

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



Rose Davenport, Fashion Design, 2024

UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION GUIDELINES

FASHION DESIGN

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO YEAR 1

- **Scottish Highers** ABBB including a literate subject*.
- **A Levels** ABB, plus GCSE English at grade A/7.
- **Other equivalent qualifications at SCQF Level 6 (EQF Level 3) such as UAL Level 3 Diploma.**
- **International Baccalaureate (IB)** 30 points overall in the Diploma, including 18 at Higher Level, normally including English and Maths. Students not presenting English at grade 5 or above at Higher Level will be required to submit an IELTS.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate** — Four Highers at H2 or above, subjects required as per Scottish Highers.
- **International qualifications** — people with qualifications from outside the UK should contact admissions@gsa.ac.uk for more information.

MINIMUM ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO YEAR 1 (FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ONLY)

- **Scottish Highers** BBCC including a literate subject*.
- **A Levels** BBC, plus GCSE English at grade A/7.

NOTE For applicants whose exam results are pending, conditional offers will be made at the standard or minimum tariff where eligible.

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

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

DIRECT ENTRY TO SECOND OR THIRD YEAR

This is an Undergraduate Honours Degree programme at The Glasgow School of Art comprising four years of study. Most applicants apply to start in Year 1. If you have completed, or are studying a relevant higher education qualification, you can apply to start in 2nd or 3rd year. This is known as 'Direct Entry'. Accepted qualifications include a foundation diploma in art and design, an HNC or HND or a year or more of university study. The year you apply to depends on the level of the qualifications you already have, or what you're currently studying. You must be able to satisfy us that you have undertaken a period of study equivalent to the first, or first and second year, of the degree programme. You can find more information on our website [here](#).

Important: If you are applying for direct entry to second or third year, we will consider your application from your highest desired entry point and work backwards from there. That means that you do not need to put in an application for each potential year of entry - if you apply for Year 2 direct entry and we feel you do not meet the requirements for direct entry we will automatically consider you for Year 1 entry instead.

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 or call +44 (0) 141 353 4512.



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

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

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

The Digital Portfolio must include no more than 15 slides and should be in PDF format. Remember, you can include more than one image on each slide.

If you are including moving image or sound work, these can be included in your Digital Portfolio using Vimeo or Youtube. Access to these websites should not be password protected and the link should remain live and accessible.



PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

The Portfolio Statement is an opportunity to expand on your Digital Portfolio, highlight a specific project, further detail your interests or inspiration and tailor your application to your chosen programme at the GSA.

It must not exceed 3000 characters (approx. 500 words) and should not be the same as your UCAS Personal Statement. You will be asked to submit this alongside your Digital Portfolio.

APPLICATION KEY DATES

01

1
SUBMIT APPLICATION
FORM TO UCAS

14 JANUARY 2026
18:00 (UK Time)

Apply via UCAS at
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

It is important to know what the assessment criteria are for your programme.

You should try to respond to these criteria when creating your Digital Portfolio, writing your Portfolio Statement, and preparing for Interview.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR CRITERIA.

STAGE ONE: CRITERIA DIGITAL PORTFOLIO & PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO AND PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

1 Ability to apply practical skills

- We want to see your practical skills and how you explore and use different media and materials. You can demonstrate this in various ways in your portfolio, including drawing, painting, model making, photography, computer-aided drawing and creative coding.
- 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 combine them 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 focus on your own work. Try to avoid using other people's work (for example, printouts, photocopies from books), unless these examples are relevant to the content. If including work by other people, you should cite their names.

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 want to know why you want to apply to the programme. What do you find exciting about the subject area?



STAGE TWO: INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW

If shortlisted, you may receive an e-mail inviting you to attend an interview. Interviews are held via Zoom. The interview will 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 apply practical skills

- Practical skills are important for creative subjects. 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

- 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. This might include artists, designers, architects, mentors, exhibitions, online events, documentaries, books, journals, archives, podcasts etc.

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 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 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

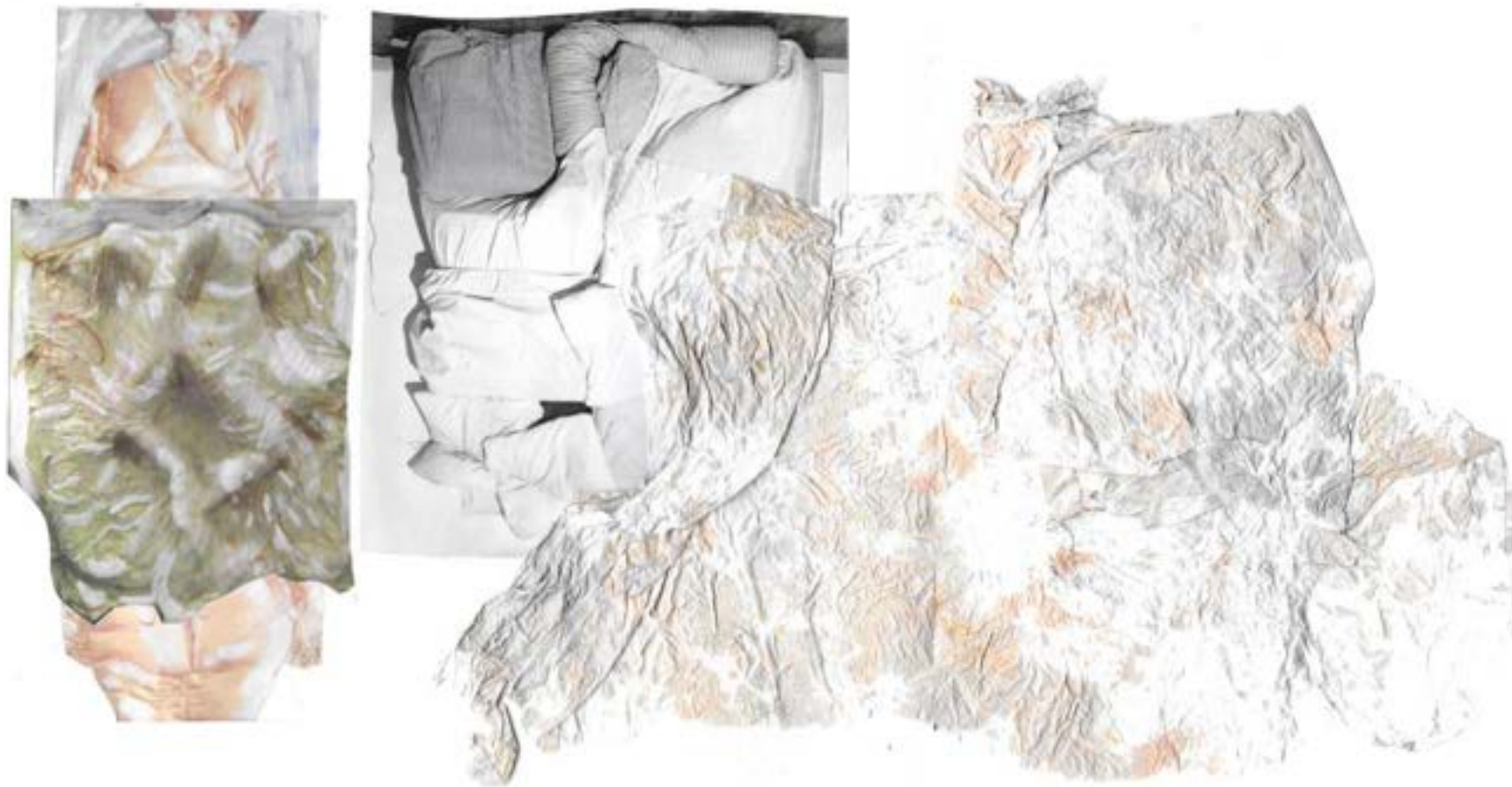
SCHOOL OF DESIGN

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.

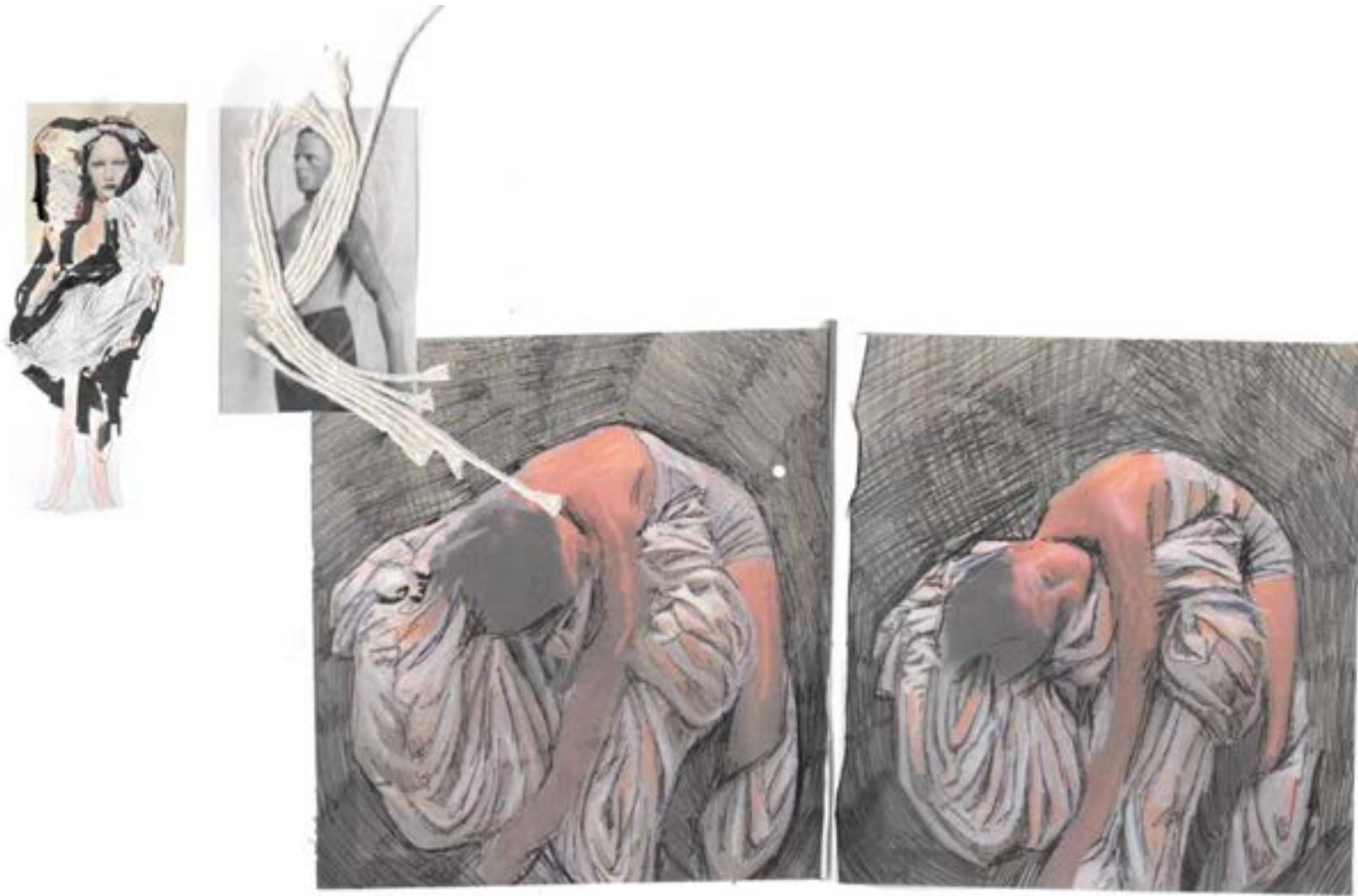
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



