

**Ramyaneer Mukherjee '20**

*La Douleur Exquise*, 2019

Black power mesh, black taffeta, black tulle, plastic boning, invisible zipper

ART500

*La Douleur Exquise* (noun) - the heart-wrenching pain of wanting someone you can't have

"Unrequited love has turned many a heroine crazy, running through the rain, hair slicked back and mouth agape, wailing for the one they cannot have. After a montage of tears and chocolate, a dark side comes out, a side with a hunger for revenge. I wanted to capture that heart-wrenching feeling through the clothes we wear. *La Douleur Exquise* shows the dichotomy between romance and rebellion through fashion. The uniform black throughout the bodice and skirt evokes a



sense of mourning for the one that got away. I chose to design this with a gown silhouette in mind because of its elegance and beauty. The cinched mesh flares out from the waist, creating a jarring sense of edge. The transparent mesh in the bodice adds a provocative touch, the idea that the wearer has nothing else to expose except their bare skin. The black boning down the sides of the bodice echoes a dominatrix-style outfit, to give the power back to the wearer.

Fashion is not just the clothes we pull out of our clothes every morning. Fashion is a powerful form of expression. We can express our identity and feelings through the clothes we wear. *La Douleur Exquise* explores the feeling of unrequited love and anger through fashion."

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