

HARLEM RENAISSANCE REVERIE

A Couture Canvas of Artistic Homage and Cultural Celebration



by **THEREZ FLEETWOOD**

Fashion Designer & Textile Artist

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In 2024, **Harlem Renaissance Reverie** marks Therez Fleetwood's vibrant homage to the spirit and legacy of this pivotal era in African American history by celebrating the creativity and resilience of influential artists such as William H. Johnson, Jacob Lawrence, and Elizabeth Catlett.

With a foundation rooted in high fashion and global couture glamour, Therez is a distinguished fashion designer renowned for her impeccably crafted and thoughtfully curated women's apparel.

Born in Boston, she began her design journey at the age of twelve, and by fifteen, sold her first dress on the iconic Newbury Street in the city's exclusive Back Bay neighborhood. This early success set the stage for her move to New York, where she pursued her passion at The Fashion Institute of Technology while working as a production coordinator in the bustling garment district on 7th Avenue.

In her role as a production coordinator, Therez honed her expertise in garment construction, fit, and couture craftsmanship. Her career flourished as she ventured into designing Afrocentric attire under her *PheZula Collection* label, catering to boutique clientele in New York City, and requests came in to create custom designs for celebrities such as **EnVogue, Vanessa Williams, and Queen Latifah**.

While her global clientele extends to countries including Germany, Egypt, Italy, Tanzania, and Australia, Therez's designs have appeared on daily and morning shows such as the *Today Show*, the *Portia Show*, and *Good Day New York*, as well as in national commercials for **American Express**. Her work has been featured in solo exhibits at the African Textile Museum in Atlanta, GA, the Kaplan Gallery in Bloomfield, NJ, the City Museum of New York and The Fashion Institute of Technology.

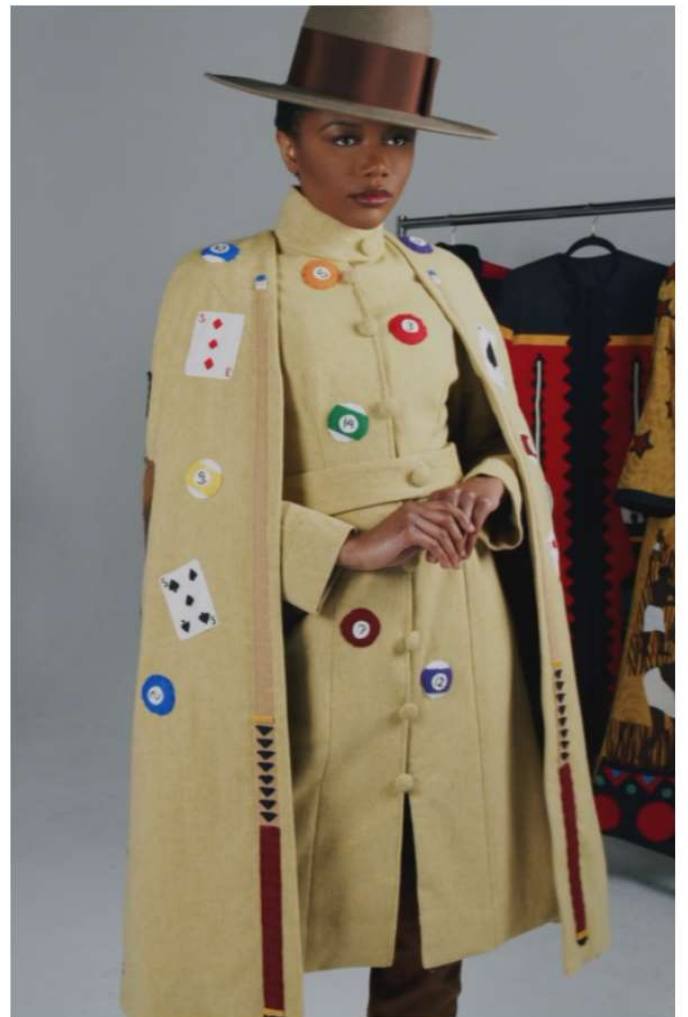
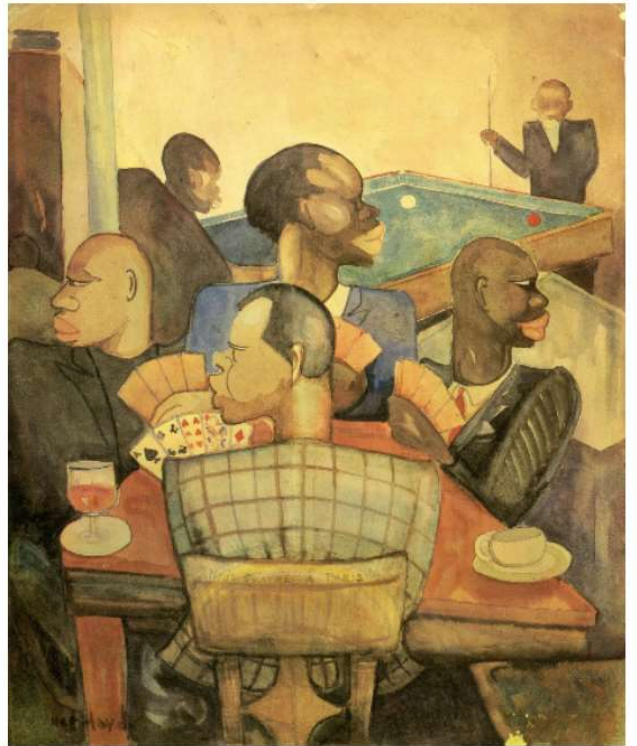
Her fashions have been included in several books, including Fairchild Publications' *Survey of Historic Costume* (1st through 3rd editions), *The Threads of Time*, *Fabric of History*, *Style Noir*, and *Jumping the Broom*. Therez is also the recipient of the **Allstate Insurance Company's** "From Whence We Came: African-American Women of Triumph" Award. Notably, she designed the only Afrocentric costumes ever worn by Mickey and Minnie Mouse at **Walt Disney World**, which are now part of their themed costume collection.

