

**SCHOOL  
OF DESIGN  
THE GLASGOW  
SCHOOL OF ART**



Laura Hoya Alonso De Linaje, Fashion Design, 2024

# UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION GUIDELINES

**FASHION NARRATIVE**

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# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## DIRECT ENTRY TO 2ND YEAR

BA (Hons) Fashion Narrative takes students directly into Year 2 of its 4 year programme only. Therefore applicants' qualifications should reflect the GSA's Advanced Entry/ Standing requirements - these may include:

- HNC - Pass
- HND - Pass.
- Level 3 or Level 4 Diploma with Merit and above
- BTEC Extended Diploma with DDM.

For more information on direct entry requirements contact [admissions@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@gsa.ac.uk)

The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) is committed to working to widen access, including fair admissions for applicants from a wide range of backgrounds.

The minimum entry requirements apply to applicants from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 20/40 postcodes, as well as applicants who declare via UCAS that they are care experienced, estranged from their parents or legal guardians, have caring responsibilities, are a refugee or currently receive free school meals.

More information is available at [www.gsa.ac.uk/wp](http://www.gsa.ac.uk/wp)

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

We expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in the English language, which for UK students is normally evidenced by a pass in Higher or GCSE English or other literate subject\*.

Applicants who require a Student Visa, and who are not a national of, nor have obtained a degree in one of the countries on the approved UKVI exemption list, will need to provide evidence of their English language ability through the use of a standardised test.

The GSA's preferred test is the IELTS for UKVI (Academic) test taken at a UKVI approved test centre. A full list of English Language tests that may be presented can be **found here**.

Applicants who successfully enrol and complete GSA's Pre-Sessional English for Creative Disciplines programme can also use those test results to satisfy English language conditions.

Our current requirement for School of Design programmes is IELTS for UKVI (Academic) with 6.0 overall and no less than 5.5 in each component.

For guidance, please email [admissions@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@gsa.ac.uk) or call +44 (0) 141 353 4512.

\*literate subjects include English, Business Management, Classical Studies, Economics, ESOL, Geography, History, Media Studies, Modern Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology



The Reid building

# COST OF STUDY

## FEES, FINANCE & HELP

The annual cost of your study will depend on a range of factors including your tuition fee status, programme of study, accommodation arrangements and lifestyle. We understand, however, that for your effective planning it is really important that you have a good idea of how much studying at art school is likely to cost, and what kinds of costs you are likely to incur over and above tuition fees.

Have a look at the **GSA's Total Cost of Study Guide** for more help with your financial planning. You'll also find information on other costs associated with your chosen programme (called 'Indicative Programme Costs') on each programme page on the website.

## TUITION FEES

Your annual tuition fee will depend on whether you are a Scottish student, Rest of the UK student or international student, as well as the subject (programme) and level (undergraduate/postgraduate) of study.

You can find current information on Fees and Finance pages on the GSA website **here**.

# APPLICATION TIMELINE

In order for your application to be considered complete, you must complete the two steps outlined by the relevant deadlines:

## STEP 1

### UCAS APPLICATION FORM

**DEADLINE - 18:00 (UK Time) January 14, 2026**

The first step is ensuring you complete your UCAS application via [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

We suggest that begin the UCAS application form as soon as possible and don't wait until minute as there's a lot of information required to complete the form. You don't need to complete the UCAS application form in one sitting. You can save your progress and return to the form as often as you need to. However, please ensure you submit this before the deadline.

Read the advice from UCAS to help you through their application process, step by step, [here](#).

## STEP 2

### DIGITAL PORTFOLIO & PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

**DEADLINE - 13:00 (UK Time) January 21, 2026**

After the GSA receives your completed application form from UCAS, you will receive an email from the Admissions team at the GSA with an acknowledgement of your application and instructions on how to upload your Digital Portfolio and Portfolio Statement to the GSA Digital Portfolio Site. You can find Digital Portfolio examples at the end of this guide.

You are welcome to upload your Digital Portfolio as soon as you receive your invitation email from Admissions, but no later than the deadline given to you.

