



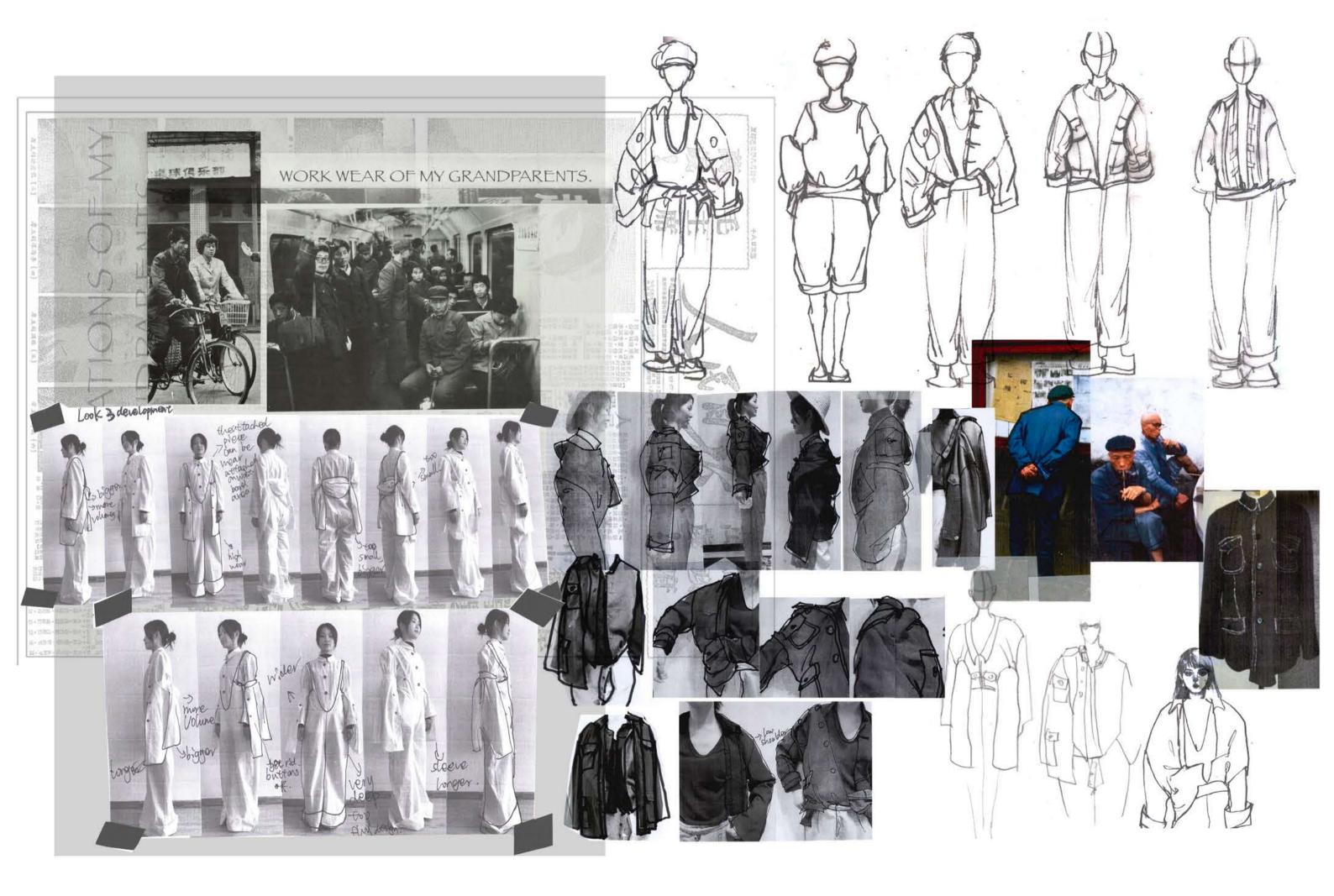
The Left Behind