

Picture



Object

Evening gown

Designer

Gianfranco Ferré

Label

GIANFRANCO FERRE/MADE IN ITALY

Year

1994

Season

Spring-Summer

Collection

Ready-to-wear

Look

121

Inventory

Size

42-44 (10-12)

Materials

White&beige stripe silk organza, white silk organza with large black&gray image of woman's face (reproduction of photo or print), white silk organza, zips with small jewel pendant, silk yarns, white cordonette, paillettes, various glass beads, tiny plaques, mechanical gold braid, strass

Working processes

Multihead-machine embroidery of Moresque designs in white cordonette yarn and gold/brown/ivory/beige silk threads. Hand application of white/black/gold/ reddish/cinnamon color glass beads and mother-of-pearl multi facet cut little plaques (Ricami Brambilla, Gorgonzola). Hand application in a stripe pattern of clear/gold/mother-of-pearl paillettes (Ricami Brambilla, Gorgonzola). Painting on silk.

Clear glass tube bead fringe on ivory mechanical tulle.

Along open neckline, hand embroidery on tulle of gold paillettes, white/black/gold/clear beads, bronze tone beads in two sizes, small strass crystals, as well as Egyptian motif embroidery in brown silk thread and spun gold wire (Ricami Brambilla, Gorgonzola).

Description

Long caftan-style evening gown in two cuts of fabric. With dropped shoulders, short sleeves, two side slits. Open front neckline with small slit, double symmetrical zip fastening on shoulders and sleeves. The dress is in stripe silk organza with inlay panel featuring the black&white blow-up print of a woman's face (across much of the front). Also making the simple design extraspecial is the gorgeous embroidery: white and gold paillettes all over the stripe silk; spiral, palmette and medallion arabesque motifs in embroidery wire and cotton thread with application of beads, paillettes and faux gemstones (at waist, hips, neck, back hem). All hems have gold braid edging.

On May 18, 2000, Elizabeth Taylor appeared at the Cannes Film Festival in a custom modified version of the dress. For the occasion the side slits were masked by the insertion of tulle panels, complete with rows of mother-of-pearl glass tube beads partially applied in fringe form. The low-cut neckline acquired a more discreet look thanks to the addition of a tulle insert with asp and eye of Ra embroidery, in honor of the star of the movie colossal Cleopatra. Also, the sleeves were elongated with white organza fabric painted in stripes and then paillette embroidered.

Remarks

Here the caftan – a personal Ferré favorite recurring in so many of his collections – becomes a One Thousand and One Nights gown dazzingly rich in bead, paillette, thread and wire embroidery. This lavish handwork also frames the image of a beautiful female face on the upper front of the dress, in a vague take-off on an iconic Elsa Schiaparelli design with line-drawing by artist Jean Cocteau. For a sort of melancholy Sheherazade immersed in the splendor of a storybook luxury.

Sources

Bibliography

Gianfranco Ferré. L'architetto stilista, by Maria Vittoria Alfonsi, Baldini Castoldi Dalai, Milan, 2008

Exhibitions

Acquisition

Author of file

Enrica Morini

Present location

Date of file

02/09/2009

Condition

Good/Fair – reconstruction, minor damage at hem,
some unthreading of beads



Fondazione Gianfranco Ferré

File
N. 32

