

THE S E C S O K N I D N

ISABELLA
GUTIERREZ



EMBLA WITHOUT ASK THE FIRST WOMAN



CONCEPT

MY COLLECTION EXPLORES THE FEMALE **SEXUAL IDENTITY** AND HOW OUR CLOTHING CAN BE USED TO **EMPOWER** AND EXPRESS OUR **SEXUALITY**.

WITHIN MY WORK, I'M PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN **SLOWING DOWN THE SUPPLY CHAIN**, EMPHASISING ENTIRELY HAND-MADE GARMENTS AND WORKING WITH **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MATERIALS**. AS AN EMERGING DESIGNER I BELIEVE IT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT FOR THESE PRINCIPALS TO BE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND MY DESIGNS.

THE COLLECTION FEATURES **WASHABLE PAPER** COATS AND CORSETS, DRAPED **TENCEL** DRESSES AND **RECYCLED WOOD** FINISHINGS (SANDED AND VANISHED WITH ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ENAMEL). ALL OF THE MATERIALS USED ARE DERIVED FROM **PLANT BASED** SOURCES.

INSPIRED BY THE SCOTTISH FOLK STORIES OF THE SELKIE, MY COLLECTION INTENDS TO EMPOWER THE WEARER, BECOMING HER SELKIE SKIN AND ALLOWING HER TO IMPOSE WHATEVER **POWERFUL PERSONA** SHE WISHES TO PRESENT.

I WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED BY THE HIGHLY DECORATIVE AND OVERWHELMING DRESSES OF THE 17TH CENTURY AND HOW THEY REFLECTED THE HOUSEHOLD TO MAKE A WOMAN FEEL AS THOUGH SHE IS A PART OF THE FURNITURE. WITHIN MY COLLECTION I AIMED TO **SUBVERT** THIS HISTORICAL IMAGERY, TO CREATE A REPRESENTATION OF THE MODERN WOMAN. FINDING THE SWEET SPOT BETWEEN HYPER-FEMININITY AND **SEXUAL LIBERATION**.

HAVING EXPLORED THE RESTRICTIVE NATURES OF 18TH CENTURY CORSETRY, WOODEN PROSTHETICS AND BONDAGE WEAR, I USED MY TEXTILES AND SILHOUETTE TO REPRESENT A SENSE OF **PURPOSEFUL RESTRICTION**. RE-CLAIMING THESE CLASSIC REPRESENTATIONS OF FEMALE OPPRESSION, IMMORTALISING THEM WITHIN WEARABLE PAPER CLOTHES.



The Diverse Body



Lawrence

Founder of the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, and anti-racism campaigner, London

Doreen Lawrence's fireless campaigning – since her son Stephen's racially motivated murder in 1993, and the subsequent failure of the police to investigate it – has led to sweeping police reforms.

Photography Misan Harriman

CUSTOMER PROFILE

THIS COLLECTION TARGETS POWERFUL WOMEN WITH A PASSION FOR PRINT AND A LOVE OF COLOUR. THE SILHOUETTES ARE MODEST AND ACCOMMODATING TO ALL AGES, AS WELL AS FLATTERING TO MANY DIFFERENT BODY TYPES.

MY CUSTOMER IS A WOMAN WHO WANTS TO LIVE HER PRAIRIE GIRL DREAMS, IN LONG FLOATY DRESSES PAIRED WITH POWERFUL HATS, ALL TIED TOGETHER WITH A STATEMENT BELT. SHE IS A BOLD WOMAN WHO IS DESIGN CONSCIOUS AND INTERESTED IN MAKING A STATEMENT. DUE TO THE FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE ASPECTS OF MY COLLECTION MATERIALS, MY CUSTOMER WOULD ALSO BE SUSTAINABLY MINDED AND ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS. SHE FAVOURS HIGH QUALITY GARMENTS, WITH A BEAUTIFUL FINISH THAT ARE HARD-WEARING AND TIMELESS.



RESEARCH

The Seven Sounds of the Selkie

THE SELKIES

The Scottish folk-love of the Selkie refers to ancient creatures who can shape shift from human form to the form of a seal.

The most common use of this motif appears in old sailor lore in which, a man steals the Selkies skin, trapping them in female form and forcing them to become their bride.

The Selkie must remain with the man, spending her life trapped, searching for her skin, so that she can one day return to the sea.