Shell 誤



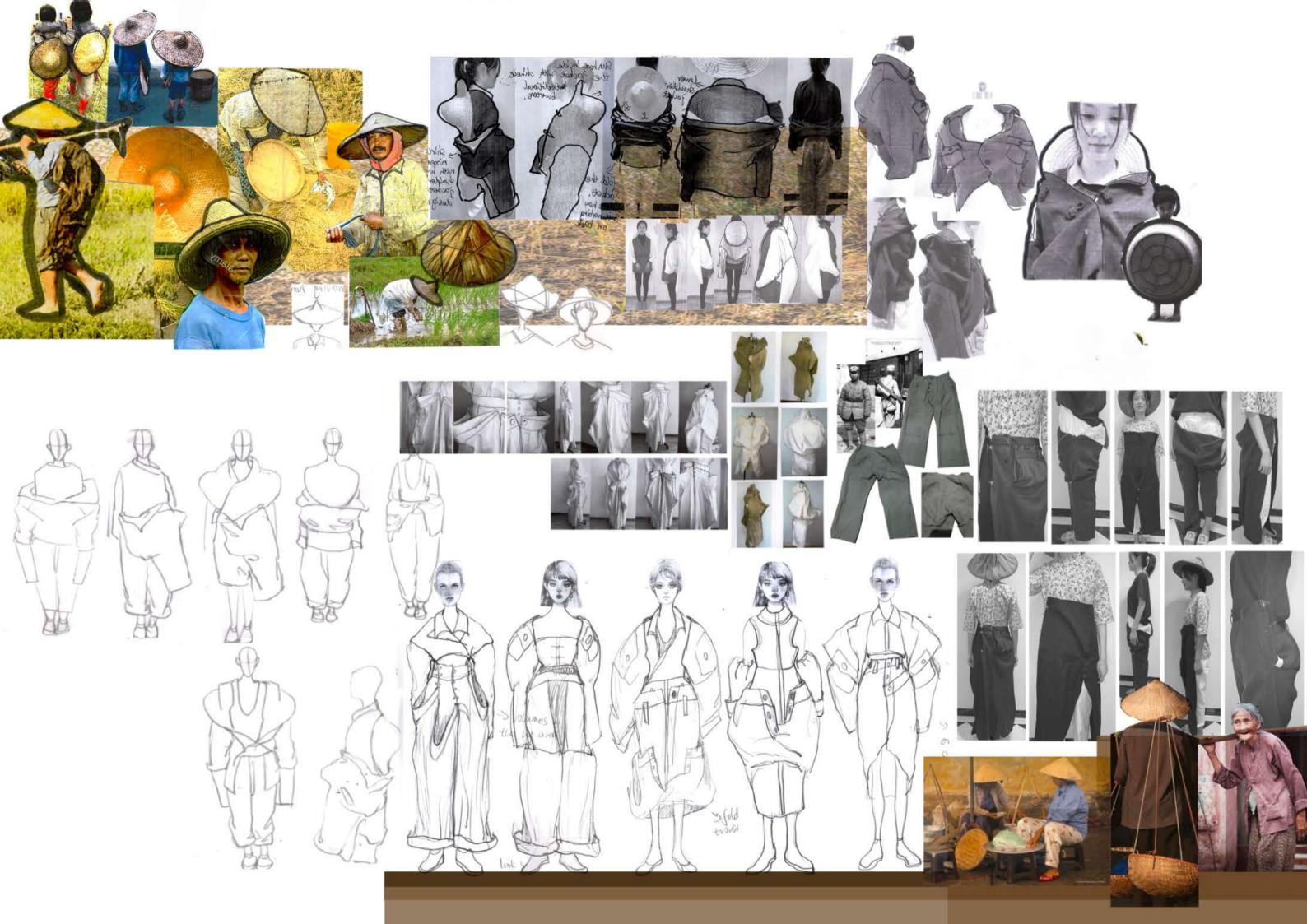
