

This exquisite Long Lace Vest is made from a most vicious woven design of spiked flowers, fastens with a intricate chinese knotwork closure.

Salem's most bewitching clothing designer ventures to the mecca of art and fashion.

Kambriel in Paris

This past fall, Atrocities founder Kambriel and her partner Curse journeyed to Paris to marvel at the the world's most elegant city and draw inspiration from its artistic wonders. Upon their return Kambriel shared some of her most memorable moments from the trip.

“I attended a plethora of fine exhibits at places like the *Musee de la Mode et du Textile*, and the *Musee d'Orsay* where I was truly inspired to have the opportunity to see such a vast number of opulent treasures by some of the most prolific and creative master artist/designers of the past. Alphonse Mucha, a grand artist and visionary of the ideal Art Nouveau woman—sumptuous, strong, serpentine, and wild. The opalescent mystery of Lalique's magical bat-winged women (circa 1900) made from his trademark bejeweled glass artistry, each possessing a bewitching inner glow.

“And the flea markets! There's inspiration lurking there for a wide variety of styles. I found myself being constantly drawn to precious pieces of 19th century black chantilly lace woven and embroidered from silk threads which were as fine and delicate as a spider's web. Also, I unsurfaced a rare treasure trove of authentic Victorian and Edwardian jet encrusted mourning beadwork appliques, still on their original, time-worn sample cards—oh, if only they could still be ordered in quantity at those original prices!

“The entire city seemed to be a place where magic can happen. I suddenly found myself whisked back in time to the *belle epoque*, surrounded by all of the decadence of sculptural peacocks with gems in their green-bronze tails, curvaceous wood and metalwork beckoning your hands to trace their undulating lines, and shadowed eyes staring out from an exotic painting worthy of a world-class museum, but resting graciously on the outside wall of a small, tucked away cafe. I look forward to discovering how these dream visions will unfurl their spirit into future ideas and offerings from the Kambriel line!”



Mid-length, silk Priest Cassock with standing collar, photographed in the Cimetiere du Pere Lachaise.



Original 1900's life-size bronze relief originally used for the front of the Fouquet jewelry store, now located inside the Hotel de Ville underneath a series of exotic stained glass portraits by Alphonse Mucha.



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Notre Dame de Paris.

A dramatic vision in cascading silver, the Theda Gown is a gossamer full-length gown made from a soft metallic mesh with slightly flared sleeves and a fitted bodice which flows into a very full lower skirt, flaring out generously into draped cascades of fabric at the sides and a sweeping train in the back.

The Arachne Shroud, a bewitching cape made from a double-layer of glistening black spiderweb lace with matching full hood and floating hemline. Worn with the Venetian Slipdress.



The romantic Gothic Nightdress is inspired by the aesthetics of the pre-Raphaelite movement, made from lush crushed velvet with gathered, gently flared sleeves trimmed in bridal lace, a softly ruffled neckline and empire waist.



Photographed against the soaring backdrop of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, a back view of the fitted Priest Cassock which features deep arm cuffs, inverted pleating from center back waistline to lower hem, and front closures of antiqued silver filigree buttons reminiscent of grand European cathedral windows.

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Art Nouveau grandeur near the Eiffel Tower, with handsewn floral Nouveau nymph headpiece of leaves, roses, and ribboned beadwork.

"I was able to gaze up-close upon samples of outstanding work by designers from a variety of eras. These ranged from the highly ornamental work of the founder of haute couture, Charles Frederick Worth, to the youth and vitality of the colourful Turkish-inspired creations of Paul Poiret, his elegant master Jacques Doucet, and the innovative and graceful draping of Madeleine Vionnet and Elsa Schiaparelli. For modern fashion, I was most impressed by the over-the-top Baroque embellishment of As Four, alongside minimal Japoneseque pieces by Abyss, and Lya Garcia's hand-knit scarlet red wool Mongolian headdress, all seen at a small, dark exhibit of sample pieces from new designers.

"The evocative sculptural designs of Hector Guimard were among the most impressive architectural ornamentation. He was the master craftsman responsible for the eye-catching filigree metro entrances which intuitively capture the sinuous lines of the natural world of trees and vines, turning them into an almost alchemical fashion into metal while retaining their original organic spirit. Also, there is the unforgettable *Cimetiere du Pere Lachaise*, a lushly overgrown resting place for the likes of Sarah Bernhardt and Oscar Wilde, who are wept over by a population of stone mourners caught in their personal moments of eternal sorrow, beauty, redemption and grace.

"One of the most spectacular sights in Paris was the shadowy evening outlines of *Notre Dame* when the flame red, orange and violet shades of the setting sun melded into the rippling river below, giving the cathedral a surrealistic, fiery backdrop, creating a grand and majestic moment. It was almost as if the art of man and the art of nature were competing with one another, each trying to outdo the other in extravagant splendor!"

Kambriel

A rather authentic looking Grim Reaper Robe made as a special commission for an upcoming national advertising campaign. The finished robe was an exact grim envisionment, made from hand-tattered, heavy black silk with a stretched and torn shadowy cobweb overlay—a look straight from the Netherworld!

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Designer and Muse—Kambriel and Monica Richards. The shimmering gown created especially for the Faith and the Muse "Evidence of America" tour, one of many such custom pieces available from Kambriel.



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