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Cool vs. Cruel Process Book

In the late twenty's early thirty's monkey fur was use quit frequently in formal evening overcoats for women's. Although elegant this trend put many of our earths primates in danger of never being seen on our earth again some never were seen again. Faux fur has never before appealed to me as a material to use during my creative process in designing clothing. This contest has allowed me to explore the alternatives to what can be done with fake fur, It's has also helped me to change the stigma that faux fur has had in the fashion world. This contest actually give me no limits, (outside of the rule!) to create my own exotic pelts of fur from an animal that if was still alive would most likely be on the endangers species list.

In the early turn of this century the world was introduced to hair extensions! The fashion and beauty world has kept this amazing technique a secret for many years. This trend has only become part of the mainstream in the past few years. That's was when the light bulb clicked in my head and my process of designing a unique fur had began. It starts with a three inch thick white man made fur material as the base or undercoat of the jacket, then the time consuming task of adding the demention of the seventeen inch long one hundred percent synthetic advanced fiber hair extensions to the jacket that served as the overcoat to the faux fur. I cut one inch and half inch sections from the weft of hair and strategically placed onto the base fabric of the undercoat. This treatment gave the fur a strong contrast of color and opacity with a reminiscent feel to the elegance of the overcoats find during the early part of the 20th century.

In my journey of creating a humane alternative to fur I came across a technique to recreate the illusion of reptilian skin by using scissors to put a series of horizontal slash lines in a metallic fused poly/nylon, with the fabric flat to the surface then was flipped in the center and reinforced with back stitches to give the perception of the back or spine area of a reptile which would be highly desired in most exotic skins. This detail was used on the waist of the jacket as well as the center gore of the skirt.

This competition as given me a new understanding of what we as fashion designer can do to help with the fight that the Humane Society has been battling relentlessly for years. Upon graduation from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale I plan to continue to procure my career in fashion design were ever in this world it my take me, hopefully New York, then Paris or Milan!

Materials used

- White faux fur
- Black synthetic hair extensions
- Black cotton poplin
- Poly/nylon twill w/metallic fusion