



Everything about
Dance of Dust

By Tina Hoveyda

Introduction

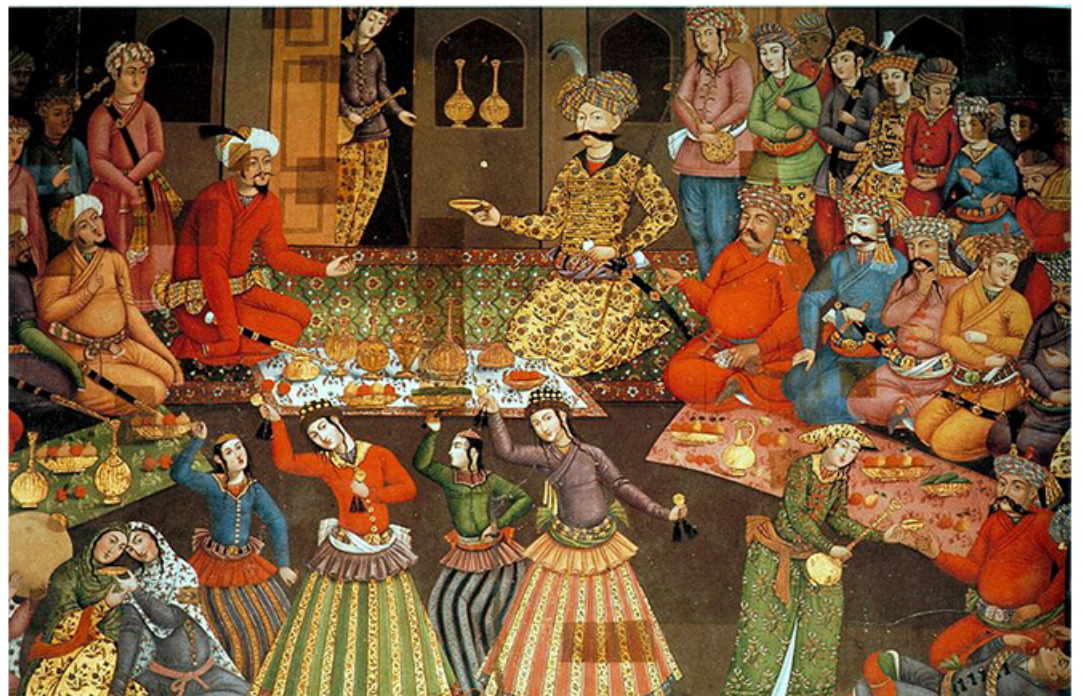
The following piece of jewelry is representing Persian dance as an intangible heritage and is inspired by the celebration in Qajar dynasty era in Iran (1789-1925).

The goal was to creatively turn a tradition subject into an appealing piece for modern audience. Also capturing the essence of “dance” in Iran as a form of expressing joy that alas has been looked down upon by the religious extremists and illegal by the current regime. Thus people refused to give in and let the authorities destroy this heritage therefore withstood their ground and kept on dancing at every chance they got.

This piece is mainly made by gold-plated brass. Enamel, velvet tapestry and color paper are used for decoration. Also, a short electric circuit has been applied in order to light a small lamp in the atmosphere of the work and to emphasize on light in the darkness as a symbol of hope.

Research

This piece needed to be relative to Persian dancing and deeply rooted cultural wise. I decided it had to look traditional yet not too old to be relatable for modern audience. In order to achieve that sense and look, I searched online and history books and chose Qajar dynasty era (1789-1925). To achieve visually correct depiction I searched paintings of that era and luckily came up with presentations of dancing and celebration and had better understanding of the costumes and colors of the said era as well as the knowledge of how different social and religious status affected the view on dancing itself.

