



The Tudors Season 3, Henry VIII, 2016, designed by Joan Bergin, CC-BY-SA-

Costume Design for Junior Cycle



icap

IRISH COSTUME
ARCHIVE PROJECT

In this resource you will explore the relationship between costume & character by looking at the *Best Costume Goes To...* exhibition and objects from the Hunt Museum Permanent Collection.

You will learn:

- What costume is and why it is important
 - The work of a costume designer
- How to research various time periods for costume design.

You will create:

- Use your research to design an accessory to accompany a costume from the *Best Costume Goes To...* exhibition.



What is Costume?

A **costume** is any garment worn by a character in film, television, or theatre.

Costume is a tool used by directors. It provides details about a character's personality and helps to create realistic people on screen.

It also gives information on the tone and style of the production by telling us when and where the story is set, and what the characters' lives are like.



What is Costume Design?

Costume design is the process of creating a believable appearance for the characters on screen or stage.

What is the difference between fashion design and costume design?

Fashion designers create pieces to be sold to and worn by the public, while costume designers are guided by a script or screen play to create clothing for specific characters. They often have to replicate garments from historical periods or create functional ones for stunt actors.

Character & Costume

Let's take a look at the **Best Costume Goes To...** exhibition from the Hunt Museum. It showcases costumes from films and major television productions that have a connection with Ireland.



Use this link:

https://www.huntmuseum.com/virtual_tour/
to view our virtual tour.

Take a look at the costumes on the following pages and see what can you tell about the characters who wore them! Use the Virtual Tour to help you answer these questions for each costume:

- In what time period does the character live?
 - Where are they from?
 - What were they doing while wearing the costume?
- What kind of person were they (what is their job, are they wealthy, what kind of personality do they have, do they have any special interests, etc.)
 - Who was the costume designer?
- What techniques and processes were used to make this costume?
- What kind of research do you think they had to do?

1.

Costume designers often construct the costumes with help from a team. This T.V. show had an in-house costume workshop that made approximately 1,500 costumes.



Photographer: Brendan Walsh, Designed by Joan Bergain, CC-BY-SA-NC

2.

Aging a costume is called **breakdown**. It is a skilled process using different techniques depending on the fabric. Aging can be achieved by tearing, staining, stressing, or over-washing.

Why would a costume need to be aged?



Photographer: Brendan Walsh, Designed by Lea Carlson, CC-BY-SA-

3.



Designed by Jany Temime, CC-BY-SA-NC

4.

Costume designers have to think about other aspects of the film, such as set design. The film that featured this costume had a highly decorated and colourful set. For this reason, the costume designer chose to make many of the costumes in black and white fabrics. This helped the background to stand out.



Photographer: Brendan Walsh, Designed by Sandy Powell, CC-BY-SA-NC

5.

Costume designers work hard to research the time period in which the production has been set. However, often costumes aren't completely historically accurate. This is because they use their imaginations to reinterpret clothing from the past. This makes the costumes more effective so they enhance the story and characters to a greater degree.



Designed by Joan Bergin, CC-BY-SA-NC

6.



Designed by Joan Bergin, CC-BY-SA-NC

7.



Photographer: Brendan Walsh, Designed by Penny Rose, CC-BY-SA-NC

8.

Costume designers often have to replicate clothing from history. In the past, highly decorated clothing took a very long time to make. To speed up the process, today's costume designers use new technologies. This dress was made using processes such as laser cutting and machine embroidery.



Photographer: Brendan Walsh, Designed by Eimear NI Mhíodhnaigh, CC-BY-SA-NC

How did you get on?

Below you'll find a list of the characters who wore each costume and the film or television production they appeared in. Look up the character online to find out more about them.

- 1. Character:** Henry VIII
T.V. Series: The Tudors Season 3 (2009)
- 2. Character:** Ma
Film: Room (2015)
- 3. Character:** Ray
Film: In Bruges (2008)
- 4. Character:** Queen Anne
Film: The Favourite (2018)
- 5. Character:** Kalf
T.V. Series: Vikings Season 3 (2015)
- 6. Character:** Lagertha
T.V. Series: Vikings Season 5 (2017)
- 7. Character:** Bernie McGloughlin
Film: The Commitments (1991)
- 8. Character:** Alicia Johnson
Film: Love and Friendship (2016)



Viking Period (793 - 1066)

Vikings come from what is nowadays known as Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). The word Viking means '**Explorer**' in Old Norse. They went to many countries, including Ireland, and set up trading towns. They also raided coastal towns and monasteries for treasures.



