

# AFTER FIVE

## FASHION FROM THE DARNELL COLLECTION

14 SEPTEMBER – 10 NOVEMBER 2013

EDUCATION NOTES  
Stage 6 Textiles Technology

A Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre touring exhibition

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**NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY**

Laman Street Newcastle 2300 | 02 4974 5100 | [www.nag.org.au](http://www.nag.org.au)

Open Tuesday to Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Dance dress c1927 silk crepe glass beads and gelatin sequins. Gift of Rosa Perlman 2013. Darnell Collection



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## EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

*After Five: Fashion from the Darnell Collection* is a major exhibition of fashion, presenting over 40 unique garments and accessories from around the world by iconic designers including Christian Dior, Mary Quant, Oscar de la Renta, Bruce Oldfield, Adolfo, Emilio Pucci, Emanuel Ungaro, Christopher Essex and Moschino.

The exhibition is entirely drawn from *The Darnell Collection of International Vintage Couture*. Now considered Australia's largest private collection of fashion; the collection has an intriguing provenance.

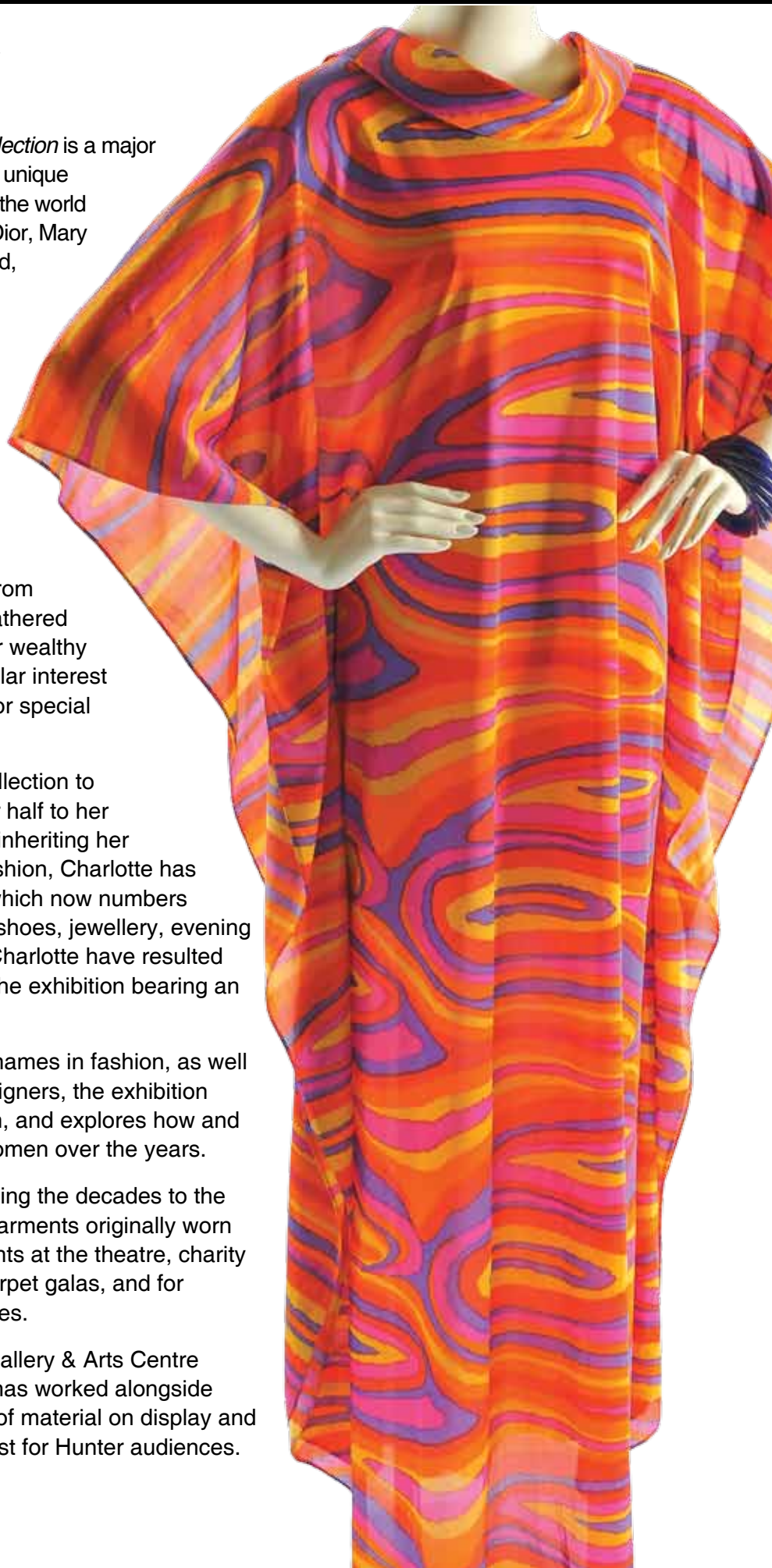
The core of the collection was put together by Doris Darnell, a Quaker from Pennsylvania, who from the 1930s gathered together items of clothing worn by her wealthy friends and acquaintances. Of particular interest were the glamorous garments worn for special occasions.