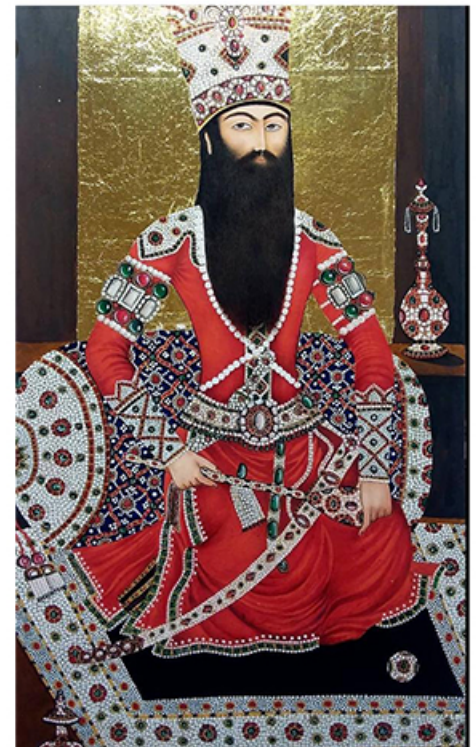


Also having the insight to what musical instruments were played during that time helped me use the correct representation in my work. These instruments are mostly still played in Iran and include: Kamanche, Tar, Setar, Santour, Daf, Tombak.

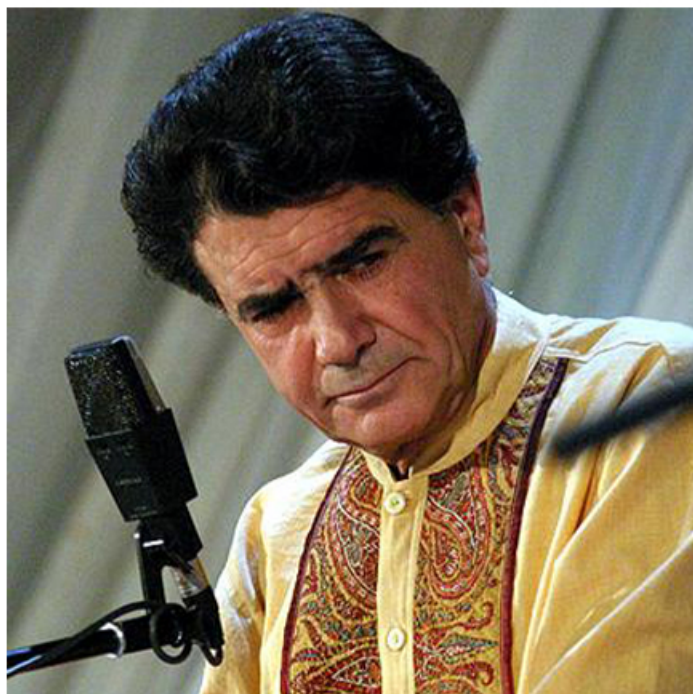




Here in the paintings are some examples of formal costumes worn by the royals and aristocrats. They are extravagant and flamboyant and made from the finest of materials. Needless to say, that the royal members were excessively fond of wearing jewellery.