War was the most important activity in Viking culture. They carried with them an **axe** or **sword**, **helmet**, **spear**, and a **round shield**. Real Viking helmets did not have horns.

Vikings hunted for meat and gathered berries and nuts. At feasts, they drank ale and mead (alcohol made from honey). People drank out of wooden cups or drinking horns which were passed around.

Scandinavian weather is very cold, so Vikings dressed for warmth. Clothes were made of wool, linen, and animal skins. Men wore **tunics**, made from wool and baggy trousers. Women wore a long **linen underdress** and a shorter, apron-like **woolen dress** with straps fastened by **brooches**. They may also have worn jewellery made from **amber**. Vikings wore a large rectangular woolen **cloak** for protection. They may have been embroidered or trimmed. Cloaks were held in place by a **pin** worn on the shoulder.



Use the link on the previous page to look up these Viking objects in the Hunt Museum collection. Write down what they are and what they're made of. **Try sketching them in pencil:**

- **HCA 592**
- **HCA 452**
- **HCA 637**
- **MG 040**

Tudor Period

(1485 and 1603)



The Tudor period began in England during the ruling of the Tudor dynasty. Its first king was Henry VII. We know how the Tudors dressed by looking at portraiture of royal and noble people at the time.

Women wore a **farthingale**, a cone-shaped structure worn under dresses to emphasise the silhouette. Dresses were decorated with expensive **jewells, ribbons, and lace**. Women also wore elaborate headdresses.

Search Tudor Headdress online to see what these looked like.

Men wore **silk shirts** with a **frilled neck**. Over this they wore a **tight-fitting jacket and trousers**. Pleated, frilly ruffs were worn around the necks of both men and women.

Search for these Tudor objects in the Hunt Museum collection. Write down what they are and what they're made of. **Try sketching them in pencil:**

- T 001
- HCL 034



Georgian Period (1714 - 1830)

The Georgian period is named after the reigns of Kings George I - IV in England, and lasted from mid 18th century to early 19th century.

Men's clothes were tailored to fit. They wore a **cloth coat** with **brass buttons**, a **waistcoat**, and **pantaloon trousers**. Shirts were made of linen. A **cravat**, or neck tie, was wrapped around the shirt. Boots were made of polished leather with tassels. Short hairstyles with curls were popular.



During the early Georgian period, women wore **panniers**, undergarments used to extend the width of skirts. These dresses were so wide they led to the invention of double doors! **Stomachers** were worn as undergarments. These created a distinctive silhouette of cinched waist, flat back, and wide hips.

In the late Georgian period, women's fashion changed. The looser fitting **Empire Line dress** became popular. The style had a long skirt which began just below the bust. This gave a high-waisted appearance. These dresses were influenced by Greek and Roman styles.

Search online to find out about Georgian women's hairstyles. Have a go at sketching them!