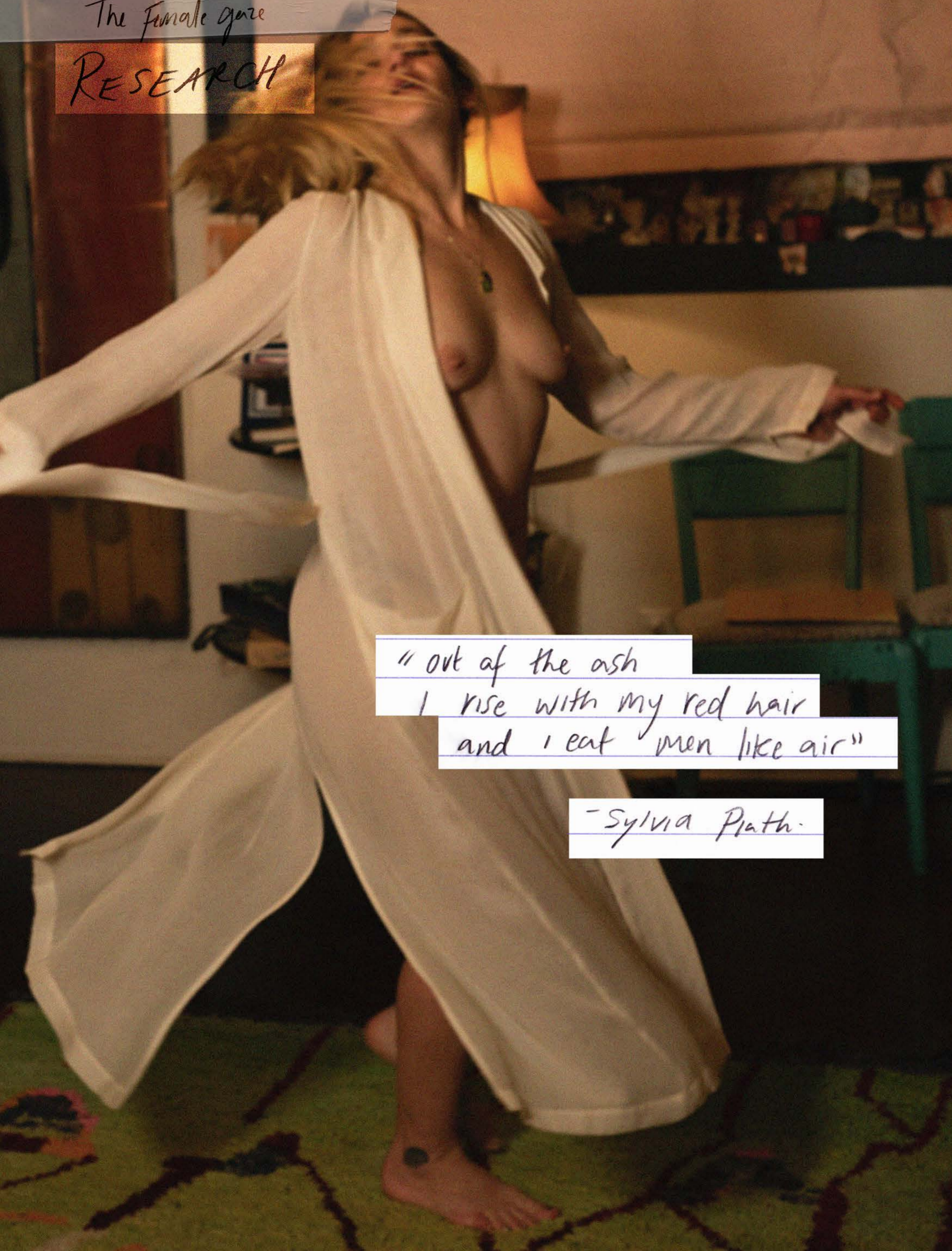
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THE FATE OF THE SELKIE MIRRORS THAT OF THE WOMEN OF THE CULTURE WHICH HAS CREATED THEM. OPPRESSED AND FORCED INTO SEXUAL DOMINATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT IN THE 21ST CENTUR, WOMEN ARE ABLE TO HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES AND WHAT THEY CHOSE TO WEAR. WOMENSWEAR SHOULD REFLECT THE NEEDS OF THE WOMAN WEARING THEM, NOT THE MEN SURROUNDING THEM. OUR CLOTHES ARE OUR **SECOND SKIN**. WE DESERVE TO FEEL CONFIDENT, POWERFUL AND FREE.