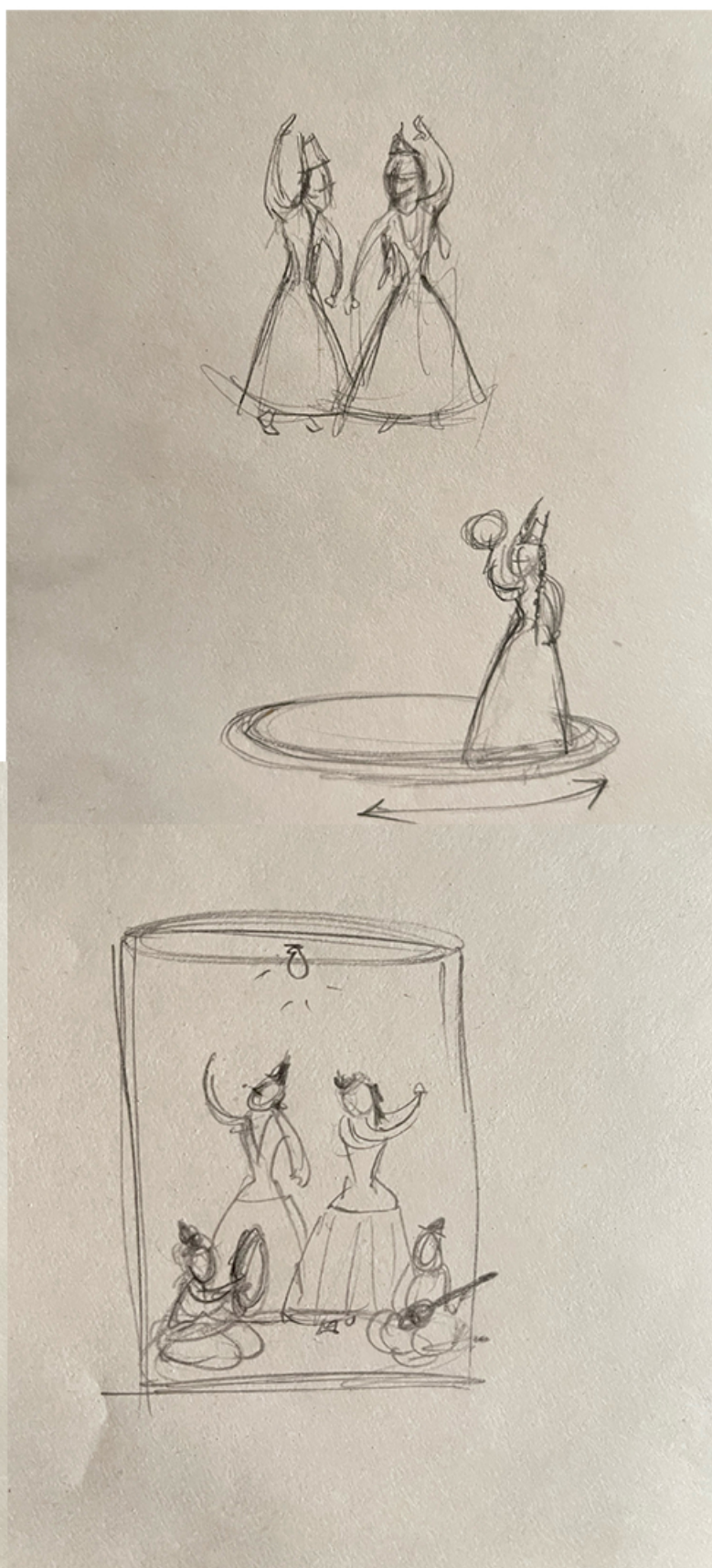


In 2009, Iran's former president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, dismissed millions of protesters as just 'a handful of dust.' In response, Mohammadreza Shajarian, the most renowned Iranian traditional singer, referred to himself as the voice of the 'dust.' Hence, the title of this work, 'Dance of Dust.' This incident served as the spark of inspiration behind this piece

