

Ignight

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My brief was to design a unique garment inspired by natural disasters. Through this I will look at how fabrics, colours, forms and patterns will link to selected natural disasters.

To begin, I started with research on natural disasters and how they occur. From this research this I selected three main disasters: avalanches, floods, and bush fires. After research and experimentation with different design ideas I chose to explore and refine bushfires. This allowed me to use a range of colours and fabrics. Through this I came up with a refined final from previous rough designs. I was able work on unique techniques to push the creativity of my final product as I looked into Scott Jamison's work. His work inspired the burning technique on my final. Adding in the second layer to my design allowed for more volume and created a more unique look.

My design is based off the destructive nature of fires. I live in a rural town that has been devastated by many major bushfires in the recent years of global warming. I have had many families and friends affected by bushfires and have had many personal experiences of having to leave home to find a safe place to live while fires were threatening our home. I was inspired by Scott Jamison's work through his use of burning fabric on his final designs. I have incorporated this into my final to represent the destruction of bushfires. The layering with tulle created volume which matches the billowing effect of catastrophic bushfires. The burning of the dress portrays the destruction bushfires cause. The volume of the frame around the top of the dress is inspired by the natural shapes flames create.

A major choice in my practical was to burn the edges of the dress. Due to satin being a highly flammable fabric it was a big risk in burning the dress in case it when up in flames. Although it was a risk, it showcased a unique technique which extended my final. It created contrast in the colouring and textures of the fabric creating focal points. The framing around the dress created more volume on the dress mimicking the form of bushfires.

The mediums used in my piece are satin fabric, wire, and tulle. The use of the wire was to give the fabric shape and form allowing it to portray the flames of a bushfire. The was bendable which allowed me to manipulate the shape. The use of satin allowed a smooth texture that was slightly reflective illustrating the glow and texture of bushfires. The use of tulle gave the dress more volume inspired by the structures of the base of a bushfire but layering the tulle and satin on the dress proved to be difficult due to the thickness of everything on top of each other. To prevent the needle from breaking, we had to sew it slowly and make sure everything was straight. The use of different colours of satin created contrast with the black base dress creating focal points.

My final successfully portrays bushfires and showcases the destructive nature through the burning of fabric. This final has taught me how to replicate the natural shapes and forms through the media that I had chosen. I learnt how to gather fabric to increase the volume of the form of clothing.