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Elaboration of the Portfolio  
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PROGRAM COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION:  
ECOSYSTEM – CORAL REEF

Presented to: Valérie Tremblay

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The coral reef ecosystem was my choice as it had the most potential design directions that would not overlap with my previous projects. In my preliminary photo research of underwater life, what caught my eye was the contrasting color palette of the deep blue ocean water with the soft, pale colors of the sand and corals on the ocean floor. As I am creating a character for cinema, where details are revealed in up-close shots, I also took inspiration from the minutiae of the coral reef. I chose to represent the underwater beauty with luxurious eveningwear looks, consequently I would hope to be working for a large production studio with a substantial budget.

Elsie Olivine is an alluring and mysterious espionage agent from the future who has been sent back to the 1930's to mesmerize those in power. She has taken to the silver screen in order to elevate her status and get personal with the men who may have the intel she needs to stop the impending war. Her extravagantly powerful attitude allows her to blend seamlessly into the evolving world of escapist cinema while remaining undercover. The fabrics for each look were carefully chosen for their ability to reflect light on-screen.

The first look incorporates details characteristic of 1930's gowns, including a bias cut skirt that clings to the body, exaggerated shoulder detail reminiscent of soft coral, and shimmering satin crepe and crystal organza fabrics in champagne and ivory. The draped bodice and defined natural waist show the classic and neo-classic era inspirations. Accessories include art-deco inspired drop earrings and a seashell-shaped framed clutch purse that could hold additional spy gadgets such as a camera, recorder or pistol.

The second look is more classically inspired using draping, layers and transparency. The draped blue-green sheer gazar fabric over the navy duchess satin represent the deep ocean. The underwater elements and a feeling of exotic mystery are referenced in the attached faux crocodile belt and ostrich feather fan.

The decade's newfound eroticism of the upper back is showcased in the final look with a halter-style gown. The collar anchors the finely jeweled straps on the back which are gently covered by a navy burnout velvet fabric capelet, allowing for a sensual reveal. The gown is made from a luxurious lamé fabric in a peachy pink. The defined waist yoke with novelty lace overlay is evocative of hard coral reef formations. The cascade on the hip adds additional detail and conceals an inseam pocket for spy gadgets. The look is completed with seashell shaped drop earrings.

All three looks are completed with the addition of long satin evening gloves, extended art-deco cigarette holder, seamed stockings and satin T-bar heels.

These designs evoke the sultry and escapist Hollywood cinema glamour of the 1930s, while also incorporating details from the beautiful underwater ecosystem. Elsie Olivine's enigmatic magnetism is displayed and they each have one strong element of the period: the bias cut, the classic draping and the open-back of the halter-style gown.

Since spy gadgets are meant to be concealed, it is challenging to represent them in an overt way in these designs. This would likely require special props and effects created during filming which would not be well achieved without technical professionals. However, I believe that design which would allow for the placement of these gadgets is sufficient at this level.

Other potential complications arise from using the bias cut as it will stretch over time, in order to compensate for this, it will need to be hung overnight before hemming to account for fabric stretch.