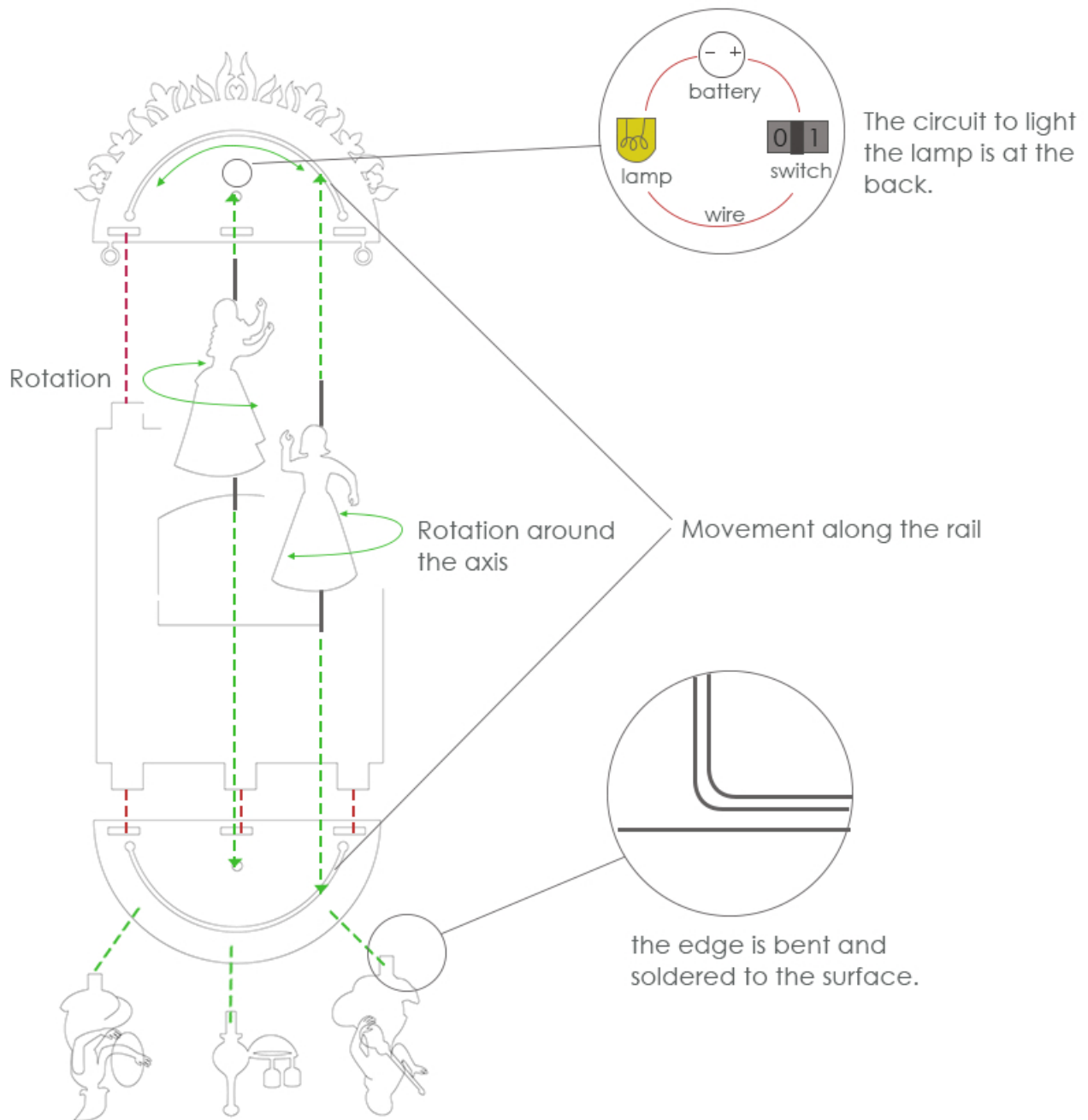


Sketches

Here are some rough sketches to figure out how to make the interactive aspect and composition work.



Mechanism & Technical drawing



Assembled

The main body parts are cut and soldered together and polished. Ready to get gold plated and decorated.



The Final Result

The enamel is applied, the window is covered with a velvet shade and the floor is covered with color paper as the rug. At last the scene of the celebration overcomes the hardship and comes to life. Let your imagination fly and hear the music and feel the joy.



The photographs are taken by "Vingz Studio" in Tehran.

The Video



The video clip for this piece was made by “Vingz Studio” in Tehran.

The music added is an Iranian folkloric song called “shah kaj kolah”. The date and the song writer are unknown but this version is performed by “Morteza Ahmadi” in the album “The sound of Tehran” published by “Avakhorshid Cultural and Artistic Co” in 2015.

The translation of the chosen part is: “The high price of bread and cheese leaves someone as poor and dusty as myself with no choice but to dance.”

More details

Dimensions: 90x65 mm

Weight: 72.4 gr



This photo shows the work in darkness with its light on.

The back side of the work has been covered with wooden texture sticker to hide the electric circuit. However the on/off switch is visible at the bottom right corner.



Functions

This work of jewelry can be worn as necklace.



Or can be a decorative ornament.



Thank You:)