Currently, Therez is working on a four-piece textile-art collection for the *Know Thyself* exhibit for the Nation of Islam, set to debut in Winter 2024.

Therez Fleetwood
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PALMER HAYDEN CARD GAME

Wool herringbone tailored coat with shawl overlay. Nehru collar, belted waist and fabric covered buttons.



JACOB LAWRENCE MIGRATION SERIES



Two-toned cotton/wool herringbone coat with hand-sewn wool felt appliq and African nut bead buttons. A-line silhouette with flap pockets, nehru collar and waistband.



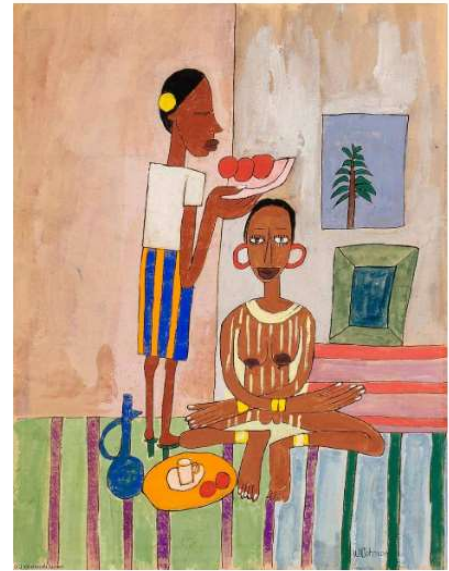
ELIZABETH CATLETT
MADONNA 2



100% cotton sheath style coat with hand-sewn wool felt fabric appliques and hand-painting.



WILLIAM H. JOHNSON
BREAKFAST FOR MADAME



Burlap a-line coat with shawl collar, hand-sewn wool felt appliques and large buttons..



LOIS MAILOU JONES AFRICA



100% cotton guineau brocade bazin riche fabric with hand-sewn wool felt appliques in a tailored kaftan silhouette.



JACOB LAWRENCE
DREAM 02



ELIZABETH CATLETT
THE 2ND GENERATION



100% cotton maxi coat with hand-sewn felt fabric appliques and felt covered buttons.



WILLIAM H. JOHNSON PORTRAITS



Multi-colored burlap fabric
a-line coat with 3/4 length
sleeves and wool felt
appliques.



ROMARE BEARDEN
CIRCE, THE BLACK ODESSEY



100% wool crepe and flannel fabrics with wool felt appliques in a vintage inspired sheath coat silhouette.



WILLIAM H JOHNSON
SWEET ADEKINE & JITTERBUGS



100% cotton printed a-line jacket with wool felt appliques, front zipper and large plastic buttons.



WILLIAM H. JOHNSON
THE LAMENTATION



ROMARE BEARDEN
SOUTHERN LIMITED