The Digital Portfolio site will open to new submissions from the end of October each year.

# APPLICATION TIMELINE



## DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

Your Digital Portfolio is a selection of images of work that you have made, laid out clearly. It demonstrates your skills, ideas, interests and your suitability for the programme you are applying to.

The Digital Portfolio must include no more than 8 slides and should be in PDF format. Remember, you can include more than one image on each slide.

We also ask for an example of critical writing so you can demonstrate your interest in writing about fashion. We ask you to submit a written profile of a favourite designer, review an exhibition or write a short essay that examines a fashion topic of your choice. You can include 1 image to illustrate your essay if you feel that is relevant. It is a maximum of 1000 words long and is uploaded as a PDF along with your digital portfolio to the GSA upload site



## PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

The Portfolio Statement is an opportunity for you to write more specifically about why you are suited to studying this particular course. You can also tell us more about the work in your digital portfolio.

It is a maximum of 500 words long and is uploaded along with your Digital Portfolio to the GSA Upload Site.

# APPLICATION KEY DATES

01

**1**  
SUBMIT APPLICATION  
FORM TO UCAS

14 JANUARY 2026  
18:00 (UK Time)

Apply via UCAS at  
[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

UCAS Code **G43**

02

**2**  
UPLOAD DIGITAL  
PORTFOLIO

21 JANUARY 2026  
13:00 (UK Time)

GSA Portfolio  
Deadline

You will receive instructions on how to upload your digital portfolio and accompanying portfolio statement after you have submitted your UCAS application. You are welcome to upload your digital portfolio as soon as you receive your invitation email from admissions, but **no later** than the deadline given to you.

03

**3**  
INTERVIEWS

FROM EARLY FEB TO  
MID APRIL 2026  
(via Zoom)

GSA Staff will assess your application. If you are shortlisted, you may be invited to Interview.

See **Interviews**.

04

**4**  
FINAL DECISIONS

13 MAY 2026

The outcome of your application will be communicated through UCAS.

05

**5**  
REPLY TO OFFER

When you have received decisions from all of your UCAS choices, UCAS will send you an email to let you know all your decisions have been received and you can now reply to any offers you've been given.

If you receive your last decision on or before 13 May 2026, your reply date is 3rd June 2026.

# HOW WE ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION

## ASSESSMENT

Admissions staff access your UCAS Application Form, Digital Portfolio, and Portfolio Statement all together.

Your application will be numerically scored against your chosen programme's specific assessment criteria (see OUR CRITERIA). The scoring is between 1-7 (7 being 'excellent evidence of' and 1 being 'unsatisfactory evidence of').

On the basis of your application score, you will either be:

### Unsuccessful

- This decision will be processed as a 'Rejection' via UCAS

or

### Offered an Interview

- You may be invited to an interview by email (see **Interview**)

## OUR CRITERIA

We recommend that you consider the assessment criteria when creating your digital portfolio, portfolio statement, and preparing for interview.

It's important that applicants understand, that it's not about having access to the best art and design materials to create work; it's about doing your best with what you have.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR CRITERIA.

# STAGE ONE: CRITERIA DIGITAL PORTFOLIO & PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

## DIGITAL PORTFOLIO AND PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

### 1 Ability to apply visualise stories

- We want to see how you visualise stories. You can demonstrate this in various ways in your portfolio. In your portfolio you might include documentation of performances, collage, drawing, painting, photography, personally created or curated instagram/social media content, links to short videos, computer-aided drawing and/or illustrated poetry.
- You could group several images on a slide; this could be by photographing several pieces of work together or by photographing or scanning several pieces individually and using Photoshop, Canva or PowerPoint to combinethem into one slide

