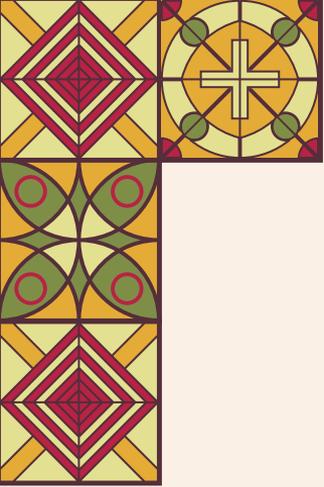




# POISE IN DECAY

*A Piece By Jose Velasquez*





# What is “*POISE IN DECAY?*”

*“Poise in Decay” is a dress that symbolizes the imminence of death, decay, and destruction. The concept of blooming and withering is not exclusive to living beings – it echoes through fashion trends, economic cycles, social movements, and, in this case, entire societies and nations.*





**"How does one expand the fabric of space and time?"**

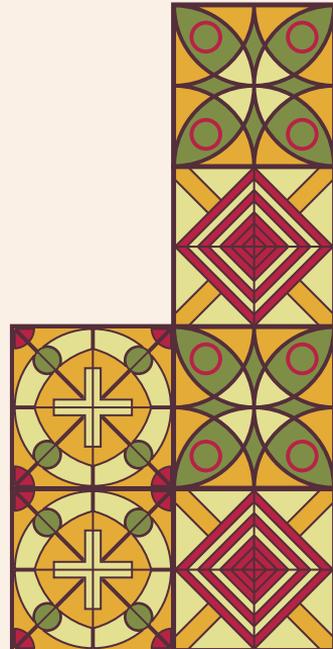
**This question took me back to my high school British literature class where we dissected Shelley's Ozymandias — a poem about the inevitable decay of empires. For me, this theme echoes most clearly in flowers: they bloom brilliantly, only to wither with time.**





**To convey the idea of power, decay, and the passage of time, I turned to dressmaking—my passion and storytelling medium. I drew inspiration from the empire waist silhouette, a style once associated with elegance and regality, yet bound to a specific historical moment.**

**I also chose to sew real flowers into the dress, layering symbolism: flowers, like power and beauty, are vibrant but fleeting. As they wither, they mirror the decay of empires—a living echo of Shelley’s *Ozymandias*, where even greatness fades with time.**





**In just two and a half days, the dress came to life—lined with muslin, topped with silk chiffon, and flowing just as I envisioned.**

**With the help of my friends Anna and Rachel, I was able to capture the distressed beauty of a crumbling, expanding world.**





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