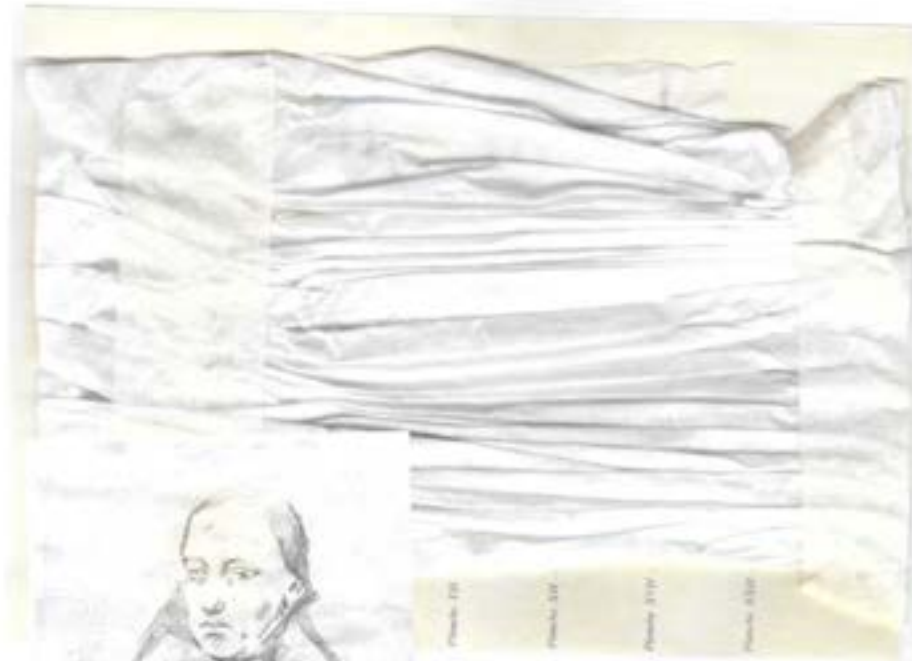
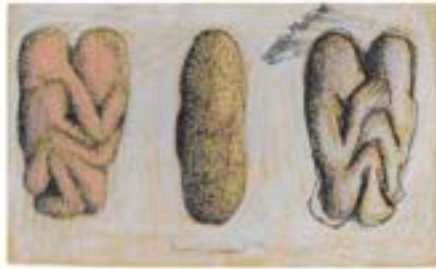
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



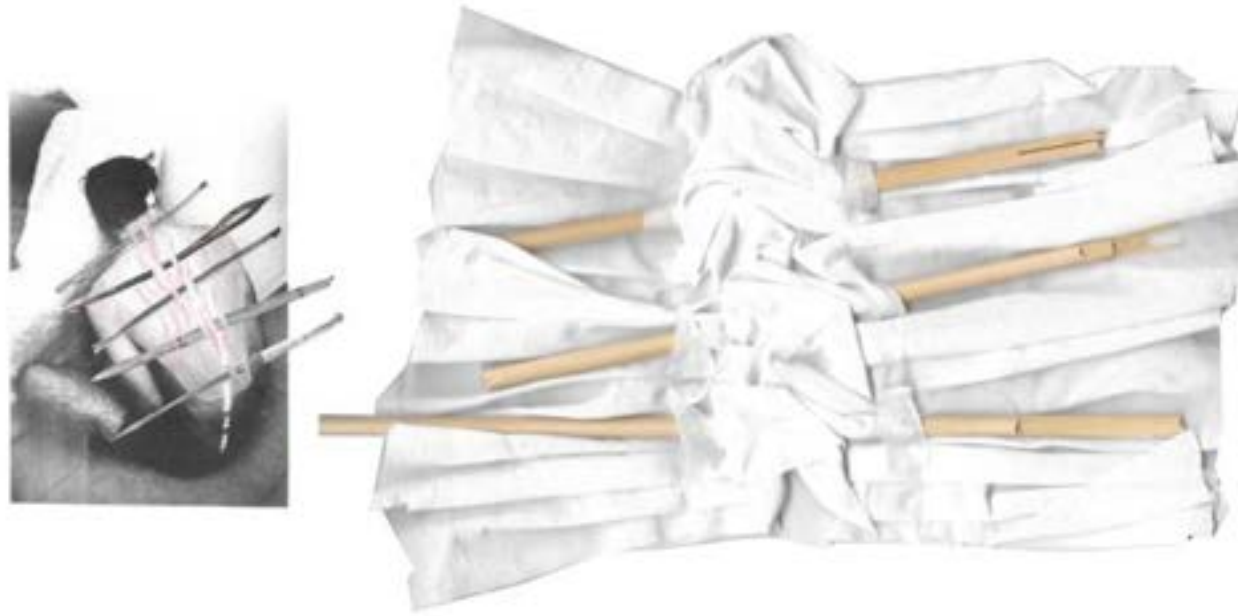
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



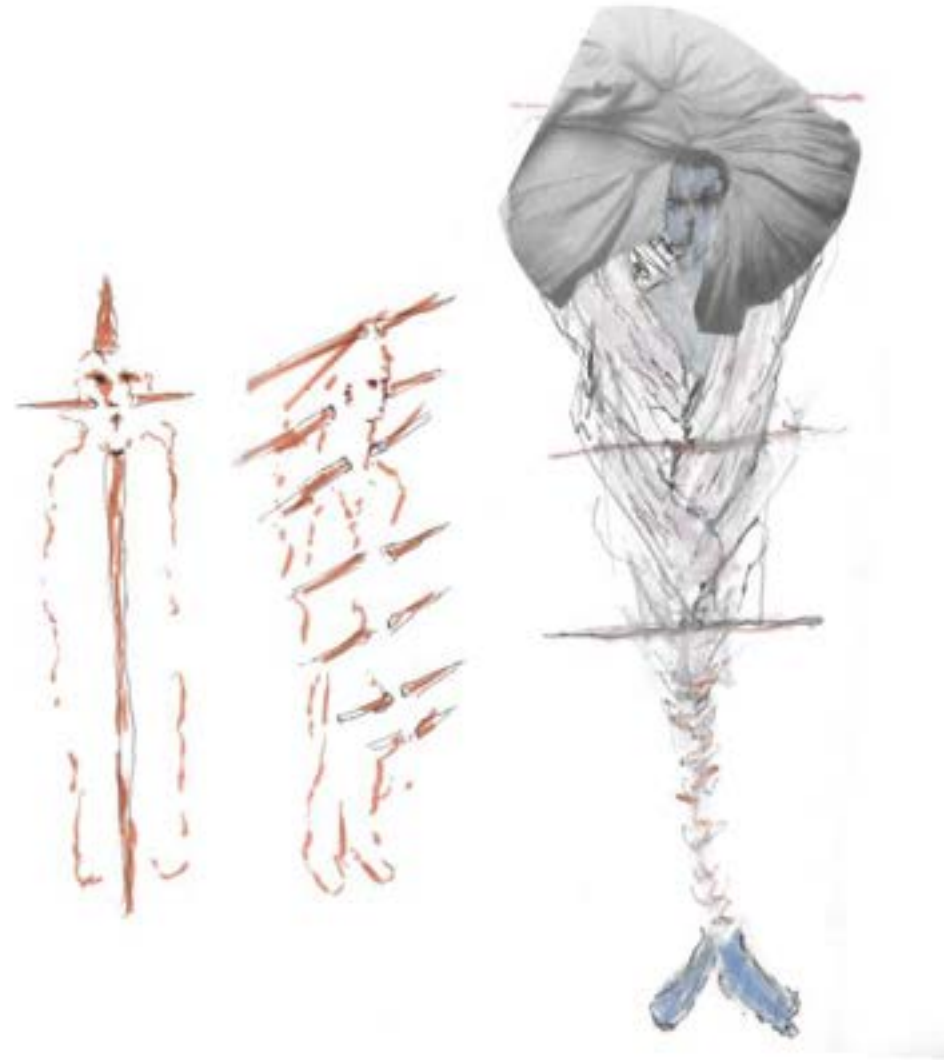
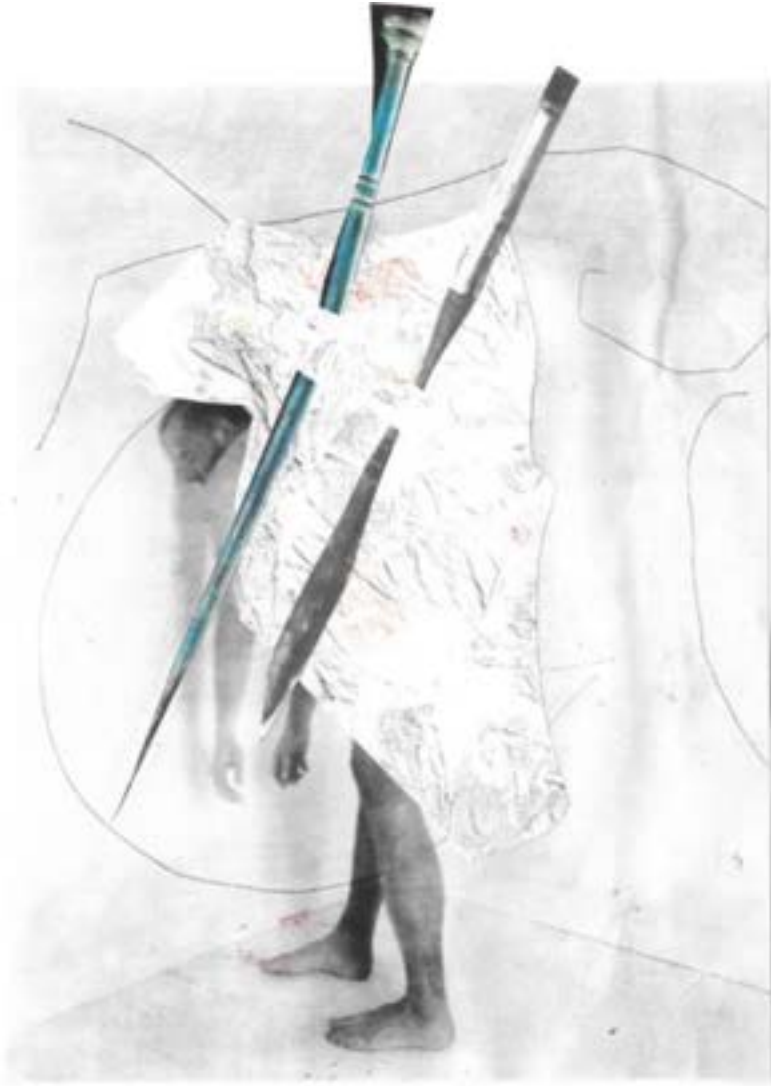
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