The female gaze
RESEARCH



"out of the ash
I rise with my red hair
and I eat men like air"

- Sylvia Plath



THE FEMALE GAZE, REFERS TO THE SUBVERSION OF THE TERM 'THE MALE GAZE'. THE MALE GAZE REFERS TO THE CONVENTIONS ESTABLISHED IN CLASSICAL HOLLYWOOD FILMS REQUIRED ALL SPECTATORS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SEX, TO IDENTIFY WITH THE MALE PROTAGONIST AND TO ADOPT THE CONTROLLING MALE GAZE AROUND WHICH SUCH FILMS WERE HELD TO BE STRUCTURED. 'THE FEMALE GAZE' THUS MARKED OUT NEGLECTED TERRITORY. FOR MANY, THE TERM ALLUDES TO THE RIGHT OF WOMEN TO ADOPT THE ACTIVE AND OBJECTIFYING GAZE THAT HAS TRADITIONALLY AND STEREOTYPICALLY BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH MALES, UNDERMINING THE DOMINANT CULTURAL ALIGNMENT OF MASCULINITY WITH ACTIVITY AND FEMININITY WITH PASSIVITY. DESPITE THE LABEL, THIS NEED NOT INVOLVE REPLACING ONE FORM OF GENDER ESSENTIALISM WITH ANOTHER: THE OBJECTS OF THE GAZE NEED NOT BE CONFINED TO MALES.

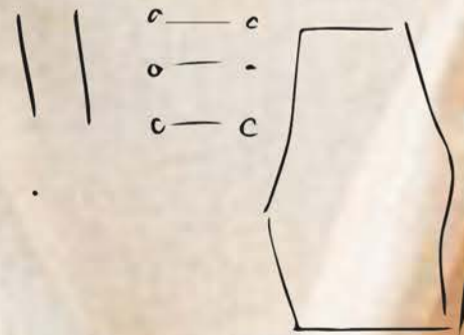
HISTORICALLY, THE MALE GAZE HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT WAY OF LOOKING IN ART. THE FEMALE GAZE HAS BEEN SUPPRESSED OR ERASED.



HAVI
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design
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RESEARCH

Alternative Armours



ALTERNATIVE "ARMOUR"

ARMOURING

STEELE'S BEAR HUNTING ARMOUR, 1865.

NICK CUNNINGHAM'S "ARMOURING"

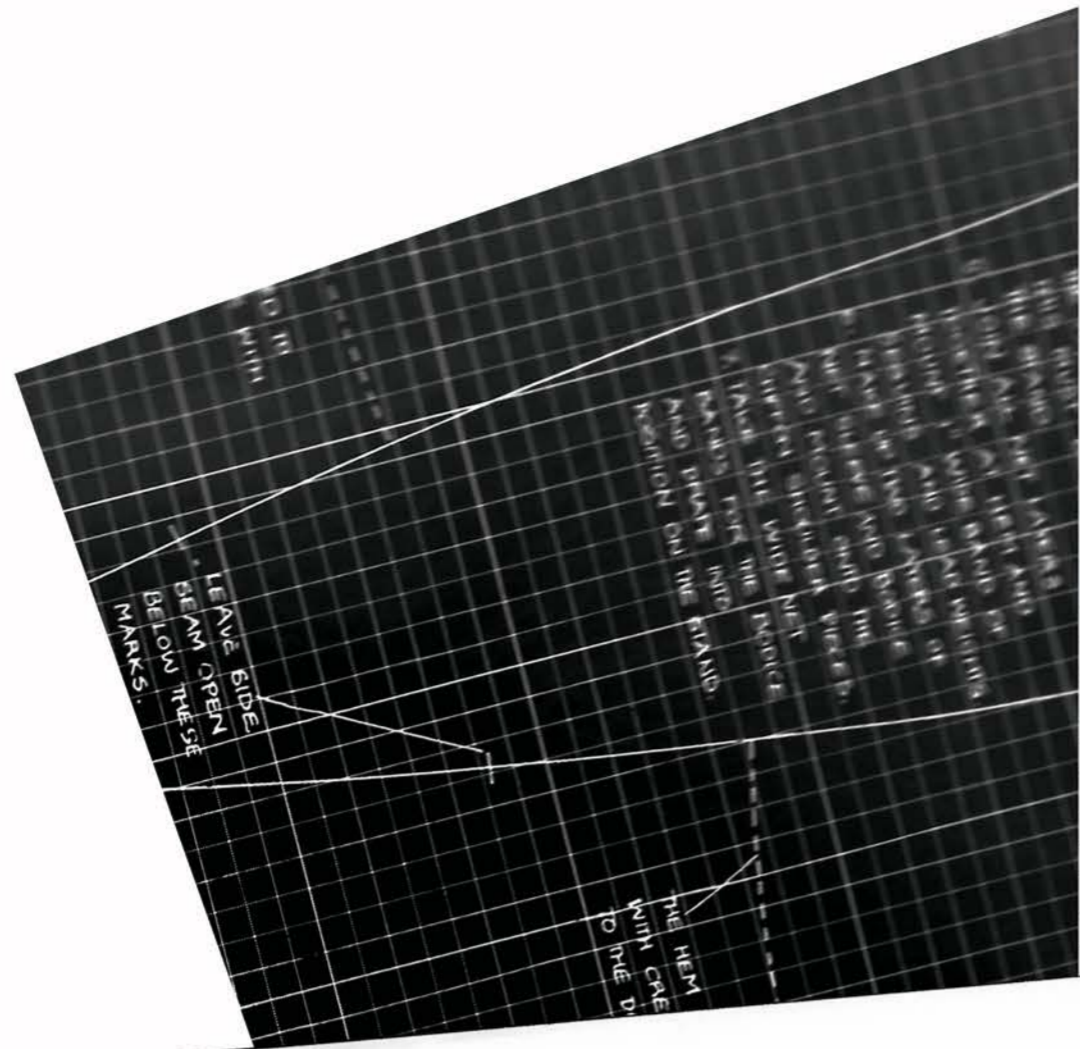
ARMOUR CO-CREATOR MADE FROM TWIGS.

