



THE APPEARANCE OF WOMEN'S COSTUMES IN THE RENAISSANCE AS INSPIRATION FOR A NEW MODEL OF CONTEMPORARY WOMEN'S CLOTHING

Professional paper
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ABSTRACT: *This paper analyzes the Renaissance period, from the 14th to the 17th century. The clothing, designs and trends worn during this period are also presented. The new model realized in this paper is inspired by the fashion of this period, but it has been redesigned in a new modern form. The model is creative and innovative for the modern fashion world, but also brings the past through hand-sewed applications, but with new contemporary interpretation. The unbreakable connection between the Renaissance and contemporary fashion is also given.*

Keywords: *Renaissance, trends, costumes, fashion, ornaments.*

IZGLED ŽENSKIH KOSTIMA U RENESANSI KAO INSPIRACIJA ZA NOVI MODEL SAVREMENE ŽENSKE ODEĆE

APSTRAKT: *Ovaj rad analizira period renesanse, od 14. do 17. veka. Takođe je predstavljena odeća, dizajn i trendovi koji su se nosili tokom tog perioda. Novi model realizovan u ovom radu inspirisan je modom tog perioda, ali je redizajniran u novom modernom obliku. Model je kreativan i inovativan za savremeni svet mode, ali donosi i prošlost kroz ručno šivene aplikacije, ali sa novom savremenom interpretacijom. Takođe je data neraskidiva veza između renesanse i savremene mode.*

Ključne reči: *renesansa, trendovi, kostimi, moda, ornamenti.*



1. INTRODUCTION

The Renaissance is known as a cultural and artistic movement that first appeared in Italy between the 14th and 16th centuries. It later spread throughout Europe to countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, England, France, Spain, and Portugal. The origins of Renaissance art can be traced to Italy in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. During this period, Italian artists and scholars found themselves inspired by the ideas and developments of classical Roman culture.

The Renaissance left behind a number of important works that have influenced artists for centuries, including the most recent phase of humanity. Many of the Renaissance creations had unique characteristics that entered the history of art. Paintings such as the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, by Leonardo Da Vinci, have become emblems of Renaissance art that influence many artists today. On the other hand, sculptures such as David and the Pietà, by Michelangelo, are part of the cultural heritage that the Renaissance left to humanity. The Renaissance, on an intellectual level, allows human beings to understand that the past should not be forgotten and that many of its aspects can be key to the development of new ideas in modernity [1,2].

1.1 Fashion during the Renaissance

Fashion was a kind of status symbol during this period. The authorities began to seriously deal with class differences and the way of dressing, and they determined by law. Wealthy citizens and nobles wore expensive clothes decorated with embroidery, silk dresses, furs and belts. Ordinary citizens and peasants were not allowed to wear silk. They wore simple clothes without any decorations. Women, like men, wore their day dresses over linen shirts. They usually consisted of one or two parts. The one-piece dress was long from the shoulders to the feet. The upper part of the dress was made of sturdy material and resembled men's waistcoats, and in the middle of the 15th century it was replaced by a corset. The two-piece dress, on the other hand, consisted of a petticoat (linen shirt and skirt) and was a rather luxurious dress. The puffy petticoat, as it was called, was not hidden, and could be seen under the main dress in the area of the sleeves and around the neck.

Until the beginning of the 16th century, the style remained the same, the clothes gained volume - they became wider and more pleated. Over the years, the main elements of the clothes remained the same, and only the details changed, such as the sharpness of the cut, the height of the collar, the fullness of the material, depending on the wishes of the kings and queens.

Throughout the Renaissance period, women dressed differently, and the style of the collar often varied. In the middle of the 15th century, collars were high and rounded. Towards the end of the same century, this style changed and became a fashionable expression. The collar was most often made of lace or linen, and the lace strips were folded in the shape of the number eight.

The hair of aristocratic women was gathered in buns with large volume, decorated with pearls, hairpins or small hats that added height to the bun.