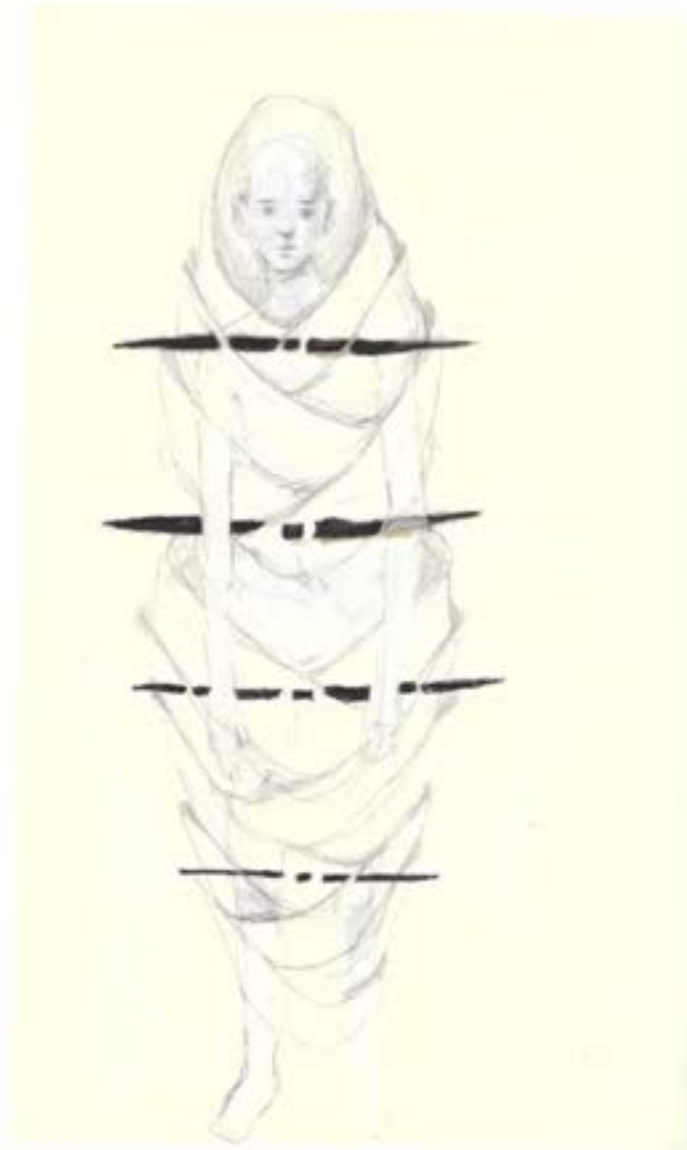
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



SKETCHBOOK FLIP THROUGH PROJECT ONE

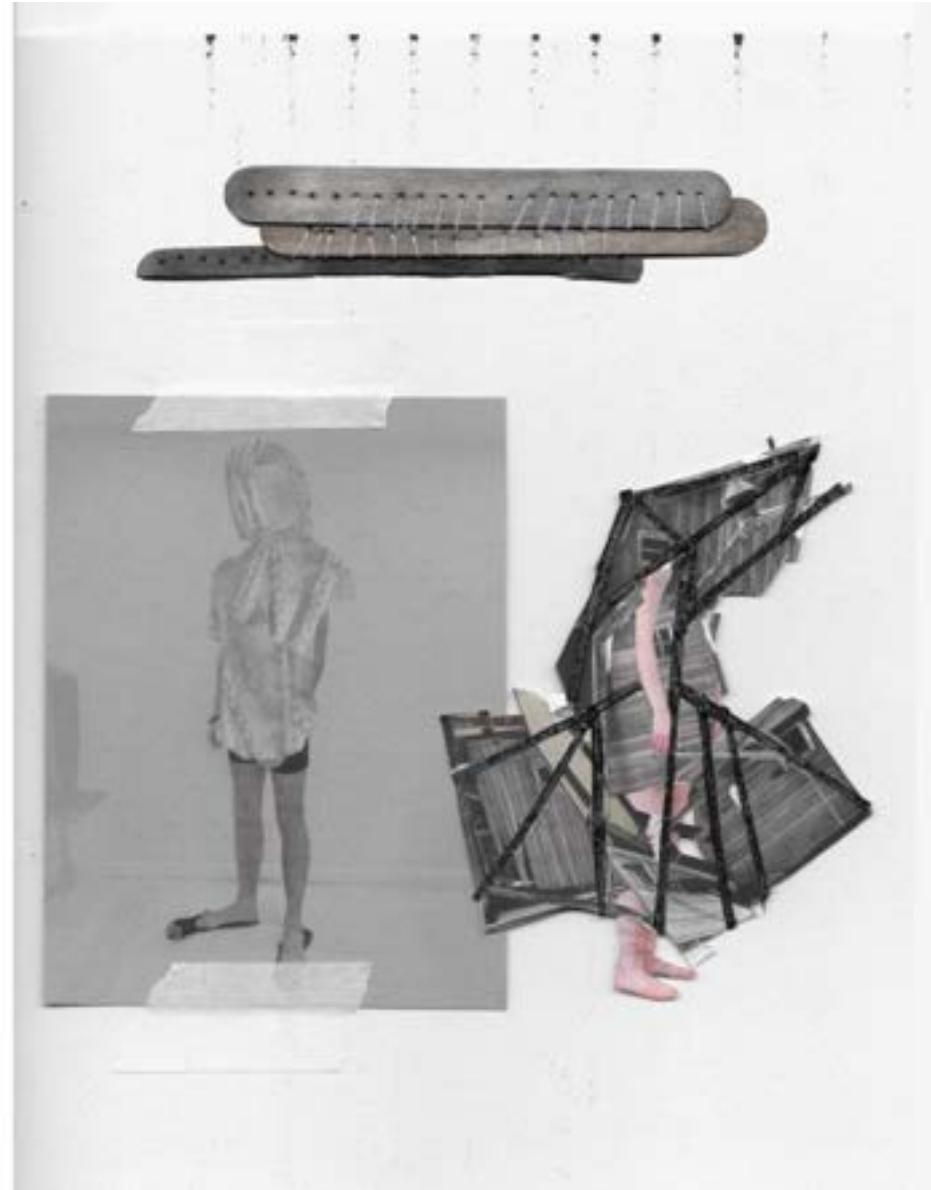
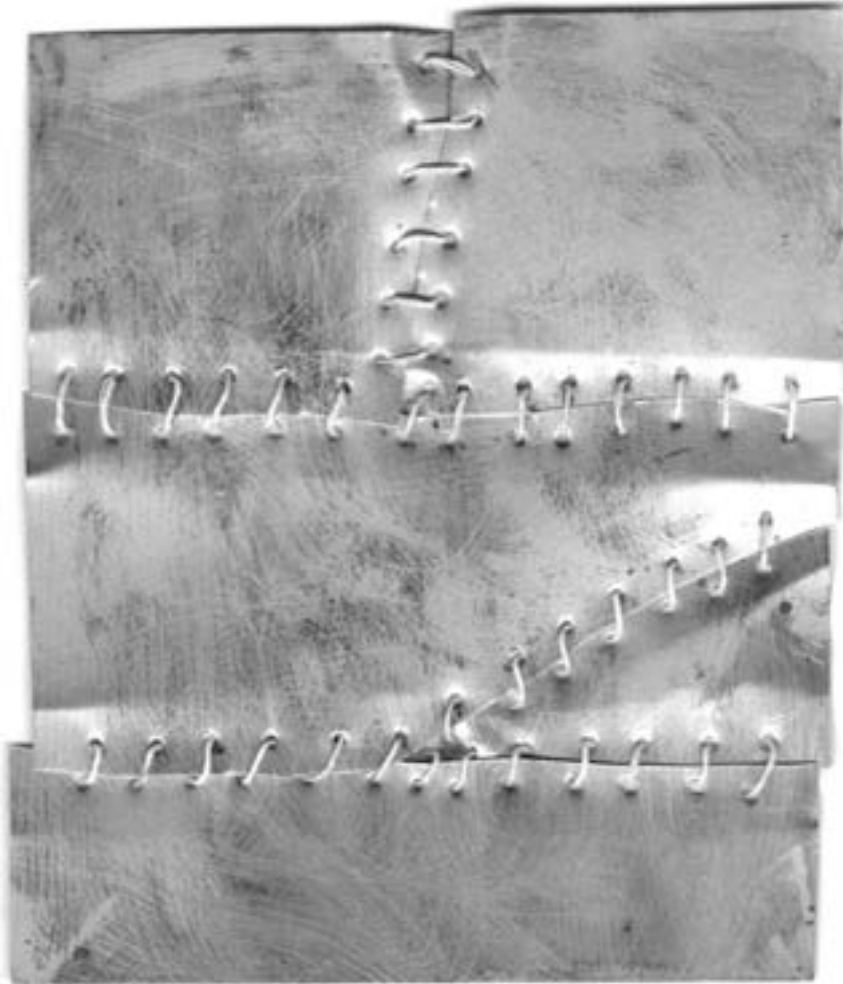
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