### 2 Ability to show development of your work and ideas

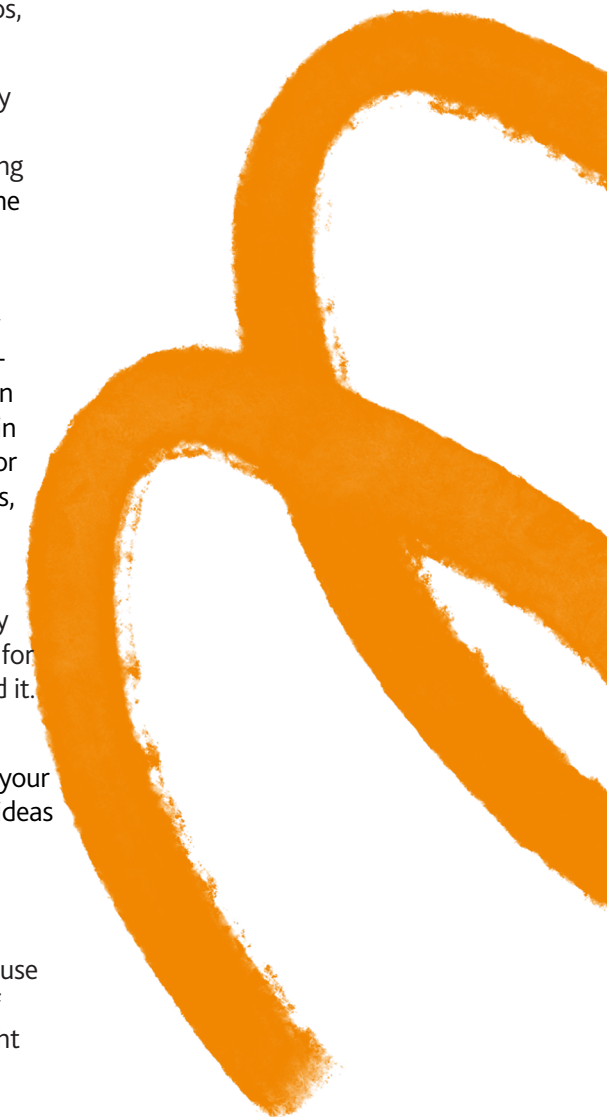
- We are interested in the ideas behind your work and how your work develops from the initial starting point to a finished piece of work. We would like to see your exploration and experimentation with different materials and media in your **Digital Portfolio**. This can be evidenced by images or photographs of sketchbook pages, notebooks, worksheets, development sheets and finished pieces.
- Your digital portfolio should aim to show how you have engaged with research to inspire your own original work. Try to strike a balance between illustrating other people's work for inspiration with work that demonstrates how you have used it.

### 3 Ability to reflect on the work in your Digital Portfolio

- Use your portfolio statement to tell us about the work in your portfolio. We want to know what inspired you, how your ideas developed and the elements you consider to be the most successful or interesting.

### 4 Ability to demonstrate an interest in the subject area

- We have asked you for an example of critical writing because we want to know about what attracts you to the world of fashion and fashion media. We would like to gain an insight into your interests and enthusiasms We are interested to know more about the way you think imaginatively about what you see and use words to express your ideas.



# STAGE TWO: INTERVIEW

## INTERVIEW

If shortlisted, you may receive an e-mail inviting you to attend an interview. Interviews are held via Zoom. They usually last around 20 minutes.

This is a chance for staff from the programme to meet you, hear you talk about the work in your portfolio and find out more about your readiness for the programme. It is also a chance for you to get a clearer sense of the programme, find out about the facilities available and ask any questions that you may have.

Staff will score your interview using our interview assessment criteria below. The outcome of your interview will be communicated to you via UCAS.

If you are invited to interview (see **Interview**) the following criteria apply:

### 1 Ability to visualise stories

– Storytelling skills are of primary importance for Fashion Narrative. We will use the Stage 1 evaluation for this as part of the Stage 2 assessment.

### 2 Ability to discuss your ideas and development of your work

– We want to find out more about the ideas and development of the work in your portfolio. We are interested to know about initial inspiration and starting points, how your ideas evolved and how you explored and developed your work.

### 3 Ability to reflect on your work; challenges, successes and potential

– At interview, we will discuss the journey of your work. What did you learn and what areas did you find to be the most successful or challenging and what you might do next? For work-in-progress you could describe what you hope to achieve, what sources you will be looking at, and how you hope to explore these.