GOLD WIRE BODYSUIT.

BEAUTIFUL BUT UNWEARABLE? COMFORT VS. DISCOMFORT

STUDDED ARMOUR USED FOR BATING BEARS MADE OF LEATHER + IRON NAILS.

Development Look 6



APART, IS MADE UP SEPARATELY AND ATTACHED TO THE WAIST BELOW THE BLACK NET SKIRT. A TRIP SKIRT IN BLACK SILK NET IS PLACED BELOW THIS PART TO FOLD



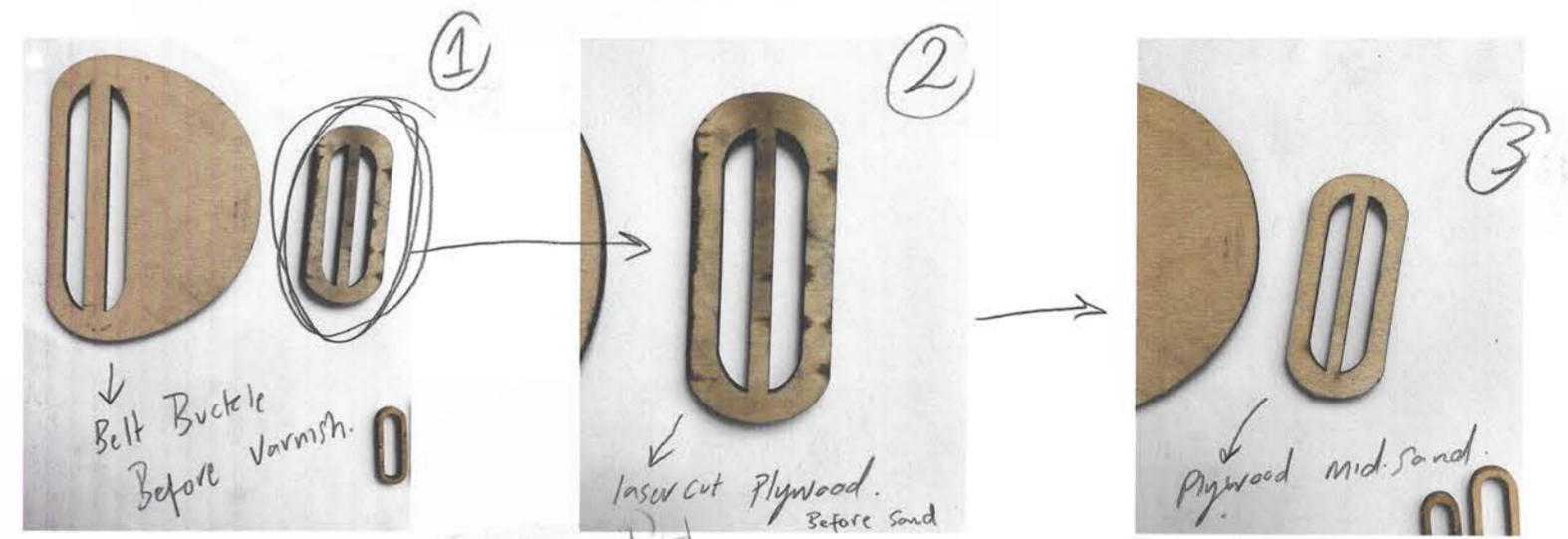
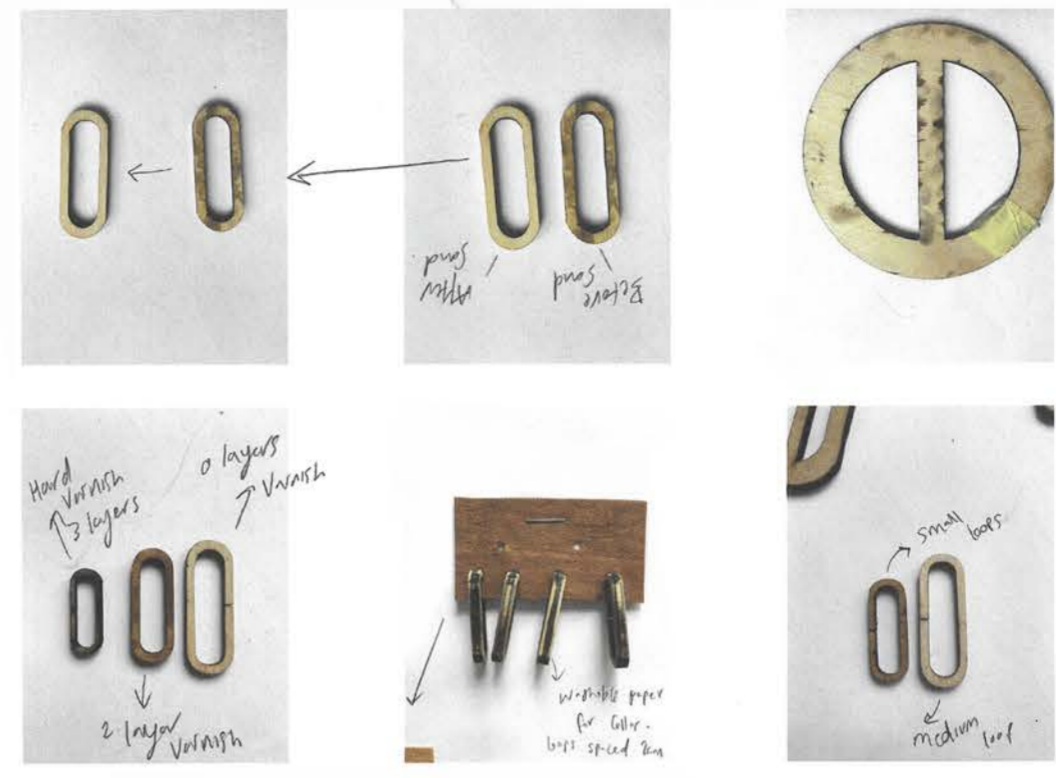
THE HEM IS LINED WITH CREAM FLANNEL TO THE DOTTED LINE.

THE HEM IS LINED WITH CREAM FLANNEL TO THE DOTTED LINE.

Fastenings manufacture
process



AI.
File for
Laser Cutter.



How to prepare Fastenings:

1. laser cut files
2. Soak cut pieces overnight
3. Dry pieces & sand off any burns.
4. Apply 2 layers of cherry Varnish.
5. Sand again for distressed look
6. Spray with Environmentally friendly Enamel to create gloss effect!



MEET MILK

MEETMILK - CONTAINING TENCEL LYOCCELL FIBRES ARE DERIVED FROM SUSTAINABLE WOOD SOURCES THAT ARE HARVESTED FROM CERTIFIED AND CONTROLLED SOURCES IN NATURAL FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGED PLANTATIONS. TENCEL BRANDED LYOCCELL FIBRES ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR NATURAL COMFORT AND LUXURIOUS SOFT TOUCH. MEETMILK IS A BRAND OF SUSTAINABLE FABRICS DETERMINED TO OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE CHOICE OF MATERIALS FOR HOME SEWERS AND MAKERS WHO CHERISH HIGH QUALITY AND ECO-FRIENDLINESS WHEN CHOOSING FABRIC FOR A HANDMADE WARDROBE.