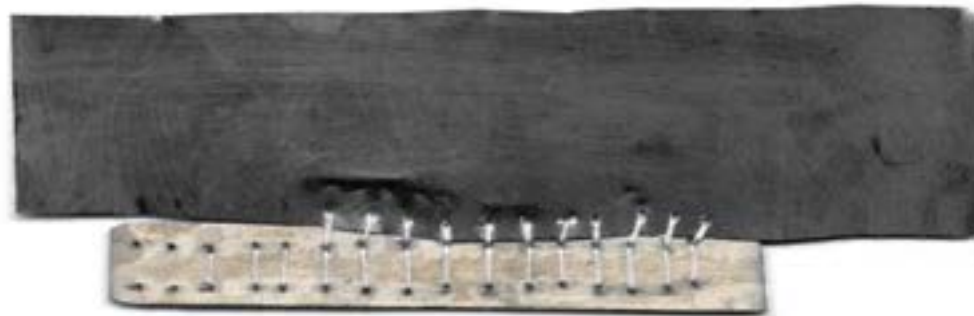
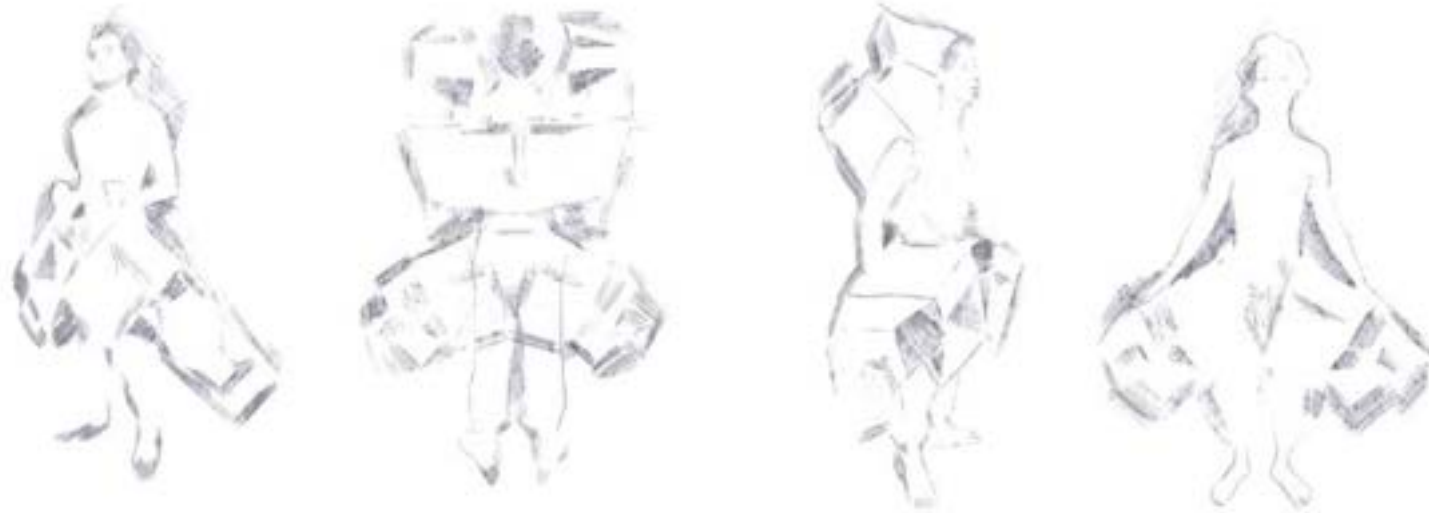
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Sophie Boris

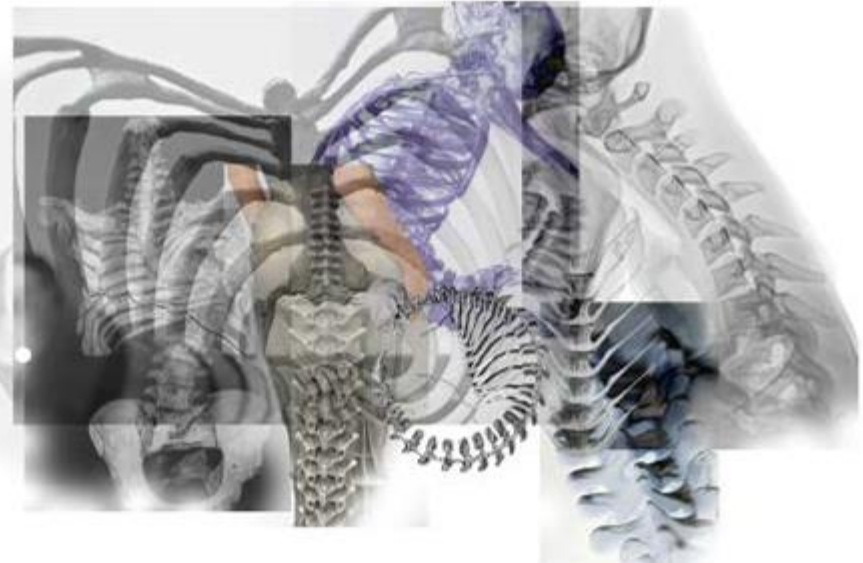


Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni



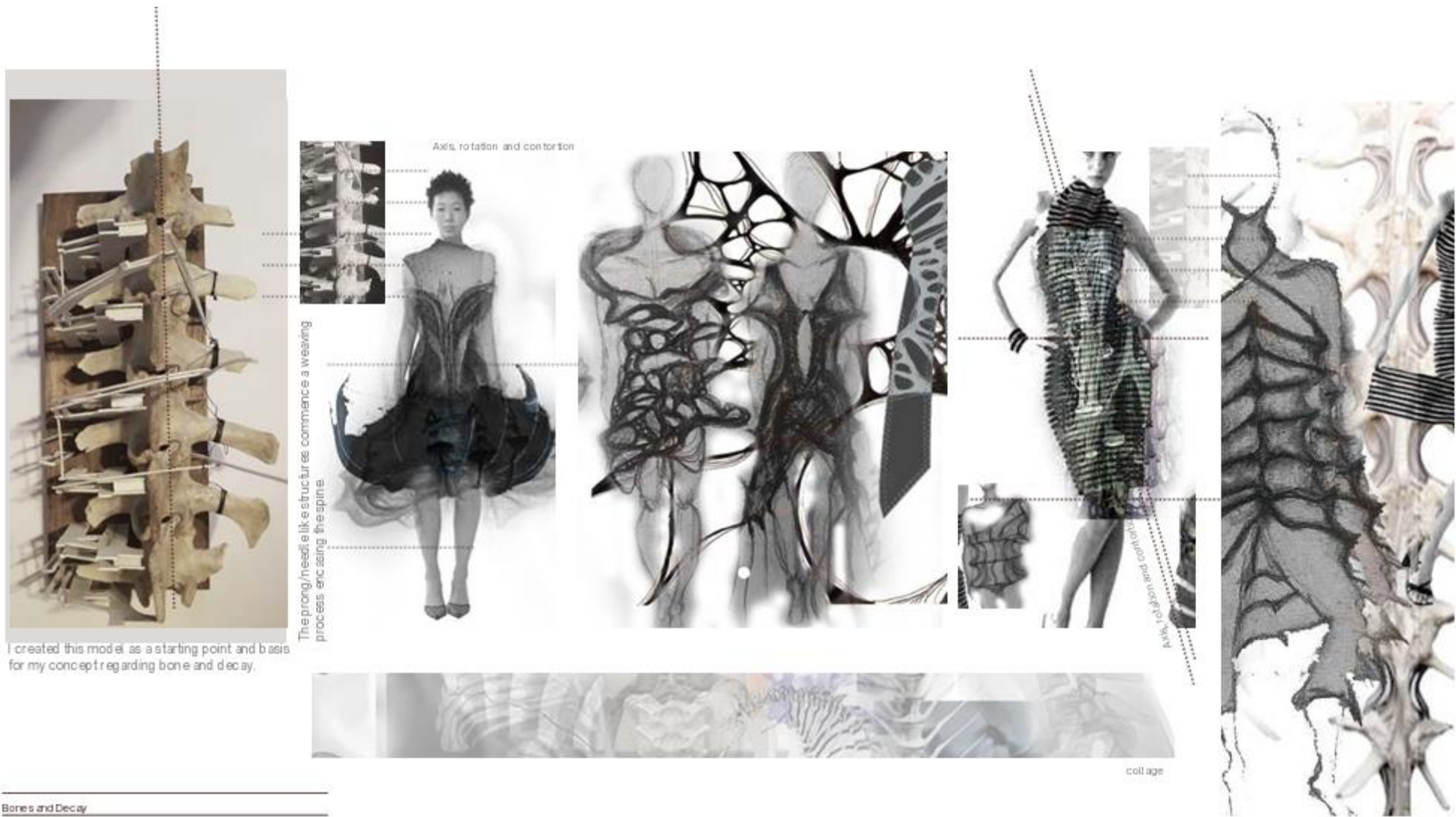
Experimentation with fabric manipulation



Collage exploring spinal forms

Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni



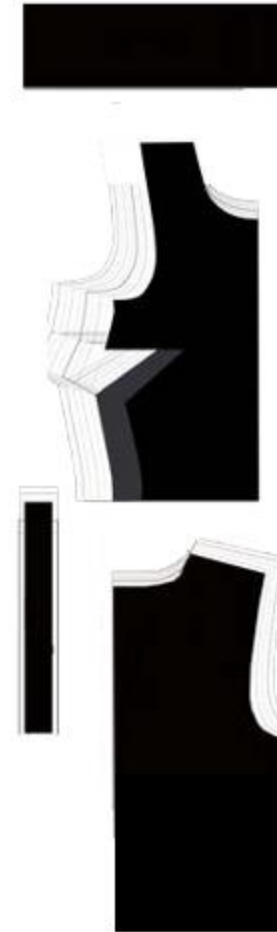
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni

I started to curate different fabric samples, experimenting with different techniques to resemble the skeletal structure. Creating folds and pleats and bending craft wire into bone-like structure sewn together in linear sequence. I decided the best technique was to sew the pleats together to create tucks instead of gathering the fabric to resemble a rib cage.

I wanted to visualise my concept first on a smaller scale so digitally crafted a simplistic pattern to lay over the rib cage structure to see which composition I would like most.

