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Fashion Institute of Technology- SUNY Textile/Surface Design Department
TD113- Introduction To Textile/Surface Design: Vocabulary, Styles And Sources
Professor Susanne Goetz

Historic Design Inspiration Board

A story (or mood, or inspiration) board is a form of visual stimulus material, usually comprising large boards covered with visual information such as, images, color, swatches, fabric swatches, text, surfaces, found objects etc. They are designed to visually communicate the essence of a designer's interpretation of a given theme.

Your first assignment is to create a Historic Design Inspiration Board, visually interpreting artwork and referencing your sources. We will take a field trip to a New York museum to research artifacts from the medieval period such as tapestry, paintings, carvings, metalwork etc. You present the board in class with a brief explanation of your research and design decisions.

Required elements to include in your storyboard are

- High quality visual material pertinent to your theme. Make a clear distinction between the historic and contemporary board.
- Five to twelve color swatches of your identified color palette for each board.
- Five to ten fabric swatches for each board that relate to your imagery in color, pattern, motifs, texture and/or mood.
- Citations in MLA format of all visual material presented.

Creating a story (or mood, or inspiration) board helps you define your theme more precisely and evaluate existing approaches to your theme. It will help you remain focused and consistent as your design collection develops. It's also a great communication aid when explaining your vision to others (in the critique, when you show your portfolio, to clients or the media etc.).

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