### 4 Ability to demonstrate your interest and knowledge of the subject area

– We want you to demonstrate your interest and knowledge in your chosen subject area, who or what inspires and motivates you, your personal and individual interests. We will ask you to discuss the sample of critical writing you submitted and we want to find out more about the artists, designers, architects, mentors, exhibitions, books, music and cultural influences that inspire you.

### 5. Ability to demonstrate an understanding of the programme applied for at The Glasgow School of Art

— You should demonstrate that you have researched your chosen programme and be able to discuss why you have chosen to apply to this programme and communicate why you consider the programme is the appropriate one for you and why at The Glasgow School of Art

# MORE INFORMATION

## Start Early

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare your UCAS application, your **Digital Portfolio**, and refine your **Portfolio Statement**.

The Digital Portfolio site will open to new submissions from the end of October each year.

## Reach Out

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions. If you need help with your application:

- For any queries about the application process or issues with our application site, contact [admissions@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@gsa.ac.uk) or call +44 (0) 141 353 4512.
- Remember if you're in education currently, you can speak to your teachers or lecturers for support with your application.
- If you are interested in applying to the **GSA as a Study Abroad** student (single semester or one year study) you can contact [international@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:international@gsa.ac.uk) for information.
- If you are interested in attending one of our on-campus or online events you can sign up on **Eventbrite** or join our mailing list for updates on events, exhibitions and more **here**.



# DIGITAL PORTFOLIO EXAMPLES

## SCHOOL OF DESIGN

The following pages are sample portfolios by our current students, taken from their original application to study at the GSA.

You shouldn't use these as examples to follow in terms of style but do look at how they've presented their work and their making process.

## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby

# ELIZA RIGBY PORTFOLIO

Includes film photography collage, 'THE GRIOT' photoshoot, gelli prints, artist research, zine, and digital layouts.



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby

# COLLAGE



Photographs taken from my own personal camera from October 2024 to January 2025, using an Olympus Trip 35 and 35mm film. Photos include streets surrounding Newcastle College on a sunny October day. Main photo is of the Baltic Art Gallery, taken in January.

Exploring different techniques in both digital and physical ways, I used photographs that I had taken with my film camera and adapted them as a collage, including the use of textiles for a range in texture.

## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



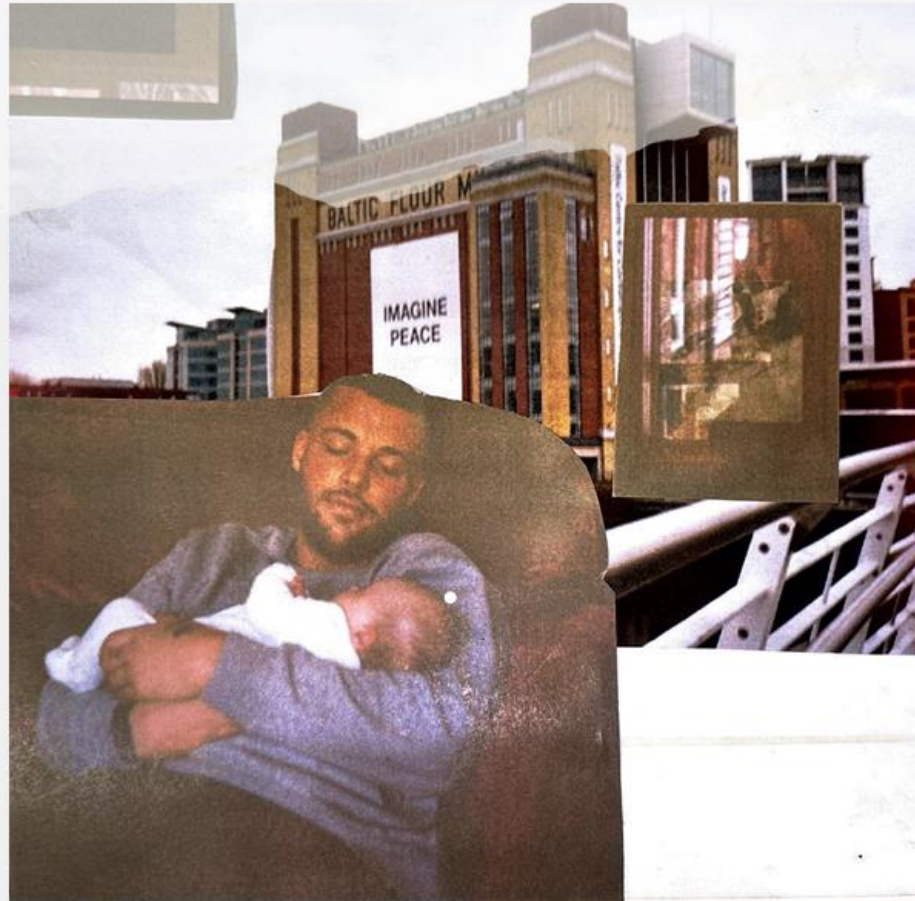
## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



