

"... like chalk-figures drawn on ballroom floors to be danced out before morning!"  
William Hazlitt - The Conversation of Authors 1826

Title: *Gold Dust*

Piece: A chalked floor

Materials: chalk, FSC accredited paper tablecloth, embroidery thread

This chalked floor has also been designed by *The House of Embroidered Paper* to be created and destroyed at the start and end of the period of the exhibition of *The Regency Wardrobe* collection at Firle Place in 2021. It has been designed to blend with *Fading Glory*.

It is inspired by the Regency practice of chalking the floor for a Ball to stop the dancers slipping. If a host was wealthy and there was to be a notable guest an artist might be hired, the floor coverings rolled up, an elaborate design created, the guests impressed, the floor destroyed during the dancing and the chalk swept up in the morning.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and its predecessor states (the Kingdom of Great Britain, Kingdom of England, Kingdom of Scotland, the British Isles) took part in 42 wars and humanitarian conflicts between 1795-1836. This piece is inspired by the legends and myths created around warfare throughout history. A centaur and Poseidon residing on straight and curved lines, represent historical battles on the ocean and land respectively.

In the centre is a rendering of a compass from *La Virginea Pars* – a 16th century map of a lost colony from the East coast of North America held by The British Museum - representing how America became independent of British rule in 1793 under the reign of George III.

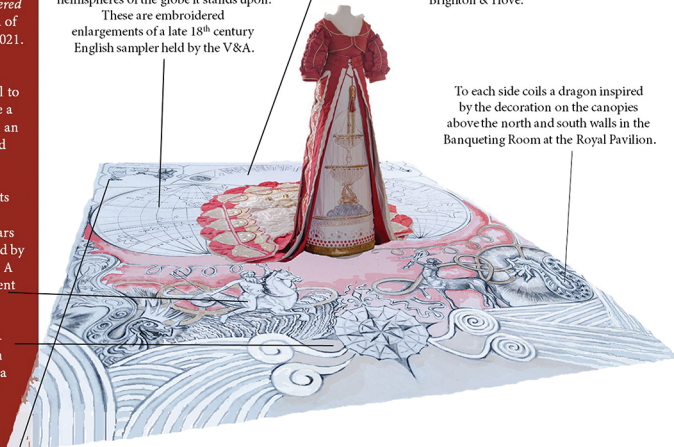
At the back of the floor are images of two soldiers and a sailor, in glory and in ruin. They are reproduced from a handstitched quilt, held by the V&A, made by an early 19th century tailoress called Ann West.

To see further images of the chalked floor at Firle Place please visit: [stephaniesmart.net](http://stephaniesmart.net)

The Ball gown dominates the hemispheres of the globe it stands upon. These are embroidered enlargements of a late 18th century English sampler held by the V&A.

The third arc is a detail from a paper fan, held by Worthing Museum, showing the first known contemporary plan of the first military encampments in Sussex in 1793. These were located in the Wealden forests of Waterdown and Ashdown and in Brighton & Hove.

To each side coils a dragon inspired by the decoration on the canopies above the north and south walls in the Banqueting Room at the Royal Pavilion.



"Every civilization carries the seeds of its own destruction, and the same cycle shows in them all. The Republic is born, flourishes, decays into plutocracy, and is captured by the shoemaker whom the mercenaries and the millionaires make into a king. The people invent their oppressors, and the oppressors serve the function for which they are invented."

- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

From hitherto unpublished pages about Men and Events