Men during this period most often wore layered clothing, which consisted of a silk shirt, vest, cloak, short trousers and socks. The silk shirt was the basic piece of clothing. Although the shirt was a symbol of the working class, hard work and the difficult life of the peasant. Nobles wore a vest or doublet over silk shirts. Over it, they wore a cloak, long and wide made of luxurious materials, which symbolized their elegance, wealth, and noble origin. A mandatory part were short trousers to the knees, under which they wore knee-length socks. Later, men began to wear helaks, and over them a knee-length tunic. The tunic had to be richly decorated along the edges, and a vest was worn over it [3]. Equally important parts of men's clothing were shoes and hats. During this period, men's shoes were deep, pointed, and most often worn indoors, while leather clogs with wooden soles were worn outside.

Towards the end of the 15th century, shoes became rounded and had a ribbon tied around the ankle. By the end of the Renaissance period, shoes were becoming thinner and lighter. Hats also contributed to the appearance of the Renaissance man, even being punished if they had their heads uncovered. They were often decorated with a luxurious feather, and sometimes with precious stones.

The clothing of the lower classes was simple in cut, colors and without decorations. The poor woman also wore a half-corset in the waist area, which ended just below the chest. Poor men, on the other hand, wore wider trousers, tied around the waist and around the legs [4,5].

1.2. Women's fashion in England during the Renaissance

The style of clothing worn by women in Renaissance England changed from year to year, but the basic styles remained the same. Women's clothing consisted of a tight bodice and an ankle-length skirt. The skirt had a higher neckline and was quite acceptable and fashionable. The clothing of upper-class women was quite heavy and inconvenient for movement. Women from the lower classes wore much lighter clothing because they did not have servants to help them dress. Their corsets were looser or they did not wear them at all [6,7].

1.3. Fashion trends in France during the Renaissance

Fashion in France was constantly changing, incorporating the latest fashion elements from different countries. Certain styles that were worn were adopted from England, Germany, Italy and Spain. The colors that prevailed were mostly bright colors such as red, yellow, purple, pink and green which were popular for both men and women.

French fashion was heavily influenced by Italian fashion as a result of the reign of Francis I. He was known for the opulence of his clothing and the use of silk. His effort and his desire for attention were especially outstanding when wearing satin that was branched with gold and purple velvet with various embroidery. Francis and his courtiers often wore linen shirts with flat collars, embroidered in black. Hats had ostrich feathers or they decorated with metal and gold badges. The sleeves were quite voluminous and contrasting fabrics were used to emphasize the voluminousness.



Figure 1: Marguerite de Navarre princess of France

Source: <https://vb.com/margueritedenavarre/>

The king's (Francis I) sister, Margherita of Navarre (Fig.1), was known for her modern style, she was quite fond of exquisite silhouettes, plunging necklines with elaborately cut sleeves and black capes. She also had a passion for pearls, delicate embroidery and patterns, and other rich gemstones. Marguerite de Navarre was also known as women of the Reformation. Because of her distinctive legacy, by Samuel Putnam she also has been called “The first modern woman”. Her unique position as both a royal and a reformist, a patron of both the arts and religious thoughts, makes Marguerite de Navarre an important historical figure, whose impact continues to inspire scholars, feminists, and intellectuals today [8, 9].

1.4. Fashion trends in Spain during the Renaissance

In contrast to the colorful splendor and elegance of England and France, the Spanish style was quite dark and solemn. Men and women wore simple clothes with little decoration. The shoulders “lost” their volume and the sleeves became narrower. The skirts were short and slightly open. The colors of the fabrics were black, dark green, dark red and gray. The most commonly used were velvet and satin with a few pearl decorations. Titian is a good example of the heavy and rigid fashion in Spain (Fig. 2). The painting portrays a male figure set against a flat black background. He appears to be looking at an indefinite point to the left of the canvas, with his left arm laid on his knee. He could be pointing at his gloves, which were a fashion statement at the time. He is dressed in a black wide jacket and a white shirt, as statement of the fashion of the period. The man's gloved left hand holds a second leather glove, an accessory used by the most refined gentlemen of the time. His right hand is adorned with a golden ring, as a symbol of richness, and sapphire and a pearl necklace [10,11].



