

TREE + ILLUSION OF FALLING LEAVES DANCEWEAR / COSTUME

MY COLLECTION IS COMPRISED OF THE CHARACTER “TREE” FOR THE BALLET PRODUCTION “LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,” AND AN EXTENSION OF THAT CHARACTER TITLED “ILLUSION OF FALLING LEAVES.” THE FIRST LOOK IS A BODYSUIT ENCASED IN AN ASSEMBLAGE OF MACHINE KNIT, AND PLEATED WOVEN FABRIC. I USED MACHINE KNIT PUNCH CARDS TO REPLICATE THE TREE BARK IN AN ASSORTMENT OF WARM SPRING COLORS. THE WOVEN PLEATED FABRIC IS TWISTED AND WRAPPED TO MIMIC KNOTTED ROOTS AND KNOBBLY BRANCHES. THE GREEN KNOTS AND AMORPHOUS FORMS WERE ADDED IN IMITATION OF THE GROWTHS SO TYPICALLY FOUND ON TREES; GROWTHS SUCH AS MOSS. THE ENTIRE OUTER ASSEMBLAGE WAS SEWNE ON WITH KNOTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE PROBABILITY OF RIPPING, AS THIS IS A GARMENT THAT IS INTENDED FOR DANCE.

THE SECOND LOOK IS A CONCEPTUAL PIECE KNOTTED OUT OF MONOFILAMENT THREAD. DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS GARMENT REVOLVED ABOUT FINDING THE RIGHT THREAD THICKNESS AND BALANCING THE WEIGHTS BECAUSE THE NATURE OF THE THREAD IS ONE THAT BOUNCES. I KNIT THE LEAVES INDIVIDUALLY ON THE DOUBLE BED KNITTING MACHINE AND CHOSE THE HALF FISHERMAN’S KNITTING TECHNIQUE DUE TO ITS INTRICATE LOOK. TO ACHIEVE THE APPEARANCE OF FALLING DISINTEGRATING LEAVES I PULLED THE SELVAGE AND THE KNIT CURLS UP. THE DRESS IS AN ASYMMETRICAL KIMONO DRESS WITH OPEN-ENDED SLEEVES THAT STRETCHES PAST THE HEMLINE OF THE DRESS. THE QUALITY OF THE THREAD SUGGESTS AIR, SPACE; THE MOVEMENT OF THE WIND. THE ENTIRE DRESS IS A 360-DEGREE VISUAL EXPERIENCE THAT MAPS OUT THE PROCESS OF LEAVES THAT FALL, CHANGE FROM SHADES OF GREEN INTO THAT OF AUTUMNAL COLORS AND EVENTUALLY DISINTEGRATE INTO COLORLESS AMORPHOUS FORMS TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE DRESS.



