

WEEKEND

A UNL exhibit showcases the work of
Omaha designer Mary Anne Vaccaro

Up Close and Couture

BY LISA PRUE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The simple, elegant couture designs of Mary Anne Vaccaro are on exhibit for the first time in the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Vaccaro's unique creations are a sensual feast of cut velvet, 24-karat gold lace and rare silks.

"She has some really exquisite, opulent fabrics," said Barbara Trout, an associate professor in UNL's Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design.

Trout said the exhibit of about 40 items is an opportunity for the department's students and the public to get a closer look at the works of a successful couture designer.

The exhibit features ensembles made for Kay Orr, Lisa Yanney Roskins and Mary Daub — as well as A-Sar-Ben coronation gowns, wedding dresses, day suits and a series of porcelain shoes Vaccaro designed.

And featured among other illustrations are drawings the designer made in the sixth grade.

Vaccaro said people who see her couture designs are always surprised by how simple and different they are from the wild designer fashions seen on New York and international runways.

"It has gotten to be so outrageous," said Vaccaro. "Tom Ford, John Galiano, Alexander McQueen — they do things like put basket weave hats together with blouses that expose the left breast with linen sarong

skirts and stainless steel shoes. What they present is an insult to the client."

Vaccaro said many people have a misunderstanding of what couture is.

"It is the art of the dress and the collaboration with the client," she said.

Vaccaro studied at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

She said that although some pieces have been shown in galleries and in fashion shows, this is the first time her designs have been shown as works of art.

"I love beautiful clothes," said Vaccaro. "I want to be known as a designer who makes something beautiful and lets beautiful speak for itself."



JEFFREY Z. GARNEY/THE WORLD-HERALD

SLINKY: Silk fabrics and gold accents predominate in these Mary Anne Vaccaro designs from fall 1991 and fall 1996.



SWINGY: Multi-colored jacket, matching bustier and black satin skirt were designed in 1995.

The Many Sides Of Mary Anne Vaccaro

What: Exhibit by Omaha couture designer

Where: The Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery, College of Human Resources and Family Sciences, 35th and Holdrege Streets, Lincoln

When: 410 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, through March 3
Artist Lecture: 2 p.m. Feb. 13 in Room 11 of the Home Economics Building

Information:
(402) 472-2911.



SHORTY: This lace and silk taffeta, strapless dress and