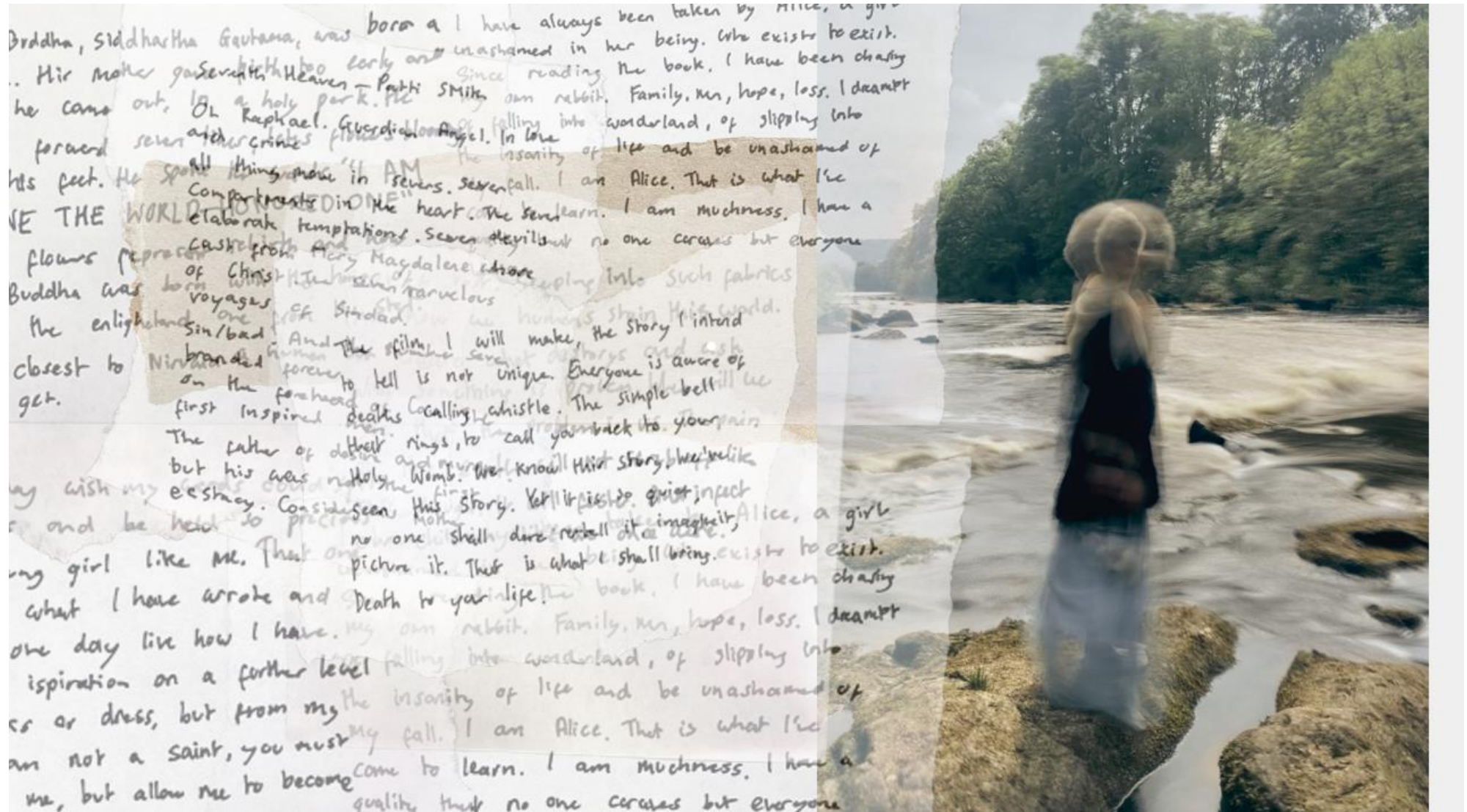
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## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



