

Exhibition Review_Let There Be Light | Sun Young Choi

I enjoyed watching the video of the very interesting exhibit called Let There Be Light at the Hong Kong Polytechnic Fashion Gallery. The fashions are beautiful, and I found access to the back story even more satisfying. The designer's explanation was thoughtful and brought attention to materials, technique and concept, each of which can be a source of artistic inspiration. These garments bring all three together in poetic symbiosis. The resonance between the gritty psychedelic art of the 1960's, which I remember well, and Dr Sun Young Choi's very refined, almost ethereal pallet was thought provoking. The concept of Light in her work will make the wearer seem to glow from within the garment. If the drug induced artistic inspiration of the 1960s has changed so much, what else has? Are we in a better place now? I was particularly pleased by her explanation of sewing techniques. The Korean seams in particular are very effective in her garments, as they are in Korean Pojagi wrapping cloths. The construction using multiple layers in some of these garments suggests the indigo dyed multi-layered jackets made by the Chinese minority Miao people, which may not have been what the artist had in mind at all, but which resonates with me. This inclusivity of multiple traditional and historic concepts and cutting-edge 21st century techniques is emblematic of a rich artistic world view. Dr Sun Young Choi has created a unique and visually enticing collection. Bravo.

Barbara Shapiro

Member of the Review Board of the Fashion Gallery 2020-2022

www.BarbaraShapiro.com

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