Bones and Decay



I created a very simple skirt to go in V & scale as a starting point. The pattern has been included



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni

Alien [1979] Original costume worn by Bodo from inspired by H.R. Giger



Experimentation (at 1/6 scale)



I created a very simple, white neck dress in 1/6 scale as a starting point

Experimentation (at 1:1 scale)



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni

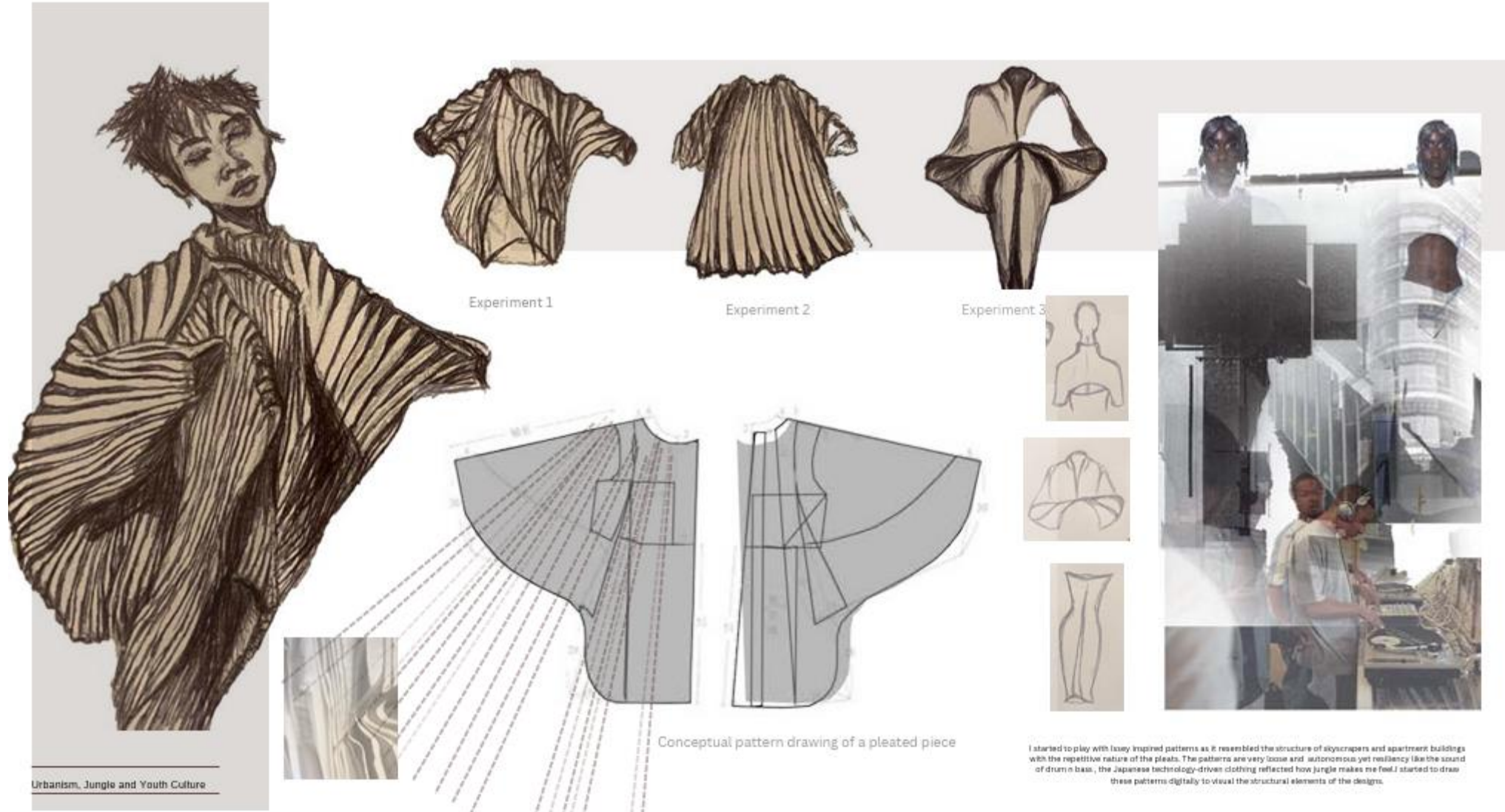


I started to experiment with snippets of the 90s London scene fusing this essence of jungle music with the remanence of pre-gentrified Hackney.



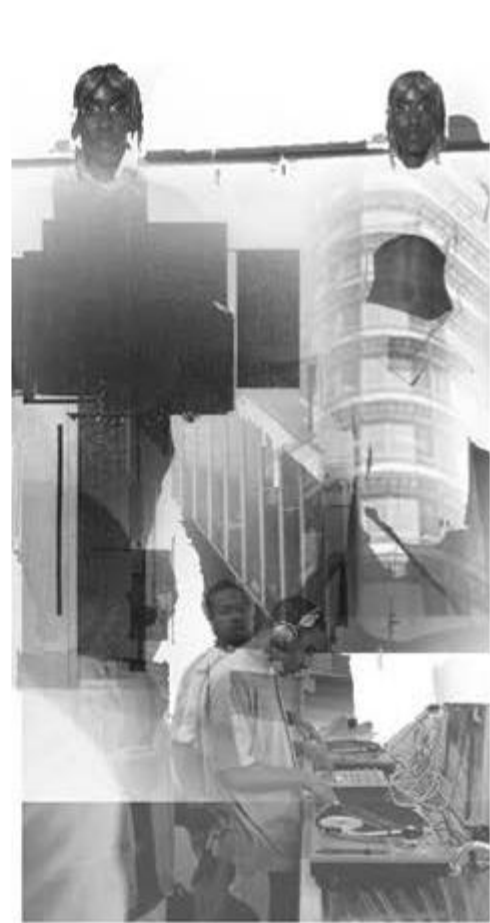
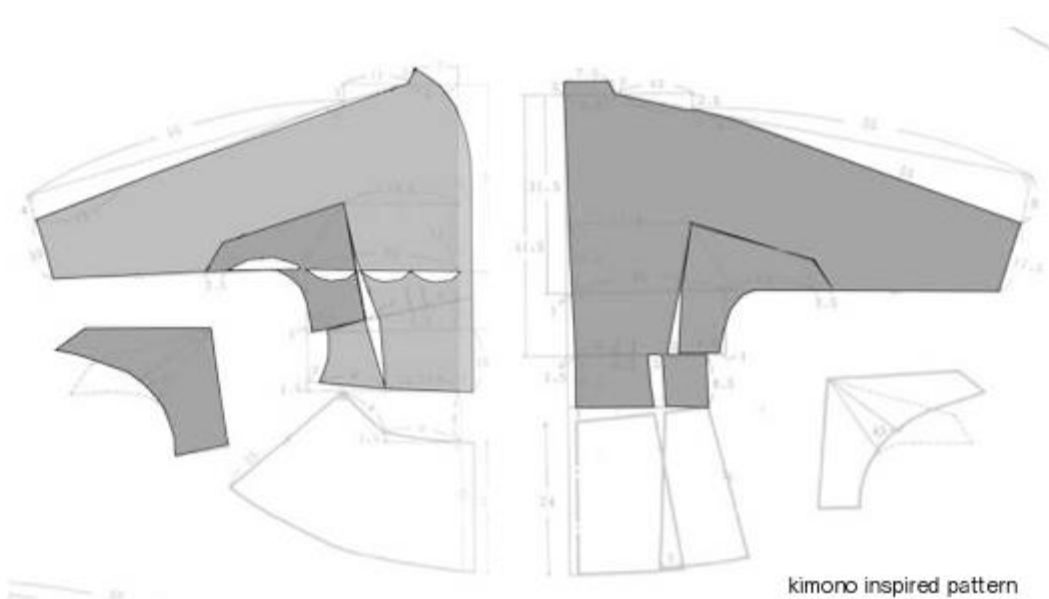
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni



I wanted these experiments to have a cybernetic vibe with a lot of negative space to characterise the breakbeat sensation that jungle music embodies.



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni



My first sketched idea



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Oluwaniademi Oni



This is a study of Thai artist, Kit Chirachaiskul's 'Protection' piece which is a self portrait of the young artist in a vulnerable position in his career as he struggles to break away from perfectionism. I think this piece reminded me of this concept of how art is a reflection of ourselves through our emotions, thoughts and how our attitudes to ourselves which is exposed through our creations. This depicts the state of our self image and confidence even without deliberation.