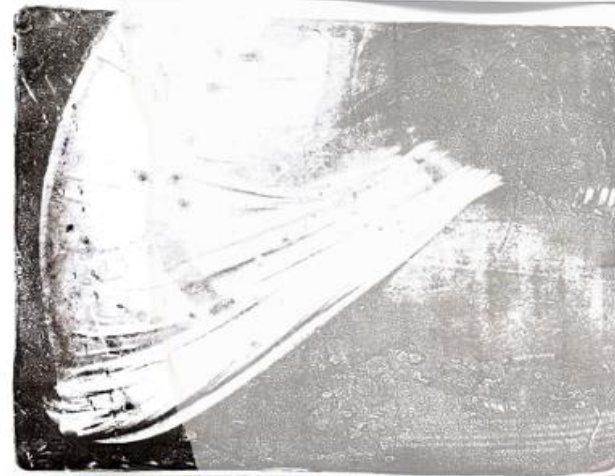
## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



Eliza Rigby

Eliza Rigby

[illegible]

## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Eliza Rigby



I have always been taken by Alice, a girl  
unashamed in her being. who exists to exist.  
Since reading the book, I have been clearly  
my own rebirth. Family, um, hope, less, I dreamt  
of falling into wonderland, of slipping into  
the insanity of life and be unashamed of  
my fall. I am Alice. That is what I've  
come to learn. I am madness. I have a  
quality that no one cares but everyone  
wishes.



Mixed Media Zine

Decorational  
Fying Methods

I have collected various rusty objects over  
the past weeks and will prepare some  
test fabrics soon enough so my  
technique is perfect for the final outcome.  
I have also been gathering various  
materials for making my mixed-media zine,  
including buying my own bell plate for  
printing. The final thing to get is a  
variety of fabrics to dye and print on  
for my final outcome.



REINCARNAT ON

The Buddha, Siddhartha  
Gautama, was born a  
prince. His mother gave  
birth to him early and  
once he came out, in  
a holy park, he  
stepped forward over his  
from his feet. He spoke  
the words "I AM  
ALONE THE WORLD-HONORED ONE".  
Some flowers represent rebirth and how  
the Buddha was born with the honor of  
being the enlightened.

