

Picture



Object

Evening gown

Designe

Gianfranco Ferré

Label

Year

1999-2000

Season

Fall-Winter

Collection

Ready-to-wear

Look

32

Inventory

Size

40 (8)

Material:

Gray silk chiffon, gray broadtail lambskin (Montorsi, Bologna), clear nylon thread, gray yarn

Working process:

Nylon thread/gray yarn embroidery on tulle and on broadtail in a lamb fur motif, embroidery application of the skins onto the fabric (Ellenne Ricami, San Cesario sul Panaro)

Description

Evening gown in two long rectangular cuts of chiffon sewn as usual on reverse down sides but on right face at shoulders so as to let part of the fabric drape freely. This makes for a straight sleeveless boatneck tunic with two panels of different lengths gracing the back. Both have a long center slit, one buttoning at nape, the other serving as an opening to pass over the head. Right side seam with slit and zip fastening.

Decorating the left side of the tunic are two entire gray broadtail skins and silver-gray thread embroidery in a tabby motif.

Remark:

The press release accompanying the fashion show talks about a collection where "the atmosphere is powerfully otherworld, intense and pure, like in the paintings of John William Waterhouse (The Magic Circle, in particular)." At the Tate Gallery in London, the latter work may offer an interpretation of Ferré's gown. According to the symbolism of this British painter, "The Magic Circle" depicts an ancient and enigmatic priestess or prophetess who traces a circle of fire with a divining rod. With this mark on the ground she separates herself and the ritual brazier lit in front of her from the bare, raven-inhabited landscape and creates a sort of blossoming island. Ferré's design seems inspired directly by this type of ancestral world – magical, timeless – and by the image of a sorceress or enchantress who wears symbols more than clothes. To be sure, the structure of the tunic sparks images of a Greek pepulum, while the application of whole animal skins evokes the idea of mythological maenads. Even the hue is the same as the dress on Waterhouse's priestess.

Source:

Bibliography

Exhibitions

Acquisition

Author of file

Enrica Morini



Fondazione Gianfranco Ferré

File
N. 43

Present location

Date of file

02/09/2009

Condition

Good

