reflected this through ballet garments.

The 'Howard Greer evening dress' from the Ballerina Exhibition at F.I.T features black silk tulle, and sequins, see figure 1 (Museum at FIT, 2018). According to Dr. Adomaitis (n.d.), The Elements of Design consist of Color (which creates a mood), Texture (is visual/physical/suggestive), Line (determines effectiveness of presentation), Dominance (some elements are stand out more), and Contrast (Juxtaposition). Greer's evening dress color is all black which portrays the moods intrigue and sophistication; the texture of the soft silk tulle represents femininity; diagonal line of dress portray action, forceful, strong, and dynamic; dominance is portrayed in the radiant sequins over the silk tulle; and juxtaposition is shown through the reflective sequins directly on top of the black silk tulle. Greer's evening dress is a prime example of Friedman's statement as dresses can also represent fighting capability.

Figure 1

Howard Greer evening dress



Essay 2

Color is very important when it comes to fashion, it is a trend indicator, different colors mean many different things, and shoppers look at color as the deciding factor before they go on to look at fit, size, or price (Dr. Adomaitis, n.d.). In the Ballerina Exhibition at F.I.T, a figure that features many colors is “Barbara Karinska (Original), Marc Happel (Recreation), La Valse costume” (see figure 2). This costume features a shell-pink halter top with a sweetheart neckline, gray satin corset with embroidered rhinestones, gray/pink/red tulle skirt, white evening gloves, and gold sash scarf (Museum at FIT, 2018). This costume features mostly warm colors such as shell pink, pink, red, and gold (a shade of yellow); and two neutral colors: gray and white. According to Dr. Adomaitis (n.d.), examples of warm colors are yellow, pink, and red; these colors signify aggression, spirit, and advancement. Examples of neutral colors are white and gray; which can be classified as either warm or cool colors, cool colors signify calm and recede. The use of all these colors show contrasts and intensity like the Fendi show that featured juxtaposition of dark gray and shell pink; feminine lace and masculine leather; which looks both aggressive and girly (Friedman, 2020). The light white evening gloves contrast the dark gray satin corset, while the intensity of the red/pink in the tulle skirt, and the shining gold sash scarf overshadows the other hues. Overall, this beautiful historical piece features the most hues in the Ballerina Exhibit at F.I.T.

Figure 2

Barbara Karinska (Original), Marc Happel (Recreation), La Valse costume



References

Dr. Adomaitis. (n.d.). *Visual merchandising chapter 1-4*.

Figure 1. Howard Greer evening dress. Reprinted from 'The Museum at FIT'. (2018). Retrieved from <https://exhibitions.fitnyc.edu/ballerina/?url=gallery-ballerina-as-bird>

Figure 2. Barbara Karinska (Original), Marc Happel (Recreation), La Valse costume. Reprinted from 'The Museum at FIT'. (2018). Retrieved from <https://exhibitions.fitnyc.edu/ballerina/?url=gallery-from-costumier-to-couturier>

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