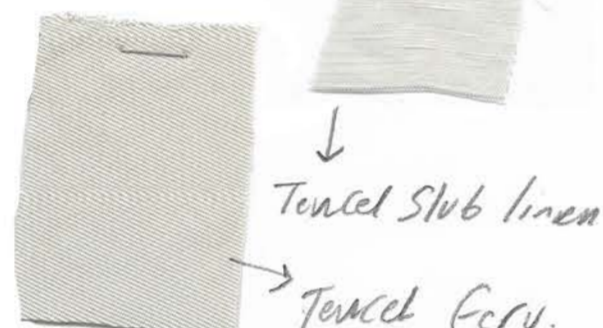
Tencel Twill Matte



Meet milk Tencel Ivory



Hemp Linen - gungor nut



Tencel Slub linen

Tencel Ecru

Deadstock Cotton - Cotton Lape



Washable Paper - Savatoga Sand



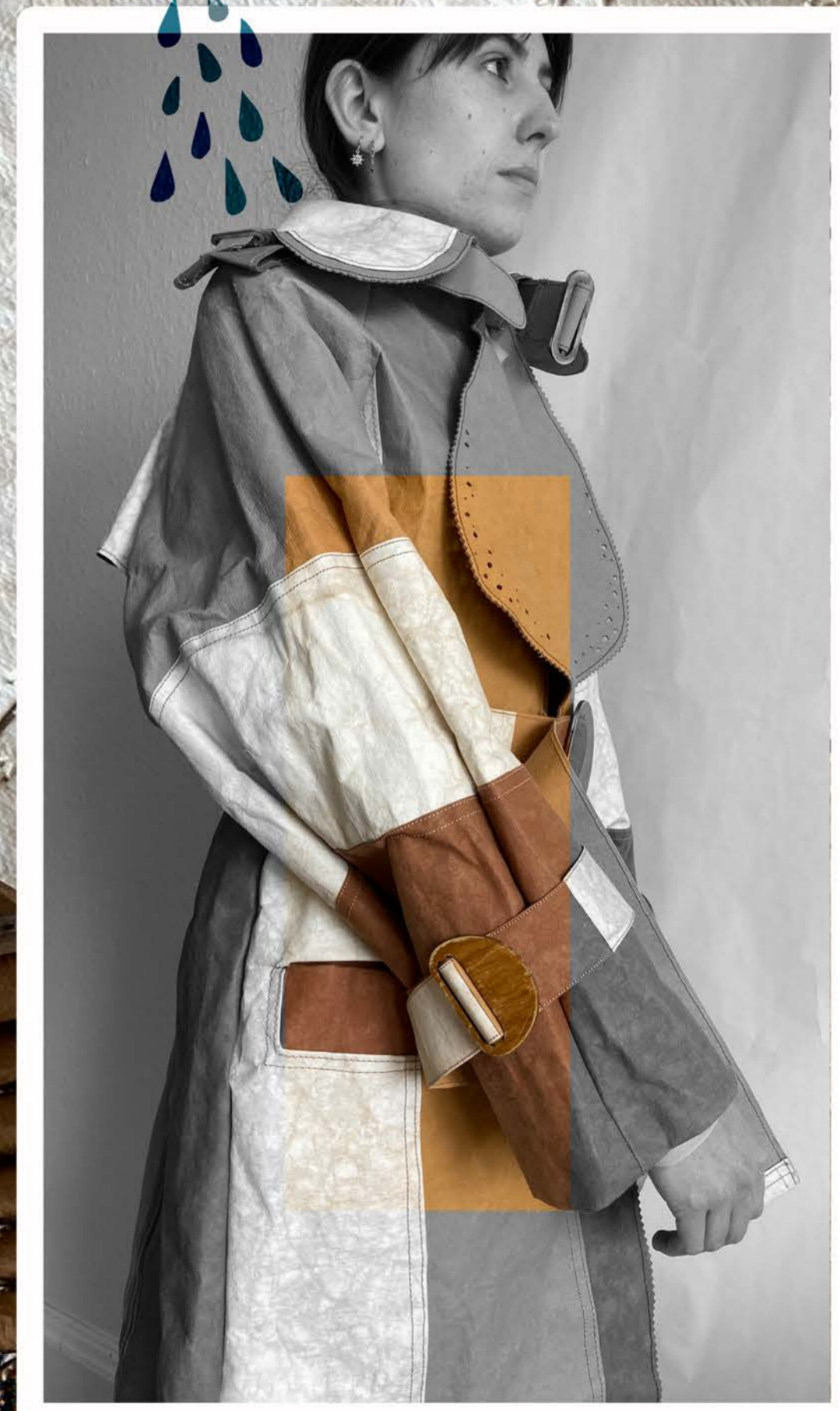
Washable paper - TOFFI



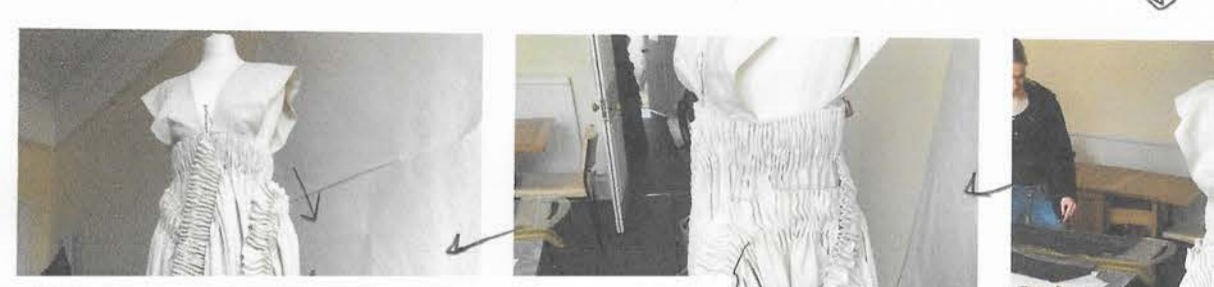
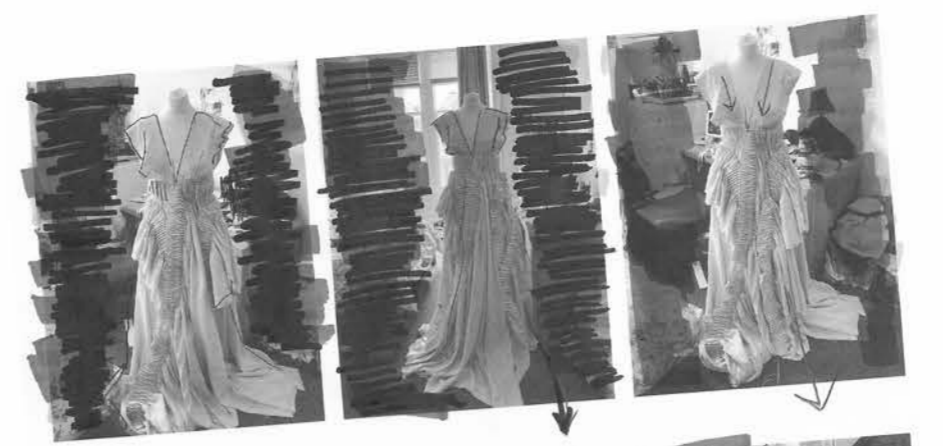
Washable paper - Brown

Texon

