

# **A Study of Embroidered Fashion Design -Using Peony Patterns-**

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Embroidery, a type of traditional handicraft, has been used widely in textile history, as well as in the dress and everyday goods of both Eastern and Western cultures. Embroidery uses the innate qualities of textiles and fibers and picturesque elements to create diverse and organic artistic compositions. With needle and thread, embroidery can be used to represent patterns, compositions, letters, picturesque scenes, animals and plant life.

Embroidery had many purposes. First, it was a means to beautify oneself, secondly, it had an ornamental purpose and, third, it was used to differentiate class and social position. In modern society, embroidery is not simply a means for ornamentation, but a means of pure artistic representation. Also called needle paintings, embroidery is a growing branch of plastic art.

Patterns are manifestations of things that can be found in everyday life that reflect mans general principles, items of virtue and basic desires, such as riches and sexual love. It can be viewed as superstitious charms or prayers given up by people for the realization of these things in their lives.

This is the most commonly used pattern in embroidery. The simplified, abstract patterns are symbols of flowers that are said to bring prosperity and fruits that bring many sons and much luck. Such flowers and fruits include the peony, lotus flower, evergreen tree, bamboo tree, pomegranates, a mythical peach, chrysanthemum, maple and paulownia tree.

The peony was considered to be the most beautiful flower in the country for its lovely violet color and also called the flower of prosperity as it was said to symbolize riches and good fortune. Everyone from royalty to the common people used this pattern as a way of giving up prayers. The peony, as well as the phoenix and the butterfly, can be found on the robes worn by princesses and royal concubines, coin purses, pillowcases, ornaments, folding screens, as well as common everyday items.

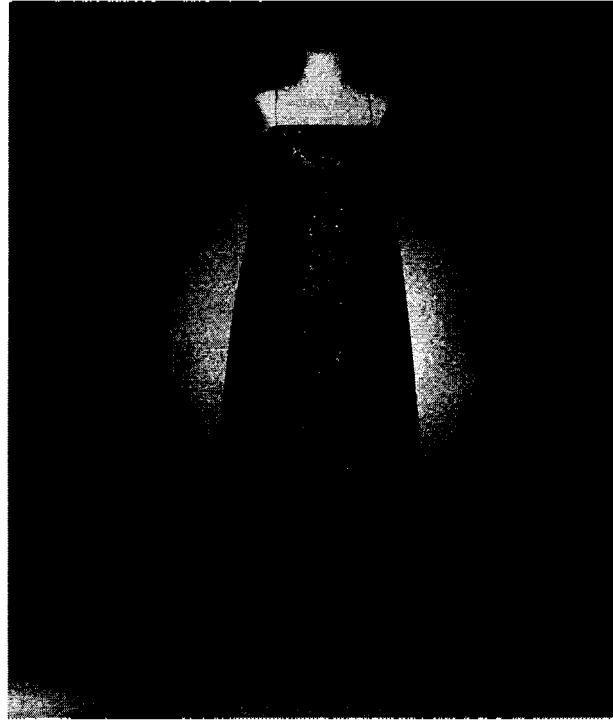
Each pattern held significant meaning in traditional embroidery, but in modern times, these patterns are merely ornamental and used for the purposes of design.

This piece uses a two-tone deep violet as the main color to add a mysteriously elegant quality and uses a pastel violet in the front and in the neckline. 3-4 kinds of rayon thread in a similar color tone are used to embroider the peony patterns to add stability to the whole design.

The design is centered on the chest and the horizontal direction of the lotus flowers and leaves harmonizes with the vertical direction of the branches on the jacket ties in front making the entire design appear light and soft and emphasizing the beauty of space and Asian lines. The subtle and natural pattern makes for a slim and flowing silhouette.

This study sought to use embroidery to add a traditional beauty to modern designs and to create more elegant and aesthetic, as well as practical and functional, apparel. The research has led to the following conclusions. First of all, the antique image of embroidery played a very important role in minimizing the uniformity of modern designs while, simultaneously, raising their innate value. Secondly, by reinterpreting embroidery patterns and adding them to

modern designs, it was possible to witness the potential for creating new and unique designs.



<Figure> "Korean in New York"