In 2004 Doris bequeathed half her collection to an American university, and the other half to her goddaughter, Charlotte Smith. Since inheriting her godmother's collection of precious fashion, Charlotte has continued to develop the collection, which now numbers over 6000 items including garments, shoes, jewellery, evening bags and hats. New acquisitions by Charlotte have resulted in many of the works represented in the exhibition bearing an Australian provenance.

With gowns by some of the greatest names in fashion, as well as some talented but little-known designers, the exhibition illustrates stylistic moments in fashion, and explores how and why eveningwear has changed for women over the years.

Commencing in the 1920s and spanning the decades to the current day, the exhibition presents garments originally worn to cocktail soirees, balls, opening nights at the theatre, charity events, graduation parties and red carpet galas, and for dancing at nightclubs and discotheques.

First shown at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre in early 2013, Newcastle Art Gallery has worked alongside Charlotte Smith to expand the range of material on display and curate a new exhibition experience just for Hunter audiences.



## **STUDENT TASKS**

### **In the Gallery - *Fashion sketching and principles of design identification***

Compare and contrast. Select TWO garments from the exhibition and document the following details;

- name the designer and date the garment was made
- sketch silhouette or garment outline, (to colour render at school at a later date)
- identify the type of design that your garments relate to, eg: functional or aesthetic, and describe how the garments fit these descriptions
- comment on the elements of design evident in your garments, eg: line and direction, shape and form, texture, and colour
- comment on the principles of design evident in your garments, eg: proportion, balance, rhythm, emphasis, contrast and harmony and unity.

### **In the classroom - *Digital presentation of elements of design***

Select one of the garments that you documented in the Gallery. Identify key events which shaped the history of fashion for society and culture at the time that garment was made. What evidence can you find that these events have influenced the design of your garment?

Collect information, images and or samples to include in a digital presentation to be performed in front of your fellow students.



## **ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN**

When designing, there are several ideas or aspects of design that need to be kept in mind. These aspects of design can be categorized into two areas: *principles* and *elements* of design.

One way to describe this is: *The principles are the directions for a cake recipe and the elements are the ingredients. The directions (principles) are flexible and should be interpreted within a current fashion or problem the designer is trying to solve. For example, the directions (principles) would apply differently for a design of a costume than for a design of a current fashion garment.*

*Fabric & Fashion Design Competition Guide, 1998.*

## **PRINCIPLES**

### **Proportion**

Proportion is the feeling of unity that is created when all of the parts (sizes, numbers, or amounts) relate well with each other. A gown with a large, elaborate bow on one shoulder and a fitted dress line may appear like the bow is "out of proportion". Scale therefore refers to the overall size of any object or its parts when compared to the size of other parts or objects in the design.

### **Balance**

There are two kinds of balance, symmetrical and asymmetrical. The outfit is symmetrical if you were to divide it right down the middle and both sides are exactly the same. Therefore, if you divide an outfit right down the middle and both sides aren't the same, the balance is asymmetrical. Asymmetrical balance is quite popular in dressy evening wear because it is dramatic and eye-catching.

### **Rhythm**

Rhythm refers to the repeated use of lines, colors, trims, shapes, or details that create a pattern that the eye can follow throughout the design. Examples could be stripes, polka dots, ruffles, etc.

### **Emphasis**

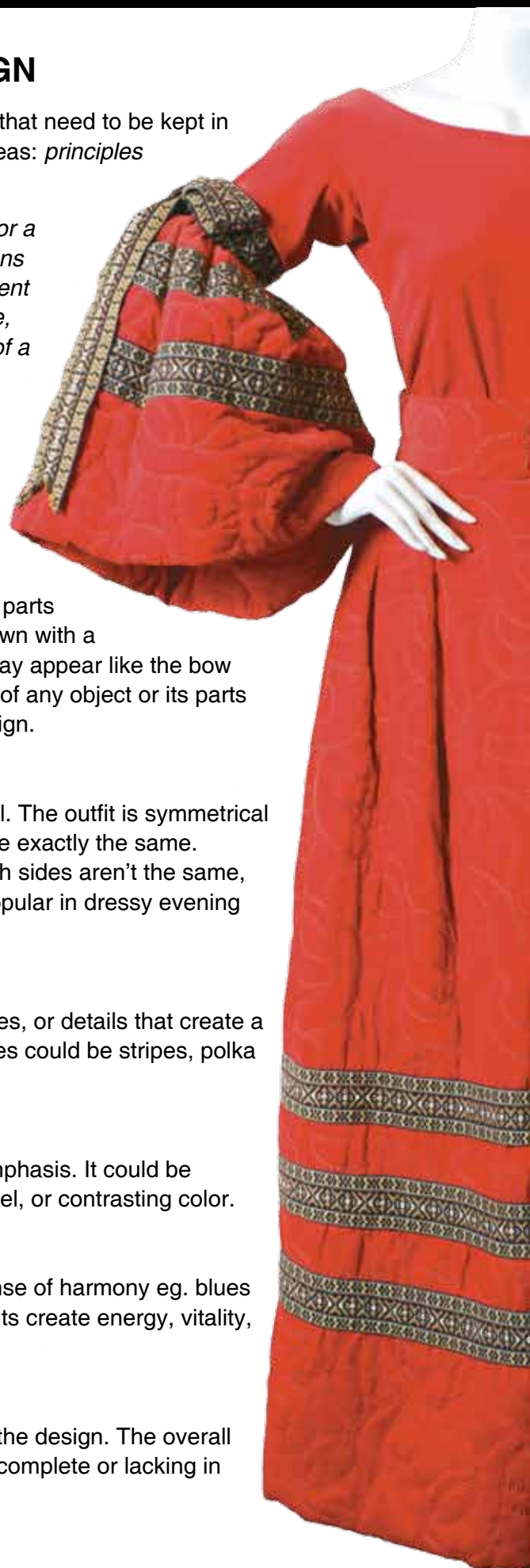
What your eye is drawn to on any outfit is considered to be emphasis. It could be anything that you focus on, from a horizontal stripe, a belt, jewel, or contrasting color.

