Dress - Plato's Atlantis

Object: Dress

Place of origin: London (designed)

Date: 2010 (made)

Artist/Maker: Alexander McQueen, born 1969 - died 2010 (designer)

Materials and Techniques: Printed silk

Museum number: T.11-2010

Gallery location: On short term loan out for exhibition

Public access description

Alexander McQueen (1969-2010) was one of the most innovative British designers of the late 20th century. His work consistently combined precise tailoring techniques with a futuristic vision. He was at the vanguard of a group of designers who embraced extraordinary theatricality and conceptual presentation. This dress forms part of McQueen's Spring/Summer 200 collection. The design features a vibrant, digitally printed textile with layered photographic images of a variety of reptile skins. Shown on the catwalk with vertiginous, claw-like shoes, the look dominated fashion pages and commentary in the months after McQueen's fashion show. This catwalk presentation was also notable for being one of the first to be streamed live onto the internet, where people could watch it in real time, free of charge.

Descriptive line

Dress, digitally printed silk satin and silk chiffon, Alexander McQueen, Britain, Spring/Summer 2010.

Physical description

Silk cocktail dress made from fabric digitally printed with photographic images of reptile skins in a colour palette of greens, blues and yellows. The dress features cap sleeves and a ruched top layer of chiffon over areas of the bodice and skirt. The neckline is a dramatic, low-cut 'v' shape. There is a centre back zip closure. The dress is fully lined.

Dimensions

Length: 88 cm total, Circumference: 67 cm waist approx, Width: 31.5 cm shoulders, Width: 44 cm armpit to armpit

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Object history note

The Victoria and Albert Museum purchased this dress the day that Alexander McQueen's death was announced. It is from the last complete collection overseen by the designer.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1156952/platos-atlantis-dress-alexander-mcqueen/