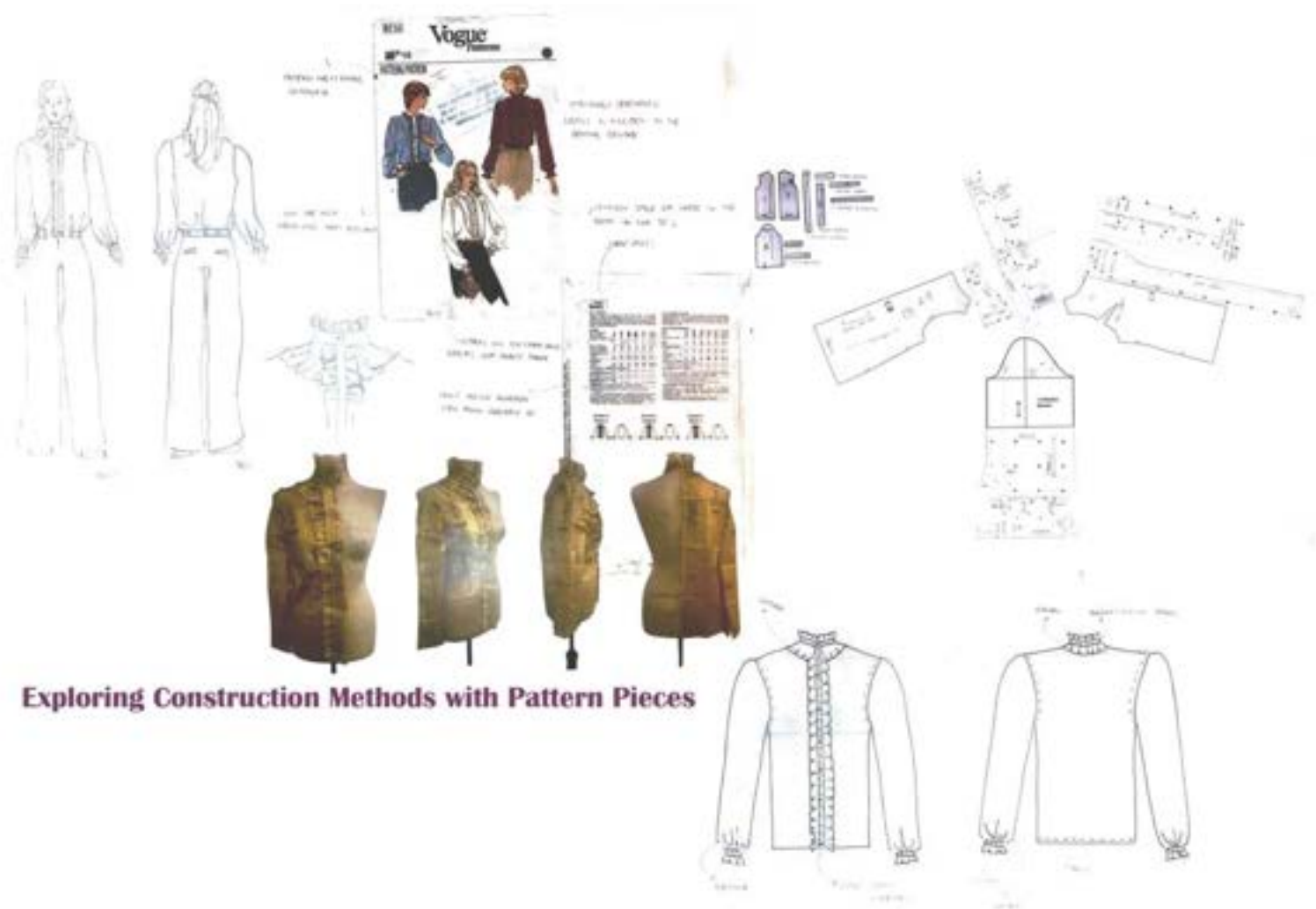


My depiction of the old couple was inspired by compassionate and agape love, even when superficial aspects of youth and appearance disipates over years. How real love has no age and how love is important in the human experience.



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Agnes Jinks



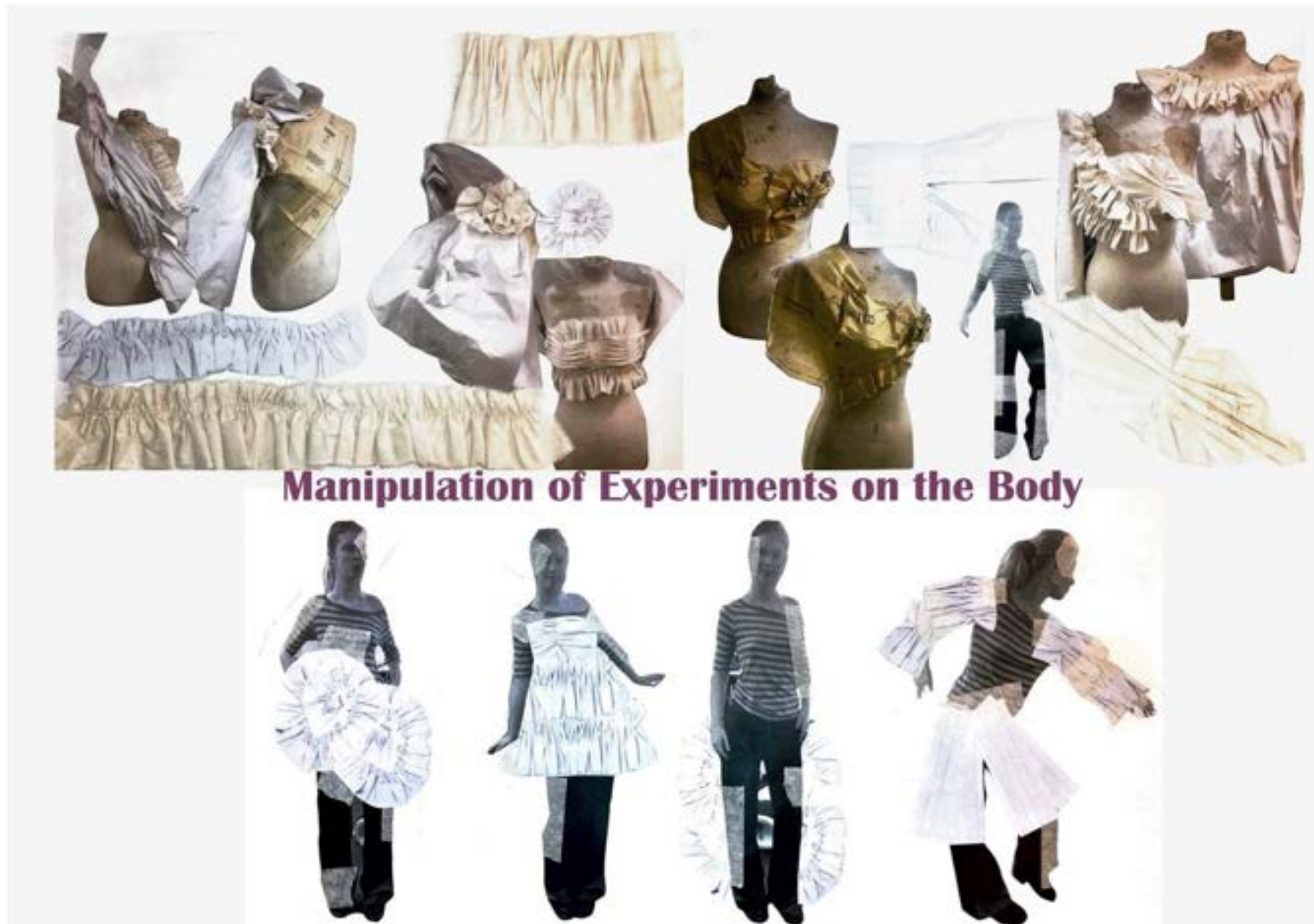
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Agnes Jinks



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Agnes Jinks



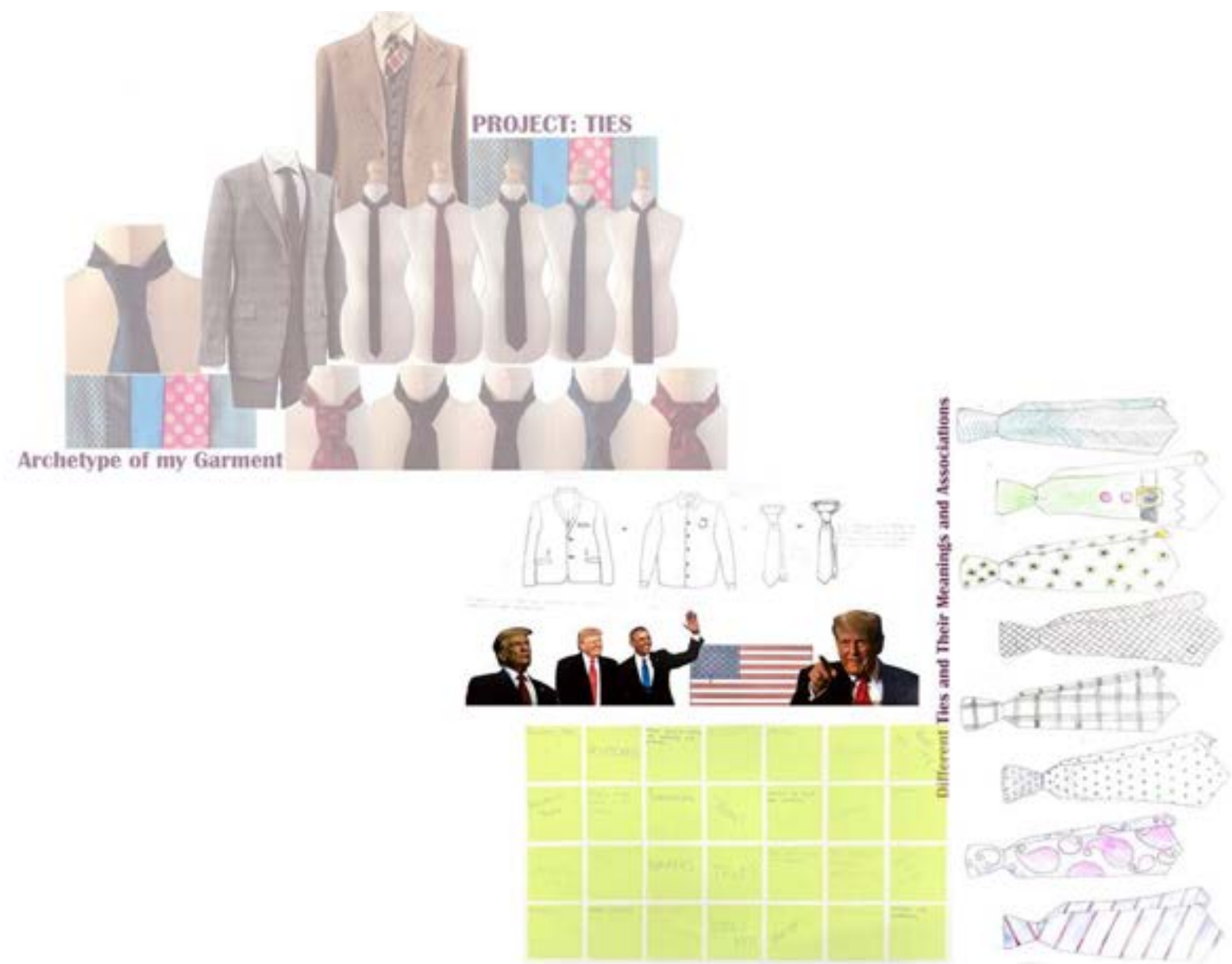
Year 1 – Fashion Design

Agnes Jinks



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Agnes Jinks



Year 1 – Fashion Design

Agnes Jinks

Experimentation with Ties



The Long Evolution of Ties and Cravats



Year 2 – Fashion Design

Daria Udonvenko



Year 2 – Fashion Design

Daria Udonvenko



Year 2 – Fashion Design

Daria Udonvenko



Issey Miyake Photographs
by Irving Penn, 1968



Issey Miyake FW20

IN MY WORK I EXPLORED THE CONTRAST BETWEEN SHATTERED WINDOWS CAUSED BY RUSSIAN ROCKETS IN UKRAINE AND ORDINARY WINDOWS IN LONDON, ILLUSTRATING A PARALLEL EXISTENCE. THIS THEME WAS CAPTURED THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS OF BROKEN GLASS, SCENES FROM CHERNOBYL, AND VARIOUS PATTERNS, WHICH I THEN COMPARED TO FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY. BY Juxtaposing THESE IMAGES, I AIMED TO HIGHLIGHT THE STARK DIFFERENCES AND UNEXPECTED SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE DESTRUCTION IN UKRAINE AND THE EVERYDAY LIFE CAPTURED IN FASHION DESIGN. THIS COMPARISON CREATED A POIGNANT COMMENTARY ON RESILIENCE, BEAUTY, AND THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE ACROSS DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WHILE ALSO REFLECTING ON HOW FASHION CAN SERVE AS A POWERFUL MEDIUM FOR EXPRESSING AND UNDERSTANDING THESE COMPLEX NARRATIVES.



