

2024 HSC TEXTILES MAJOR PROJECT

Designer Statement

Name

Emily
Iliffe

Title

Aetheria Couture

Focus Area

Apparel

My garment is an elegant, sophisticated, haute couture gown, predominantly inspired by Ancient Greek culture and mythology. I also took inspiration from a wide range of historical, cultural and contemporary ideas, such as tambour embroidery, the 1920s flapper gowns and contemporary designers Elie Saab and Zuhair Murad.

I was drawn to the style used for a variety of Greek goddesses, especially Artemis, the goddess of chastity, virginity, hunting, the moon, and the natural environment. This style conveys a look of comfort, combined with ease of movement and functionality, all while maintaining its femininity and elegance with soft draping and a cinched-in waist.

The use of silk in my garment allows for a lower environmental effect as it is a natural fibre that will biodegrade. As well as being a renewable resource, silk also uses less water, chemicals and energy. Additionally, I have utilised 100% natural avocado dye as it is not harmful to the environment. By using traditional, sustainable methods of dyeing I have been able to create a natural, soft, feminine effect.

The highly embellished waistband incorporates tambour beading and goldwork reflecting floral designs that were used in Ancient Greece to decorate pottery and mosaics. The ornate waistband is removable, allowing for versatility as the garment is able to adapt to a wider range of events beyond highly formal occasions.