ABOUT THE ARTIST AND THE EXHIBITION

Throughout history, black clothing has come to symbolize everything from wealth to bereavement to teenage angst. Today, dressing in all black can be less about making a statement than merely making life more practical. However, the absence of color doesn’t necessarily correspond to simplistic, lackluster designs. In this installation of black evening wear from the SCAD Permanent Collection, drama and interest come from the expert choice of materials: the slickness of latex, the dimension achieved by layers of tulle, or the play of light and shadow inherent in lace or laser-cut mesh.

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Cover image: Oscar de la Renta, Robe de style, tulle and silk taffeta dress, Fall/Winter 2012. SCAD Permanent Collection, gift of Oscar de la Renta, New York, New York.

ABOUT SCAD AND SCAD MUSEUM OF ART

SCAD Museum of Art educational materials engage K-12 audiences in activities that enhance understanding of art and design — investigations that reveal relevant personal, historical, and cultural connections while promoting cross-disciplinary links necessary for today’s diverse careers.

For more information, visit scad.edu and scadmoa.org.
Fashion’s fascination with black extends back to at least the 16th century, where the color first became associated with stylish sophistication.

One clue to its enduring appeal is revealed through the lens of physics. Black objects absorb all light, reflecting none in return. In many ways, black has always been everything and nothing — the very definition of cool assertiveness — signaling an attitude that is simultaneously commanding and at ease.

Alike in refined black, these evening dresses are each the work of a different designer. Note the range of silhouettes represented and begin a visual study. Observe designer decisions regarding neckline, waistline, hemline, and their relative fit or fullness. How do these choices combine to affect a garment’s overall proportion?

Expand your analysis beyond shape to include line and texture. How are they used and to what effect? For instance, do these separate elements create movement, emphasis, balance, variety, rhythm, or unity?

Finally, observe nuances within the color black. Since it absorbs all light, black contains all colors and is capable of amazing depths. How many distinct shades of black can you discern? How is their appearance influenced by texture and reflection? Discuss your findings with friends — for instance, determine the darkest and lightest values. What names would you give to these shades?


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CITATIONS

NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS - 6th through 12th grade
Responding 8.1
Anchor: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
6: Interpret art by distinguishing between relevant and non-relevant contextual information and analyzing subject matter, characteristics of form and structure, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed.
7: Interpret art by analyzing art-making approaches, the characteristics of form and structure, relevant contextual information, subject matter, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed.
8: Interpret art by analyzing how the interaction of subject matter, characteristics of form and structure, relevant contextual information, art-making approaches, and relevant contextual information contributes to understanding messages or ideas and mood conveyed.

HSI: Interpret an artwork or collection of works, supported by relevant and sufficient evidence found in the work and its various contexts.
HSII: Identify types of contextual information useful in the process of constructing interpretations of an artwork or collection of works.
HSIII: Analyze differing interpretations of an artwork or collection of works in order to select and defend a plausible critical analysis.

COMMON CORE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6-8.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-12.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
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"The black dress for me is an enigma — you could create anything within its concept. With a black dress, every woman can be a stylist, a designer, each time constructing something new and unique around the elegant abstraction that is a black dress."

Oscar de la Renta, Robe de style, tulle and silk taffeta, Fall/Winter 2012. SCAD Museum of Art Permanent Collection, gift of Oscar de la Renta, New York, New York.

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601 Turner Blvd.
Savannah, Georgia
912.525.7191
scadmoa.org
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LEATHER, LACE & LUSTER

GROUP EXHIBITION

LATE JANUARY THROUGH JAN. 20

SCAD Museum of Art

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