Issey Miyake by Irving Penn, 1968



Iris van Herpen S/S '20
couture



Year 2 – Fashion Design

Daria Udonvenko



Year 2 – Fashion Design

Daria Udonvenko



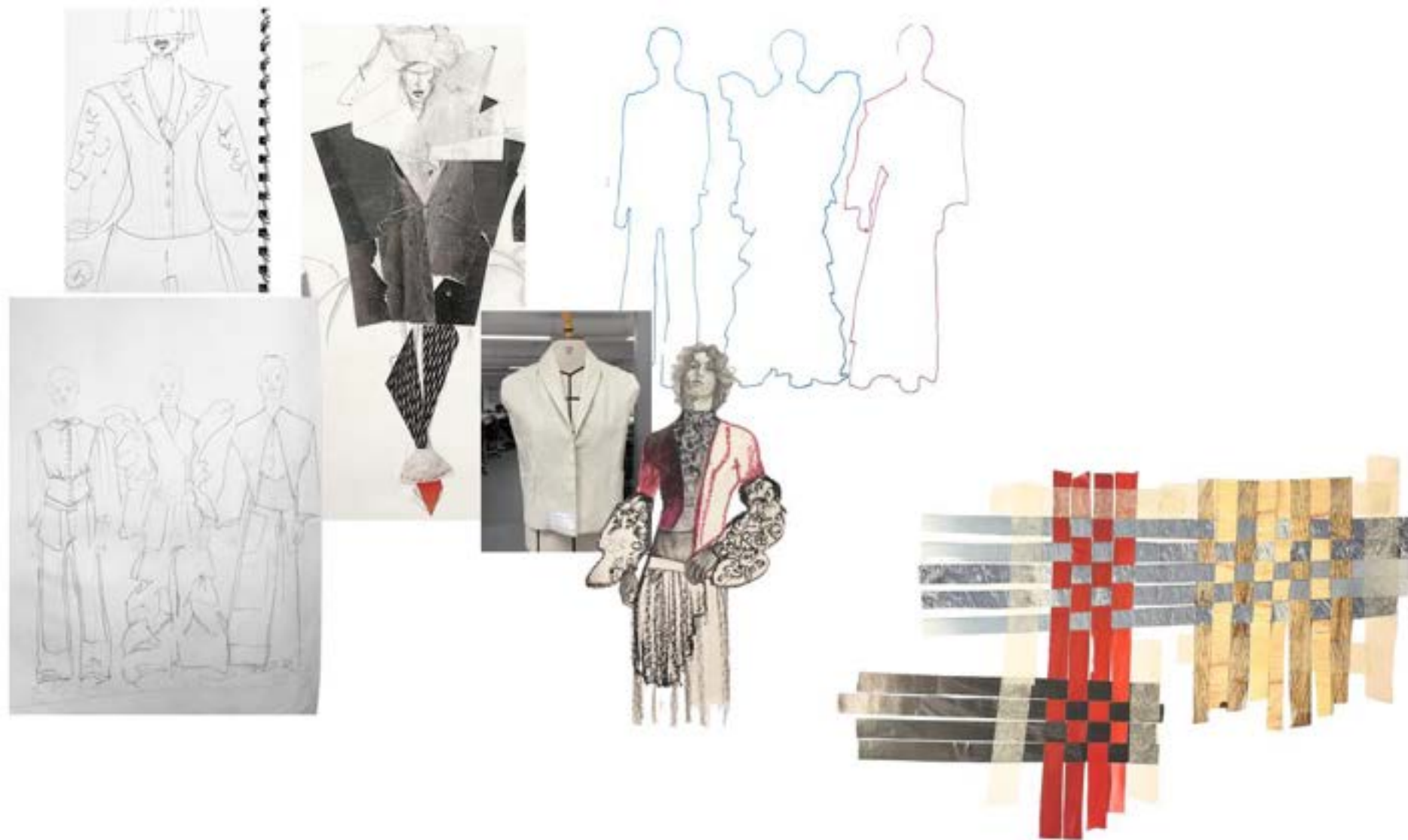
Year 2 – Fashion Design

Daria Udonvenko



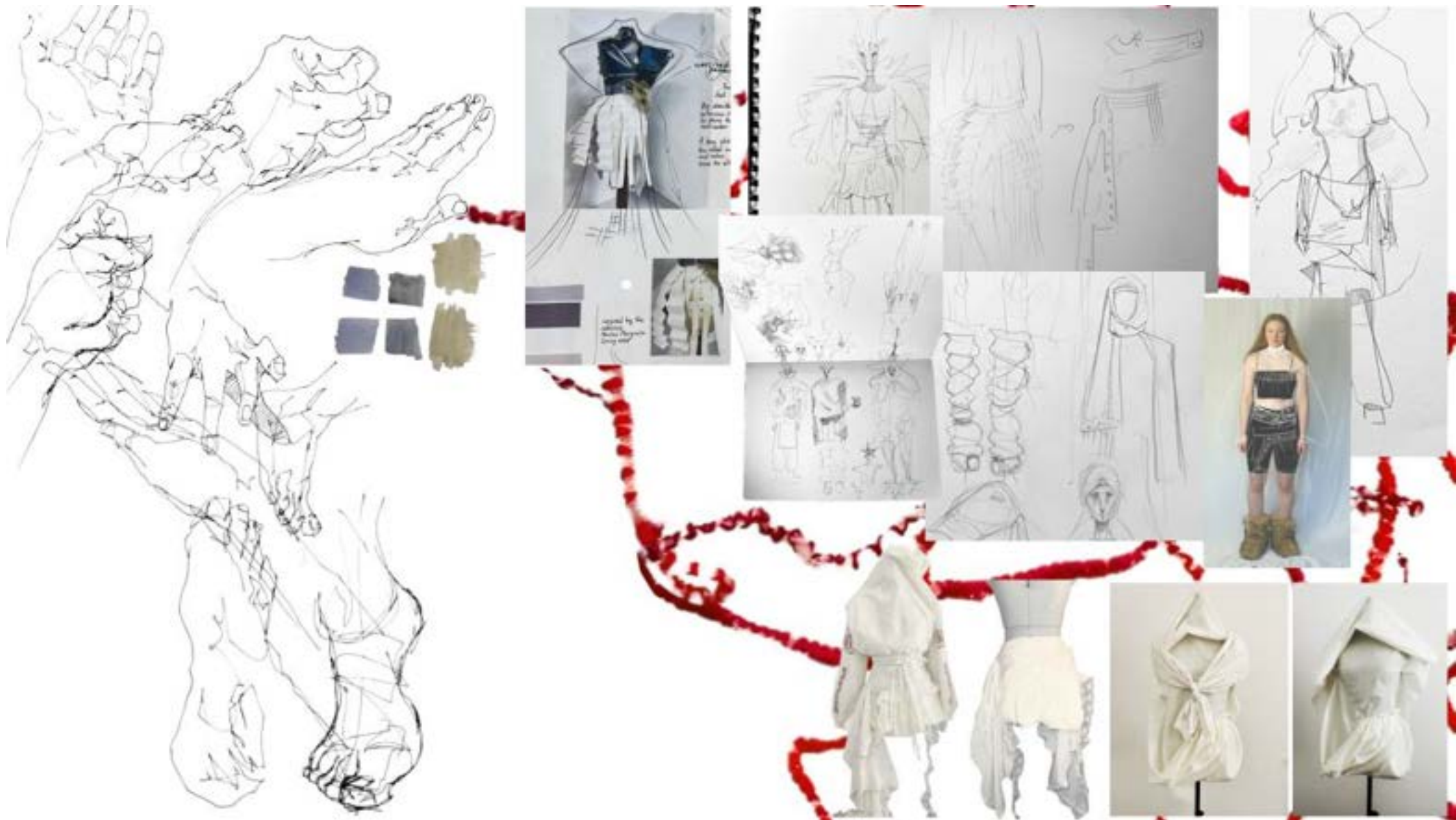
Year 2 – Fashion Design

Daria Udonvenko



Year 2 – Fashion Design

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Daria Udonvenko



Year 2 – Fashion Design

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Year 2 – Fashion Design

