MIDNIGHT BOUQUET

by

Jody Aultman PhD
The project started with a funding from the Faculty/Professional Staff Research And Creative Activity Grant Program.

The larger meaning of this project was to create a garment using techniques I haven’t tried before.

While I was searching for different embroidery techniques and supplies, I came across the goldwork embroidery.

I decided that I would like to create a garment using goldwork embroidery on a black silk charmeuse evening dress.
Gold work is embroidery using metal threads and bullions.

It is thought to have been created in Asia nearly 2000 years ago.

It refers to embroideries in ecclesiastical hangings. (Pile, 2018)

Many were worked on linen showing religious themes. (Bumpkin, 2015)

The 12th century saw a decline in goldwork embroidery due to the plague killing half of the population.

A section of an altar frontal featuring high-relief goldwork. Date unknown, McDonald, 2018. p 221
The 16th century saw a revival of the technique of heavily embroidered garments which were used as attire for the rich, creating a status symbol for the wealthy. (Pile, 2018)

Early 19th century disappeared from fashion with a limited use in haute couture.

A pomegranate using gold and cotton threads. Date unknown  McDonald, 2018. p 241
Today goldwork is no longer privileged to the church and the wealthy.

- It is very time consuming with stunning looks.
- The goldwork attracts attention from embroiderers going in new directions with the art.

Using different threads and metals to create a design. McDonald, 2018. p257
My plan for this project was to make an evening gown out of black silk charmeuse, with a full skirt and tulle to help hold the shape.

On the bodice of the dress, I planned to use different gold threads, Flatworm, Gimp Cords, Grecian Twist, Purl Threads, etc. to design a pattern.

I used some gold on the skirt in various places, but not too much as the gold is heavy and can weigh the flow of the skirt down.

This project has helped me grow in my personal skills as an artist and a fashion designer.

I am now better equipped to assist students in learning this advanced skill.
SUPPLIES PURCHASED

Threads/Metal Threads

Metal Embroidery Threads

Black Silk Charmeuse and Black/Gold Trim
BODICE MOCK-UP
EMBROIDERY DESIGN

Design choice for garment

Design placement on the bodice
DETAIL OF EMBROIDERY
UNDESKIRT

Tulle Underskirt made from 34 yards of Tulle
DRESS FRONT

![Image of a black dress with green and gold embroidery and bead detailing]
DRESS SIDE
DRESS BACK
Dress is on display in the Human Ecology Showcase on the first floor next to Barbara Weigand gallery.
