

Student's Name:

Professor's Name:

Course:

Date:

The History of Fashion

The unit was very interesting, especially since I got to learn about several designs for costumes and dresses as well as their impact on the advancement of fashion. I utilized the search approach to find images and note some crucial information about their origins. I found the images through the Google search engine by utilizing several keywords related to the course. Some of the words included in the search included “renaissance,” “contemporary style,” “fashion,” “collections,” “painting,” “art,” and “historical art” among others related to design. I was also able to study different historical periods including classical, Rococo, early 20th-century avant-garde, and exoticism.

The organization of my analysis was in the form of different headings representing a diverse set of periods. The analysis ranged from traditional costumes to contemporary ones. Eleven periods in total were covered, from classical all the way to exoticism. Some of the clothes my research focused on included those featured in the portrait of Alessandro Farnese by Sofonisba Anguissola, which were designed during the Renaissance period. I also covered Crinoline, found in the V&A collection, which was worn between 1850 and 1899. The naming of the costumes was in the order of artist, title, the date or object, the year, and the museum.

I utilized Google to look for different designs across the eleven periods. The information that I obtained was quite comprehensive, however, it gave so many results that selecting the most relevant ones for research ended up being a complicated process. For instance, whenever I

looked for reviews, I ended up with the results of more items similar to the design that I was researching. With this weakness in mind, I will make improvements in my future research. One of the strategies that I can adopt is using precise phrases and complete sentences that will provide the exact websites where I can get relevant information.

Throughout the course, I have discovered that the history of fashion continues to impact contemporary styles. From the outset of my enrollment, I knew that I wanted to study fashion and began to read articles and books about the evolution of the design process. Eventually, I realized that fashion in costumes and dresses is perpetually evolving and transforming. Most importantly, it draws inspiration from some of the groundbreaking pieces done by famous artists.

The clothes that were being made fifty years ago are now becoming popular again among members of a different generation of consumers. A good example that I explained in my diary was the costume of Alessandro Farnese, worn between 1559 and 1565. The design seemed to have come back in 2012 when Dolce Gabbana showcased a line of clothing very similar in style. Indeed, every style and trend in fashion can be seen to have recurred at one point or another in the contemporary period.

Through analysis, I have found out that in the present time, everyone strives to look unique. Over time, fashion evolves from being a byproduct of cultural transformations to a reflection of an individual's personality. Many people find the return of traditional fashion quite interesting and are only adding unique features to make the items in question look more contemporary. Such an approach to design shows how elements can be copied from archaic fashion to make modern products and still look unique. Social confirmation is not an objective of fashion anymore. I have noted that the history of fashion has a significant effect on modern styles.

During the analysis of my visual folder, I noted the designers and the periods that they used to make their pieces. In the first one, Sofonisba Anguissola used the trends of the period between 1559 and 1565 to create the costume of Alessandro Farnese. The real identity of this artist was explored further in contemporary times when more studies were done regarding Anguissola, along with her work. During my analysis, I also observed that Dolce Gabbana was a renowned designer who created a unique piece during AW 2012. The chandeliers festooned with flowers as well as vines came about as a reflection of the earlier design by Sofonisba Anguissola.

The factors that appear to be appealing in the new design are the colorful needlepoint florals as well as the prints of cherubs. By looking at the two designs, one can notice that there are a lot of parallels to be drawn, as the latter one seems to be a development of or throwback to the former, which shows how many contemporary designs have taken after traditional ones. They all seem to contribute to the mood of the contemporary world. The main influences governing contemporary designs seem to have emanated from the preceding ones.

The other design that I analyzed in my diary was Crinoline Cage, set at the V&A collections in 1860. The design has had a significant influence on contemporary art and development. The garment was developed as underwear made of steel, linen, and wool, and was meant for women. I also noted that it was one of the most frequently worn parts of the European fashion project. I also presented Jean-Paul Gaultier alongside this design. Jean-Paul Gaultier was introduced in AW 2008 as a contemporary design and is not only being worn as an undergarment but also as full wear. I observed that Gaultier exists as an indisputable representation showcased in the form of a trench, draped evening gown, as well as a tux suit. I feel that there is a lot to be appreciated about these forms of art that have come back from centuries past.

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