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Year 2 – Fashion Design

Daria Udonvenko



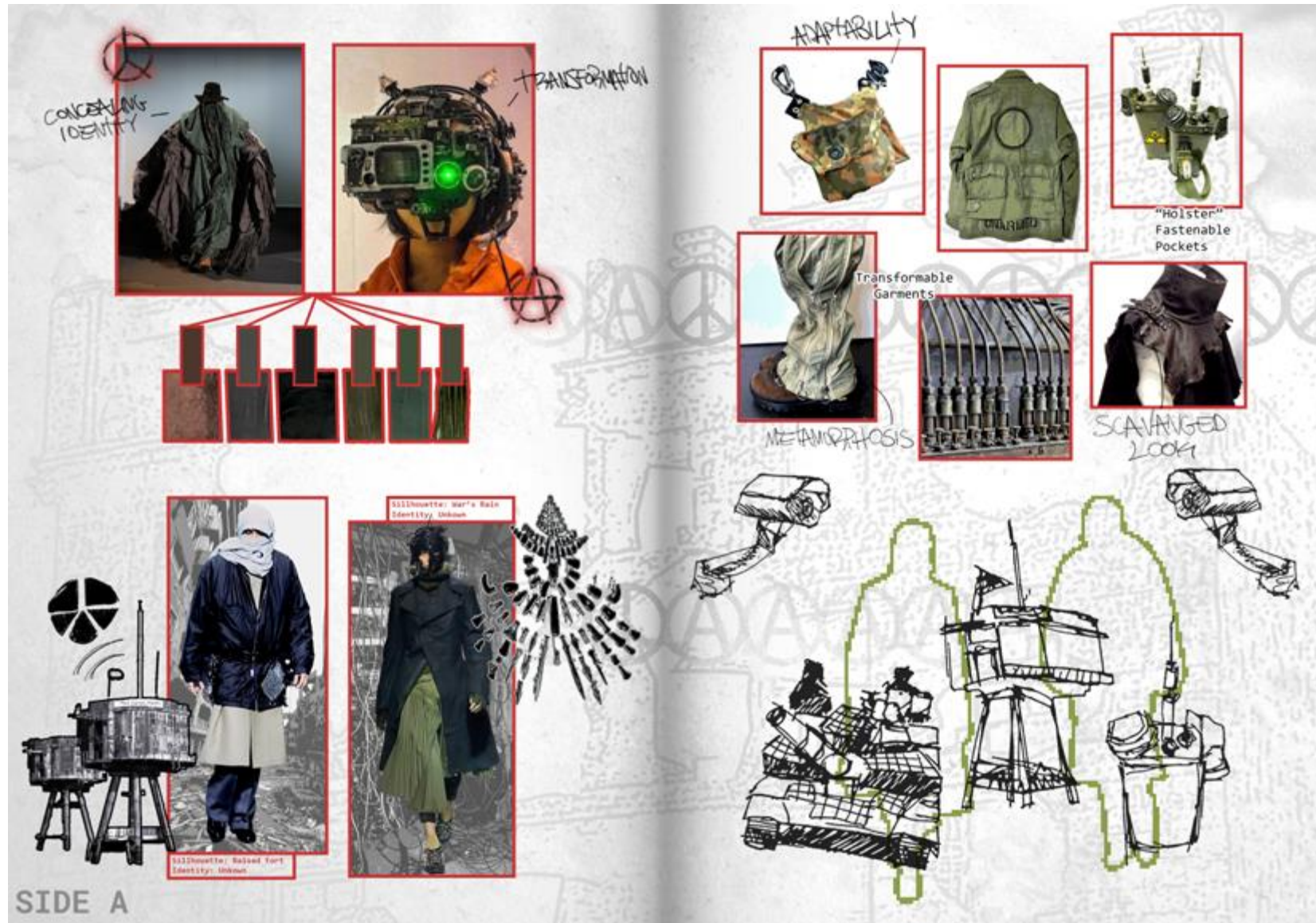
Year 2 – Fashion Design

Mila Paolone Ramina



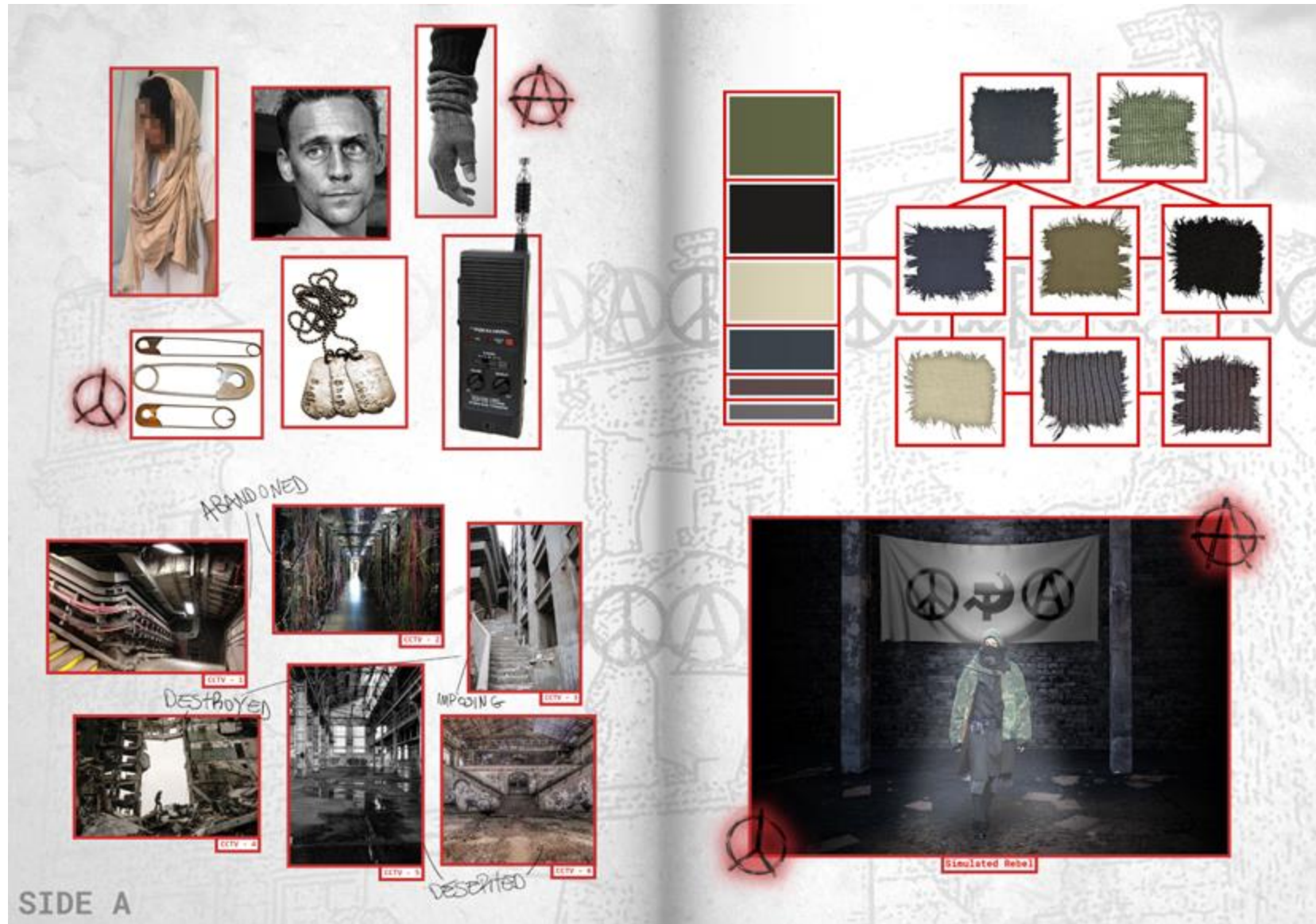
Year 2 – Fashion Design

Mila Paolone Ramina



Year 2 – Fashion Design

Mila Paolone Ramina



Year 2 – Fashion Design

Mila Paolone Ramina



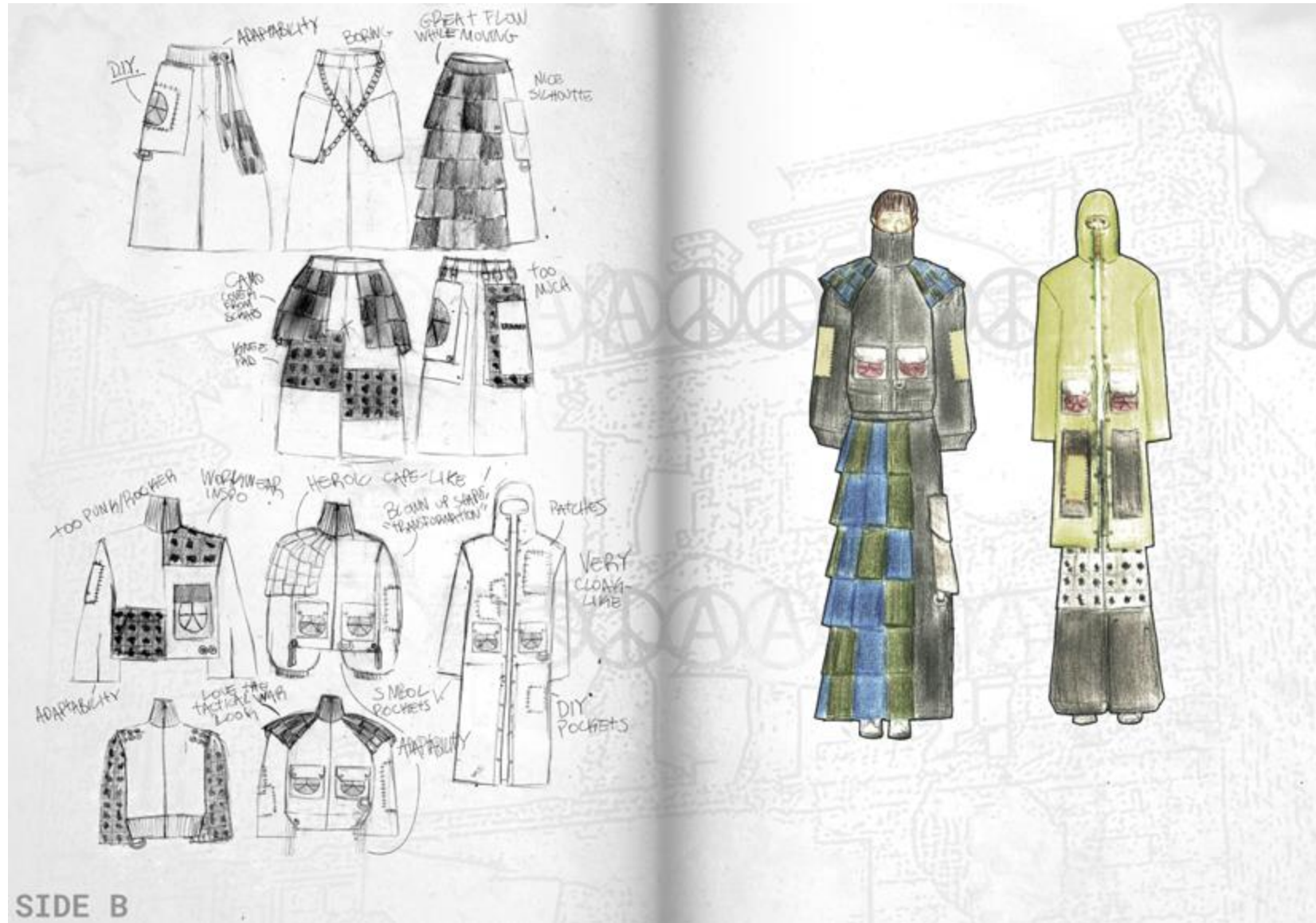
Year 2 – Fashion Design

Mila Paolone Ramina



Year 2 – Fashion Design

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