Figure 2: Titian - Man with a Glove painted c. 1520 It is part of the collections of the Musée du Louvre, Paris

Source: <https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/c1010062290>

1.5. Renaissance jewelry

In the 14th century, after a slow growth in the Middle Ages, Europe finally experienced the Renaissance. It brought with it a rapid development of art, technology, knowledge, science, and infrastructure. The Renaissance connected civilizations through new trade routes that resulted in the exchange of culture, religion, and technology. This gave the world access to rare raw materials and precious stones. During this period, precious raw materials in Europe came from different parts of the world, right into the hands of artists who transformed the raw stones into exquisite pieces of jewelry.

Renaissance goldsmiths were innovative and skilled in creating gold and gilded jewelry. They used a variety of techniques to create perfect pieces, including casting, forging, soldering, and welding. More advanced techniques included embossing, enameling, engraving, and filigree decoration. Craftsmen mastered these techniques, drawing on ancient traditions to create stunning pieces of jewelry for wealthy clients. Some of the more successful goldsmiths of the Renaissance included Lorenzo Ghiberti, who began his career in the late 14th century. He was followed by Sandro Boccitelli, Luca della Robbia, and Andrea del Verrocchio. The discovery and appropriation of artifacts from the New World, as well as raw materials from mines in Peru and Mexico, made gold readily available to goldsmiths during the Renaissance.

With the development of trade in the Renaissance, Europe became rich in a large number of raw materials, jewelry and precious stones. Very often they were cut, rounded or differently shaped, and sometimes forged. New types of jewelry with stones previously unknown, with new and specific designs, were also observed. The most famous were stones cut in a rectangular shape and those in a round shape. Due to the popularity of simple rectangular cuts, stones were often set in gold frames in the shape of a box.



Often jewelry from that time has irregular edges due to uneven processing of the corners. Some of the precious stones from this period included diamonds and rubies from India, lapis lazuli from Afghanistan, emeralds from Colombia, iolite from Sri Lanka and turquoise from Brazil. Beads were also very popular, especially in the Victorian Era. When it comes to pearls, imitation pearls first appeared in the Renaissance, and for that reason, a law was passed in Italy that prohibited the use and placement of fake jewelry.

Pendants were considered the most eminent piece of jewelry at the time. Replacing the brooch, pendants were worn hanging from long gold chains, pinned to the dress or worn on the belt. Carved to perfection, the pendants featured miniature sculptures with biblical motifs and monograms. They were also designed for partners who wanted to have their initials inscribed on jewelry.

Portraits from the Middle Ages show that women often covered their ears with hair. In the Renaissance, they began to wear earrings and proudly flaunt them. The most common earrings were pear-shaped and drop-shaped. They were made of precious stones or pearls. The ferronier was made with only one precious stone. This piece of jewelry served as an ornament and women wore it around their heads, with the precious stone in front, on their forehead. Other types of ornaments were decorated with pearls and precious stones, forming a solid chain that women wore in their hair. The Renaissance is a period in history in which all European countries began to experiment with fashion and jewelry. Over time, different jewelry designs developed, inspired by different cultures and religions. Antique Renaissance pieces are classic, expensive and timeless. The collectible historical copies, presented in our Renaissance collection, bear witness to the history of this era, while also showcasing the creativity of this wonderful period of innovation [12, 13].

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Design inspired by Renaissance

2.1.1. Inspiration for the model

Fashion is a complex phenomenon in philosophical, sociological, cultural and commercial terms. On the other hand, fashion trends are the main features of almost all major designer collections, they are actually an indicator of the direction in which fashion will move. Fashion forecasters are constantly looking for inspiring styles that are harbingers of the future, ideas that capture the mood and behavior of potential consumers at the moment and at the same time signal a new fashion trend.

