

Design Title: The Turbid Empress

The inspiration of this evening gown is based on Chinese history of the Empress Dowager CiXi in Qing Dynastic. Empress Dowager Cixi, came from a fairly ordinary Manchu family and had been selected as a concubine of the Xian Fon Emperor, after the Emperor died, she then manipulated her son and controlled the whole court. Consequent of this attributed the fall of the Qing Dynasty and ended the imperial of China. Even though the background inspiration is from Eastern culture, the design process and technique are using Western's apparel structure. In order to reflect her struggle mind of real humanity, this gown was design to express the grace of imperfection - glory and splendor come along with rot, putridity and corruption. This gown used white lace, beading and flowers to represent Empress's noble semblance. However, to reflect her inner struggle mind, the dress used broken, unfinished, and burned fabric to show her corrosion. Additionally, the beige and different level of white fabric were used to represent Empress's contamination from the authority. In order to make the collar to stand up, this design was made by two pieces- a vest and a dress. In the lower part of skirt, different fabric were cut and seamed to reflect the disorderly of the evening gown (refer to Image 1). To make the gown be more glory, some beadings were sewing on lace, and the fabric made flowers were designed and stitched to cloth. However, to express the rot and turbid of Empress Dowager CiXi the flowers were using burned fabric and seems to be deficient.



Design Title: Princess Balen of Taiwan Aborigine

The inspiration is from an aborigine ballad of Taiwan which telling the ancestor princess Balen who had a courageous marriage with the King of serpent. The King of serpent promises that this marriage will bless the people in their clan to have good clothes, rich food, peace and joy. This song expresses that the people of the clan miss their princess, thank her, and love her. The design chose cotton linen fabric to show that princess Balen's unadorned personality. The yellow, orange, and green glaze beadings were used to decorate on the dresses which represent "honorable" for aborigines. The electronic embroidery of the totem was used on clothes to express the old meaning of aborigine. Upper part of the body used yellow, green, orange three colors beading necklaces repeatedly to cover the chest which seems like a small vest. In the bottom, the millet was randomly sewed in cloth together and the front pattern of skirt has the aborigine totem which represents the ancestral souls. Yellow, green, orange colors beadings for top; jacquard weave linen fabric with embodies totem, and harvested millet in bottom for the skirt. The measurement of top is flexible from 30"-32", the lower waist is 30", and the hip is 38".

