

Bursary Report June 2015

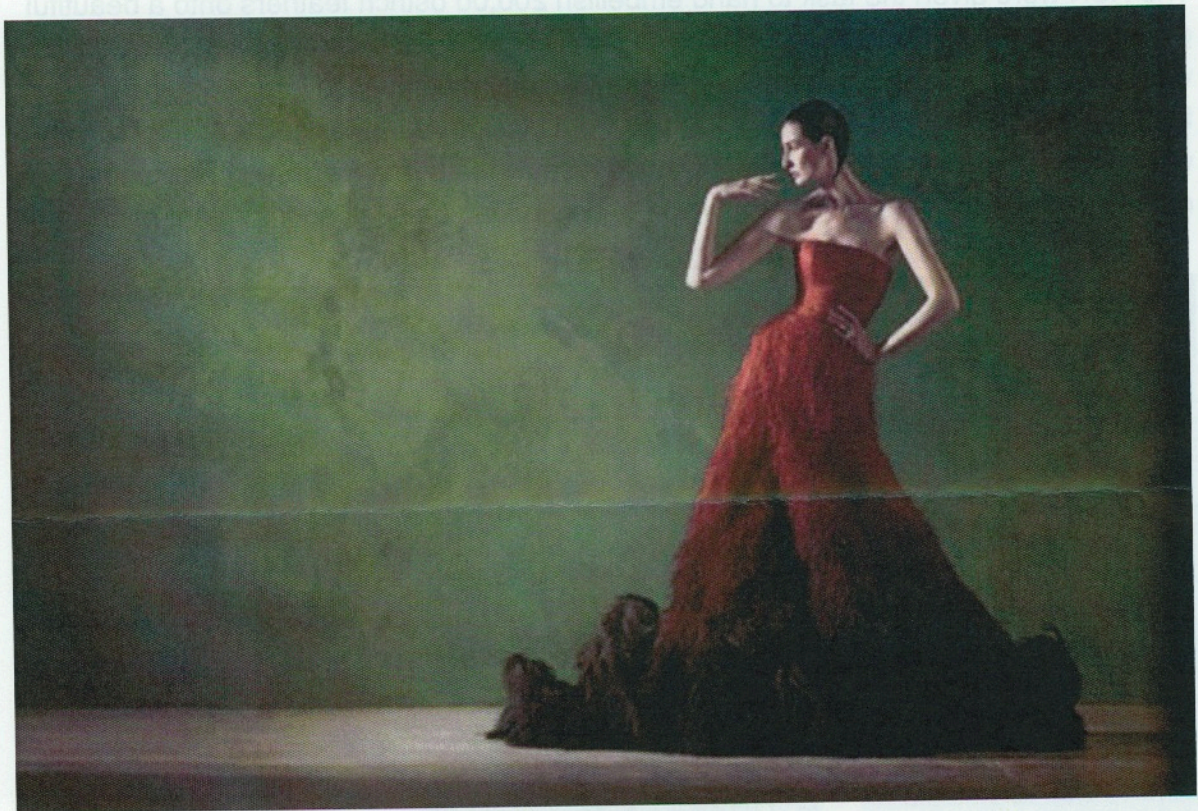
Hattie McGill, Fda2

The second half of my second year at the Royal School of Needlework has been just as busy, and bursting with exciting opportunities as the first half of the year. I came back, after the Christmas break to a very exciting commission from Nicholas Oakwell Couture. The RSN were given the task to hand embellish 200,00 ostrich feathers onto a beautiful gown that Nicholas Oakwell had designed for The GREAT British campaign. The gown was made up of two layers of delicate silk organza and entirely covered in ostrich feathers, which through 18 shades, ranged from black through to scarlet red. It took six weeks to finish all 25 dress panels. I was on a small team that focussed on stitching the main bodice parts, it was such a privilege to be working on such an important piece.



It was a tough project, with long days, entire weekends, evenings and a couple of overnights spent stitching on feathers. In total I probably spent over 150 hours on this project. However, I really enjoyed it, at times it was stressful and tiring - it was a huge project to take on and fit in around my other studies and projects. But I got really into it, I have never worked on something like this before and it was so good to see the dress

come to life. And when we put the skirt and bodice pieces together it was amazing to have a glimpse of what the dress was going to be like. As it was a collaborative project across all three years of the RSN, it was a really good opportunity to work with people who I may not normally get the chance too. I also learnt a lot - from framing up delicate fabrics, pattern marking, embroidery placement, quality control, and working on couture pieces. It was a really good experience and has really made me think about the areas of embroidery I wish to work in.



Also this year, I finished all my technical stitch lessons, ending on Stumpwork. As a final piece for this unit we were encouraged to create a three dimensional stump work piece. I really enjoyed this technical stitch and actually created three (quite tiny) individual stump work flowers which I displayed in glass bell jars.



My main project this year was a personal project, entitled 'Yesterday's Dishes' which was inspired by a trip mudlarking on the river thames at Hammersmith. I used the shards of china that I found as design inspiration.

I have had a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding year. Through much hard work, I feel I have developed further, both my design and sewing skills. I have been able to build on the skills learnt in my first year, and have stretched myself through new challenges and opportunities. I am hugely proud in what I have achieved this year, and by pushing myself in my work I have been able to create some standout pieces.

I am greatly looking forward progressing my work further and returning to the RSN for my final year.

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