The Renaissance period is a great inspiration for a creative mind. From luxurious materials to uniquely crafted details and decorations, the Renaissance represents a rich treasure trove of ideas for a large number of fashion designers. *“Everything old is new again”*, was the quote that was used as an inspiring moment in the creation of the new model [14, 15]. Marguerite de Navarre princess of France (1492-1549) was a writer, philosopher, diplomat, and Queen of Navarre, sister of King Francois I (Francis I of France, r. 1515-1547). She was taken as an inspiration for the new contemporary model of woman clothes. Not only her fashion sense, but also her entire personality, as a woman with the power of influence, a woman who supports change, a woman who is an inspiration to others with her intelligence. She is remembered as a great Renaissance woman who fully embodied

the better aspects of her age. Her modest influence and reformist spirit served as inspiration to create a new model of women's clothing that would encourage women's self-confidence, a model that would require boldness in presentation, a model that would merge the past and the future into one powerful present in which the woman is influential, powerful, but still modest and empathetic. The model expresses a woman's readiness for change, self-confidence, and her own power.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. New redesigned model of women's costume

The new model is made from a basic blouse and skirt cut. Additional parts of asymmetric material are attached to the upper part. On the lower part, metal circles on the waist and metal plates that symbolize this period are sewn by hand.



Figure 3: The final appearance of the new model (front part)



Figure 3: a) The final appearance of the new model (rear part) b) Handmade head accessory

The colors chosen for the model are orange and brown. The color orange signifies enthusiasm, fascination, creativity, encouragement and encouragement, as well as the period itself, which signifies rebirth, striving for something new. The color brown is often associated with the earth, solid and secure, at times sharp and empty. Overall, they signify power and security, for something new, different. The cut of the model emphasizes the female figure, with a dose of extravagance that is obtained through the metal accessories that are handmade as a memory of a this era when manual work was imperative. The length of the skirt symbolizes female elegance and dignity, and the shirt with accessories on the shoulders is synonymous with female strength and power. The model is complemented by a headbun decorated with hand-embroidered accessories. This ornament is a symbol of female power and prestige. The model overall expresses a woman's belief in her own worth and her own power.

4. CONCLUSION

Fashion is a complex phenomenon in philosophical, sociological, cultural and commercial terms. On the other hand, fashion trends are the main features of almost all major designer collections, they are actually an indicator of the direction in which fashion trends will move. The Renaissance left behind a number of important works that have influenced artists for centuries, including the most recent phase of humanity. Many of the Renaissance creations had unique characteristics that entered the history of art. Fashion was a kind of status symbol during this period. The authorities began to seriously deal with class differences and the way of dressing, and they determined by law. Wealthy citizens and nobles wore expensive clothes decorated with embroidery, silk dresses, furs and belts. Ordinary citizens and peasants were not allowed to wear silk. They wore simple clothes without any decorations. French fashion was heavily influenced by Italian fashion as a result of the reign of Francis I. He was known for the opulence of his clothing and the use of silk. Marguerite de Navarre was significant person in this time, she was also called “The first modern woman”. In contrast to the colorful splendor and elegance of England and France, the Spanish style was quite dark and solemn. Men and women wore simple clothes with little decoration. During this period, precious raw materials in Europe came from different parts of the world, right into the hands of artists who transformed the raw stones into exquisite pieces of jewelry. Renaissance goldsmiths were innovative and skilled in creating gold and gilded jewelry. With the development of trade in the Renaissance, Europe became rich in a large number of raw materials, jewelry and precious stones. Pendants were considered the most eminent piece of jewelry at the time. Replacing the brooch, pendants were worn hanging from long gold chains, pinned to the dress or worn on the belt. The Renaissance period is a great inspiration for a creative mind. From luxurious materials to uniquely crafted details and decorations, the Renaissance represents a rich treasure trove of ideas for a large number of fashion designers. “*Everything old is new again*”, was the quote that was used as an inspiring moment in the creation of the new model. Marguerite de Navarre princess of France was taken as an inspiration for the new contemporary model of woman clothes. Not only her fashion sense, but also her entire personality, as a woman with the power of influence, a woman who supports change, a woman who is an inspiration

to others with her intelligence. She will be remembered as a great Renaissance woman who fully embodied the better aspects of her age.

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