TEXON - WASHABLE PAPER // LEATHER ALTERNATIVE. NATURAL FIBRE CONSTRUCTION. ACCREDITED BY BOTH THE FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC) AND OEKO-TEX. FREE OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES. ON-WOVEN PRODUCTION FACILITIES ARE COMPLIANT WITH ISO 14001 AS A CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.



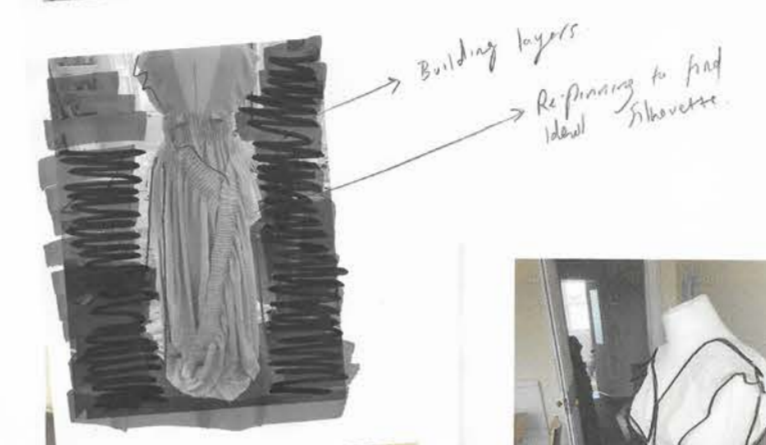
Washable Paper should be Wet to Sew!



