

MONET'S GARDEN

July 2007

Design Inspiration

This ensemble was designed for the 2007 Hoffman Challenge, which requires the use of a specific challenge fabric. This fabric was not part of my usual color palette, so I decided to coordinate it with other prints to provide a gradation of color and give a watercolor effect. The sunburst diamond-patchwork pattern is very effective at blending fabrics and gave me the idea of piecing the circular skirt for the coat-dress. The vibrant iris blue color used for the collar, cuffs and waistband provided the perfect contrast to the other colors. The purse was inspired by the insects depicted in the challenge fabric and a photograph of a small keepsake in the shape of a cicada.

Fabrics

Coat-dress: 100% cotton prints, 100% rayon Bemberg lining.

Purse: 100% cotton prints.

Embellishments

Coat-dress: piecework, machine-guided quilting with variegated thread, channel-quilted collar, cuffs and waistband.

Purse: free-motion quilting, hand beading.

Patterns

Coat-dress: V8211

Purse: original design.

Special Sewing Techniques

The pattern for skirt of the coat-dress has been modified to a half-circle shape so that the piecework consisting of radiating diamond-shaped patches would follow the lines of the skirt. The size of the patches in each portion of the coat have been modified to fit the scale of the pattern pieces. The piecework has been quilted in a simple grid design running through the center of the diamond-shaped patches. The contrast collar, cuffs and waistband are channel quilted for stability, dimension and contrast.

The purse consists of a simple bag which forms the body of the cicada, and 3-dimensional wing and flap pieces which have been decorated with free-motion quilting, machine-guided quilting and beading. The purse is closed with a drawstring.

Exhibitions and Awards

1st place, Clothing, Hoffman Challenge, August 2007.

2nd place, Accessories, Hoffman Challenge, August 2007.