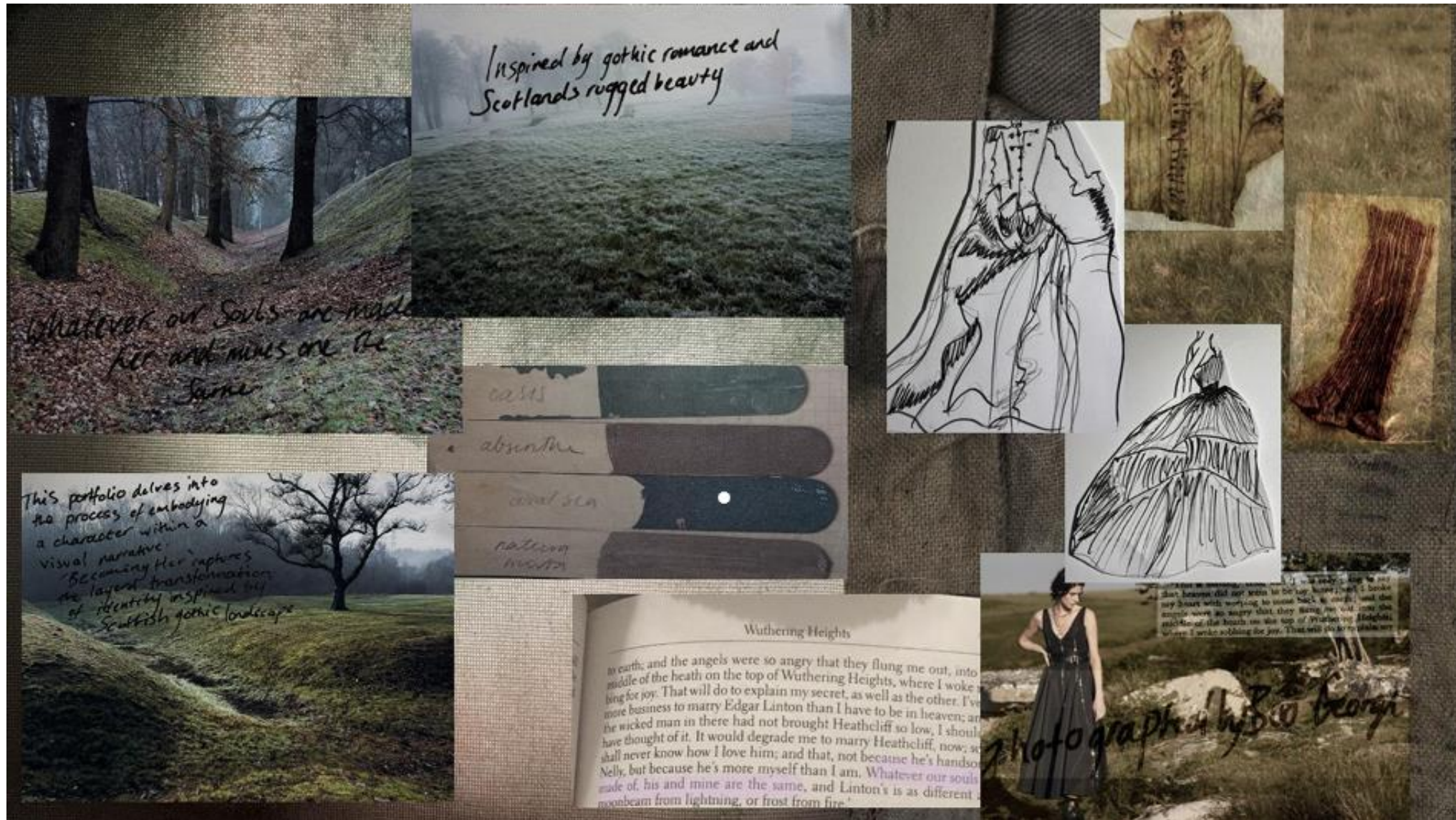
## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Zelda Smyth



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Zelda Smyth



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Zelda Smyth



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Zelda Smyth



28/07/24

today is the day and its ~~fr~~ freezing outside. Boo asked me to be his weathering ~~her~~ girl and author. I will. I'm still mad about the fee, my agent is once again head in the clouds. I just saw the stylist at breakfast holding the balenciaga dress that will soon be covering me head-to-toe. life feels good so I can't be all that mad. why is Scotland so cold even in summer



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Zelda Smyth

*The model as the storyteller*



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Zelda Smyth

### A View of Duality and Belonging

A storm lingers behind my eyes,  
shaped by Scotland's air and the weight of the sky.  
Each breath draws me further into this space where  
strength meets  
fragility  
and they exist  
together.

In the shadows- I find her,  
A figure taking shape,  
part of me, but also  
something entirely other.

Draped in black  
I am not just wearing the fabric  
I am carrying her story.  
Its weight moves with me and in it  
I feel her resolve.

For a moment  
She is all I am.  
And in that stillness  
I let the silence hold everything I cannot say



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Zelda Smyth



## Year 2 – Fashion Narrative

Zelda Smyth



The roots of her



The roots of her: My mother, whose resilience shaped my understanding of beauty and strength. Her presence, much like the moors, is to me, grounding and vast.