

### Inspiration:

Van Herpen regularly draws inspiration from the natural sciences to create rarefied, strangely gorgeous garments, many of which employ unexpected materials and 3-D printing. This can clearly be seen in dress 12 in the

### Techniques:

Although Van Herpen is considered to be one of the most innovative and consequential fashion designers currently at work, her clothing often looks more like modern sculpture. Van Herpen's work unites the most forward-looking technology with artisanal craftsmanship which can be seen in dress 12 the use of Transparent polyethylene terephthalate, ECCO leather with oil treatment, goat leather, silver chains, and viscose

Van Herpen does not sketch her ideas on paper; she drapes material onto a mannequin and finds the shape she wants with her hands. When designing dress 12 she did not know what the form would be until she saw it on the mannequin.

Van Herpen's designs require the highly skilled hand stitching that defines haute couture. Although her collections are small, with fewer than eighteen outfits they take a team of skilled seamstresses to construct.. However Dress 12 is from one of her earlier she made by herself took a team of skilled workers to complete however her earlier she no longer makes them all by herself, and employs a team of seamstresses.

Van Herpen was the first designer to send 3D-printed couture down the runway, beginning in 2010. Since then, 3D-printing has become a hot new tool in the fashion industry, with major designers creating geometric cutout gowns, stiff and shiny trims and garments that resemble skeletons or Medieval armor. These innovations are mostly for runways, though a few have filtered into ready-to-wear. The luxury brand Pringle of Scotland has woven 3D-printed elements into the patterns and cuffs of its sweaters.

3D-printing technology has been around since the 1980s, and architects, engineers and industrial designers have been using the printers, which create objects layer by layer, to create models and prototypes for decades. There was an explosion of interest in the technique a few years ago, as the technology became more affordable and home printers debuted.

### Craftsmanship and new techniques

Iris van Herpen is renowned for her remarkable outfits in which she combines traditional craftsmanship with innovative techniques such as rapid prototyping. Her choice of material is radical, e.g. processed leather, synthetic boat rigging and the ribs of children's umbrellas. Van Herpen creates organic and futuristic sculptural effects with an astonishing visual impact.

Creating a new silhouette is important in her work. Van Herpen regards fashion as a form of self-expression in which she translates her association and fascination with everyday reality into a collection. Each collection has its own narrative, and wearability is not the ultimate criterion. For instance, Radiation Invasion is about the invisible waves of radiation that surround us and make telecommunication possible. The Synesthesia collection has a neurological phenomenon as its point of departure, where a mingling of sensory perceptions occurs. There are people who can 'see' music, for example, or can 'taste' colours.