### **Harmony and Contrast**

Similar elements can seem calm and pleasing achieving a sense of harmony eg. blues and greens, rectangles and squares, while contrasting elements create energy, vitality, tension or aggression eg. a spotted bodice with a striped skirt.

### **Unity**

Unity is the feeling of harmony between all parts or objects of the design. The overall design creates a sense of completeness. If a design seems incomplete or lacking in some way it does not achieve a sense of unity.



## **ELEMENTS**

### **Line**

Line is the simplest element of design. There are two types: outline and style lines. Outline is the outer edge of the design whereas style lines are the lines that divide up the space inside of the outline. For example, if you were to trace around an outfit in a magazine or catalogue, you would be following along the outline. Style lines can be created by several things: belts, ruffles, seams, a colour line, or a pocket.

### **Shape and form**

These are among the most important in fashion and accessory design. The shape, or silhouette, is the most obvious visual element of a garment; it is probably the first thing that is seen. The silhouette can be described as the outline of the entire garment, and it is often called "form." The goal of a silhouette is to compliment the shape of the body. However, exaggeration is often used in order to create a certain type of effect or emphasize a certain part of the body; whichever is the current fashion trend.

### **Texture**

Texture is another important element that actually can determine a lot. The way the fabric feels is a big thing to consider. When designing, it's important to know how a fabric will drape and feel. For example, overalls are great in denim, but would you wear silk satin overalls? Probably not. The design should be paired appropriately with the right fabric.

### **Colour**

When describing the colour of a design the following language is used. Colour has temperature. Reds and oranges feel warm like the sun or desert. Cooler colours like blues and greens go more with water and ice. Intensity of colour is its strength and purity. Hue is the quality that separates one colour from another. Tone value is the degree of lightness or darkness of a colour, eg yellow is light, blue is dark.



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## STAGE 6 PRELIMINARY AND HSC SYLLABUS OUTCOMES

Objectives	Preliminary Outcomes	HSC Syllabus Outcomes
1. knowledge and understanding of the functional and aesthetic requirements of textiles for a range of applications	P 1.1 describes the elements and principles of design and uses them in a variety of applications  P 1.2 identifies the functional and aesthetic requirements and features of a range of textile items	5.1.1 explains the properties and performance of a range of textile items
5. an appreciation of the significance of textiles in society	P 6.1 identifies and appreciates the factors that contribute to the quality and value of textiles in society	H 6.1 analyses the influence of historical, cultural and contemporary developments on textiles

### IMAGE CREDITS:

**Page 1:** Ninette Creations *Evening kaftan* c1970 synthetic material. Acquired by Charlotte Smith. Darnell Collection

**Page 2:** Anne Fogarty *Evening dress* c1970 synthetic jersey and plastic sequins. Acquired by Charlotte Smith. Darnell Collection

**Page 3:** Adolfo Sardina *Top and skirt* c1967 quilted cotton velvet with applied cotton braid. Acquired by Charlotte Smith. Darnell collection

**Page 4:** Emilio Pucci *Top and skirt* c1970 printed cotton velvet skirt and printed wool top. Acquired by Charlotte Smith. Darnell Collection

### ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

Newcastle Art Gallery supports experience based learning and strongly suggests that these education worksheets be used in conjunction with a visit to the exhibition,

*After Five :Fashion from the Darnell Collection* 13 September – 10 November 2013

This resource was developed by Newcastle Art Gallery, with text adapted from content by Museum Studies and Education Consultant Kathleen Moss and Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre

Additional resources supporting the exhibition:

*After Five: Fashion from the Darnell Collection* exhibition catalogue, available at the Newcastle Art Gallery shop \$10.00

*After Five: Fashion from the Darnell Collection* Kid's Art Trail with paper dolls, developed by Newcastle Art Gallery, available at the Gallery when you visit, and online at: [nag.org.au/learning/resources](http://nag.org.au/learning/resources)

*After Five: Fashion from the Darnell Collection* fashion timeline, developed by Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, available online at: [nag.org.au/learning/resources](http://nag.org.au/learning/resources)