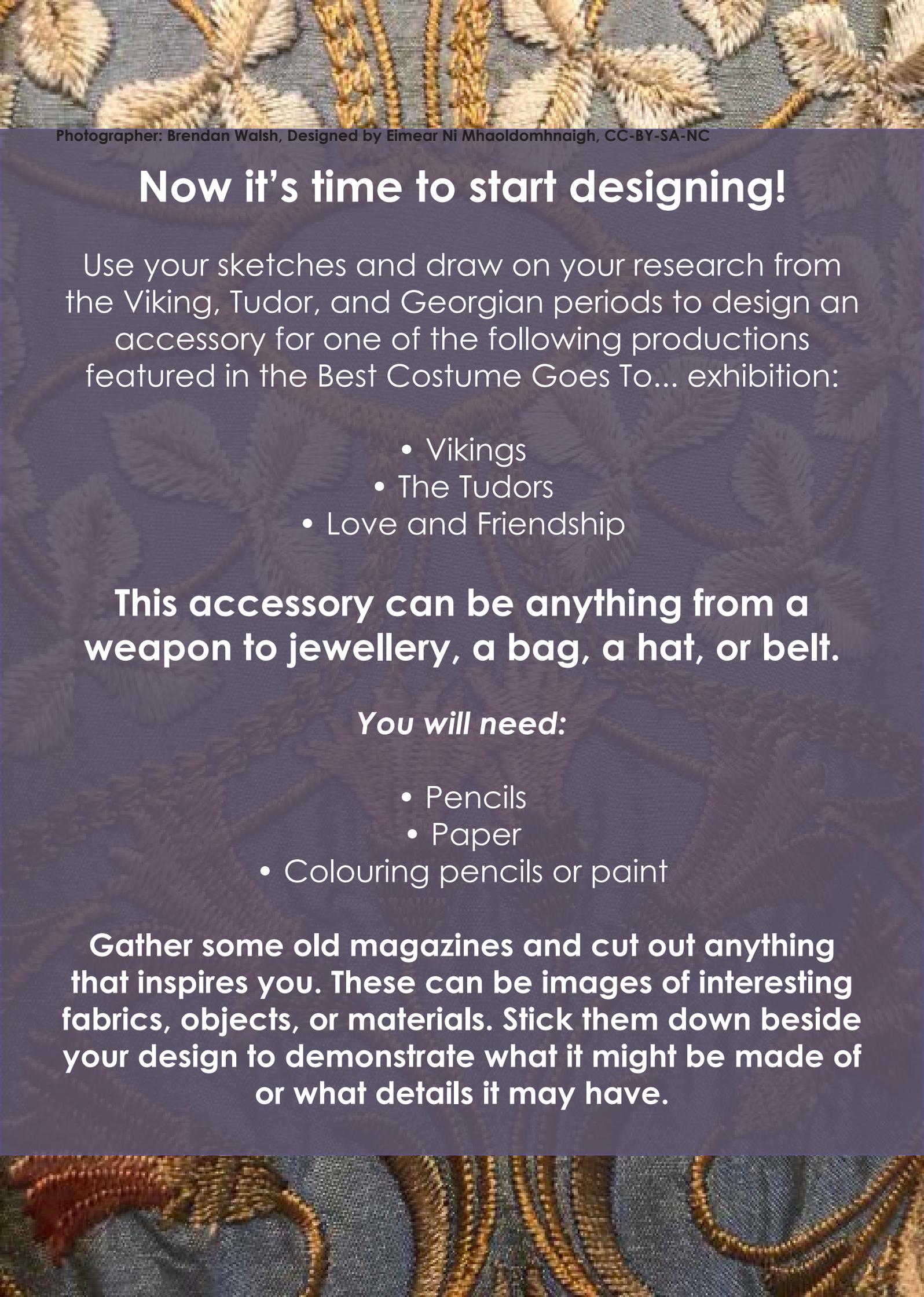


Did you know that the Hunt Museum is a Georgian building? Can you spot the double doors?

Look up these Georgian objects in the Hunt Museum collection. Write down what they are and what they're made of.

Try sketching them in pencil.

- DG 108
- T 009
- MG 106



Photographer: Brendan Walsh, Designed by Eimear Ni Mhaoldomhnaigh, CC-BY-SA-NC

Now it's time to start designing!

Use your sketches and draw on your research from the Viking, Tudor, and Georgian periods to design an accessory for one of the following productions featured in the Best Costume Goes To... exhibition:

- Vikings
- The Tudors
- Love and Friendship

This accessory can be anything from a weapon to jewellery, a bag, a hat, or belt.

You will need:

- Pencils
- Paper
- Colouring pencils or paint

Gather some old magazines and cut out anything that inspires you. These can be images of interesting fabrics, objects, or materials. Stick them down beside your design to demonstrate what it might be made of or what details it may have.

Sample Accessory Design

Parasol to accompany Alicia Johnson's dress from 'Love and Friendship' (2015)



Gold satin with blue ribbon



Floral embroidery



Cream floral lace

Blue Tassels of the same blue ribbon