TENCEL STUB WASH - Ivory



Lining = Tencel Tulle Bug/Ivory



Building layers
Refining to find ideal silhouette



Step 2

under skirt

placed band



Anacy Straps



Strap Buckles
inserted under skirt



Hand Sewn

Draping spontaneously



flowing

Line-up



Look 1



Look 2



Look 3



Look 4



Look 5



Look 6

Look 1



Look 2



Look 3



Look 6



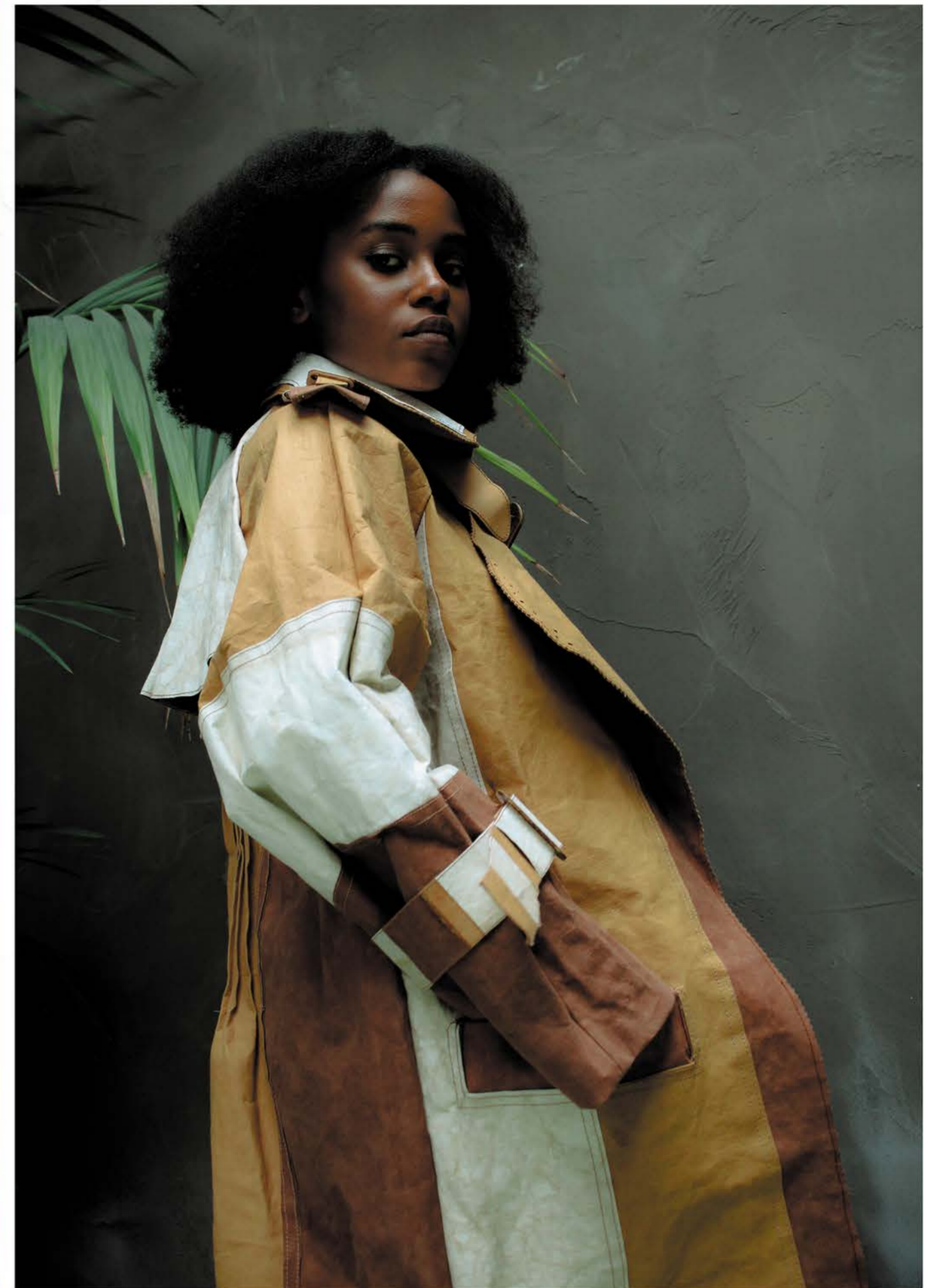


EXTRACT FROM LOOK BOOK

LOOK 6



LOOKS 2 & 1



LOOK 3