The Left Behind Shell 設

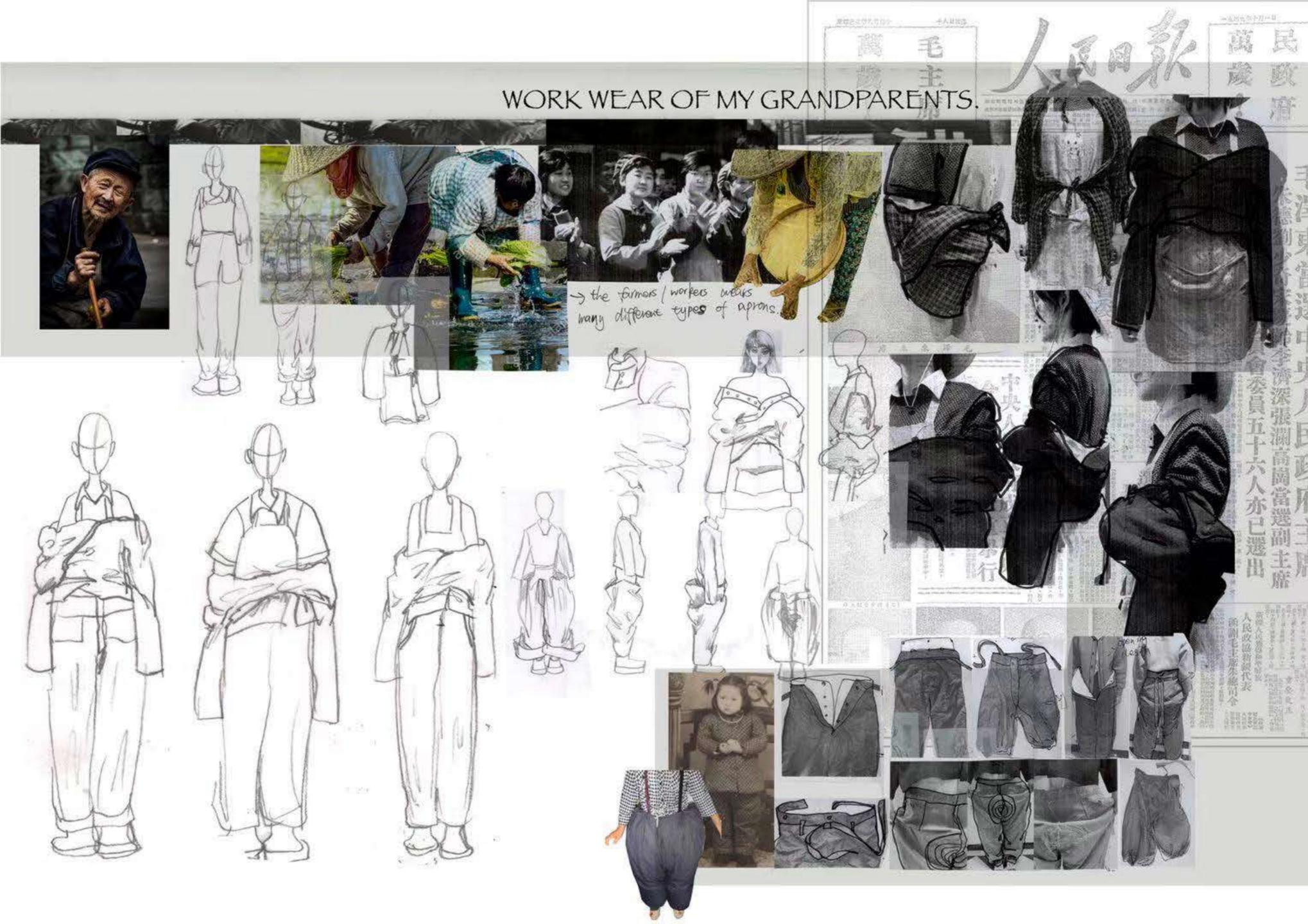




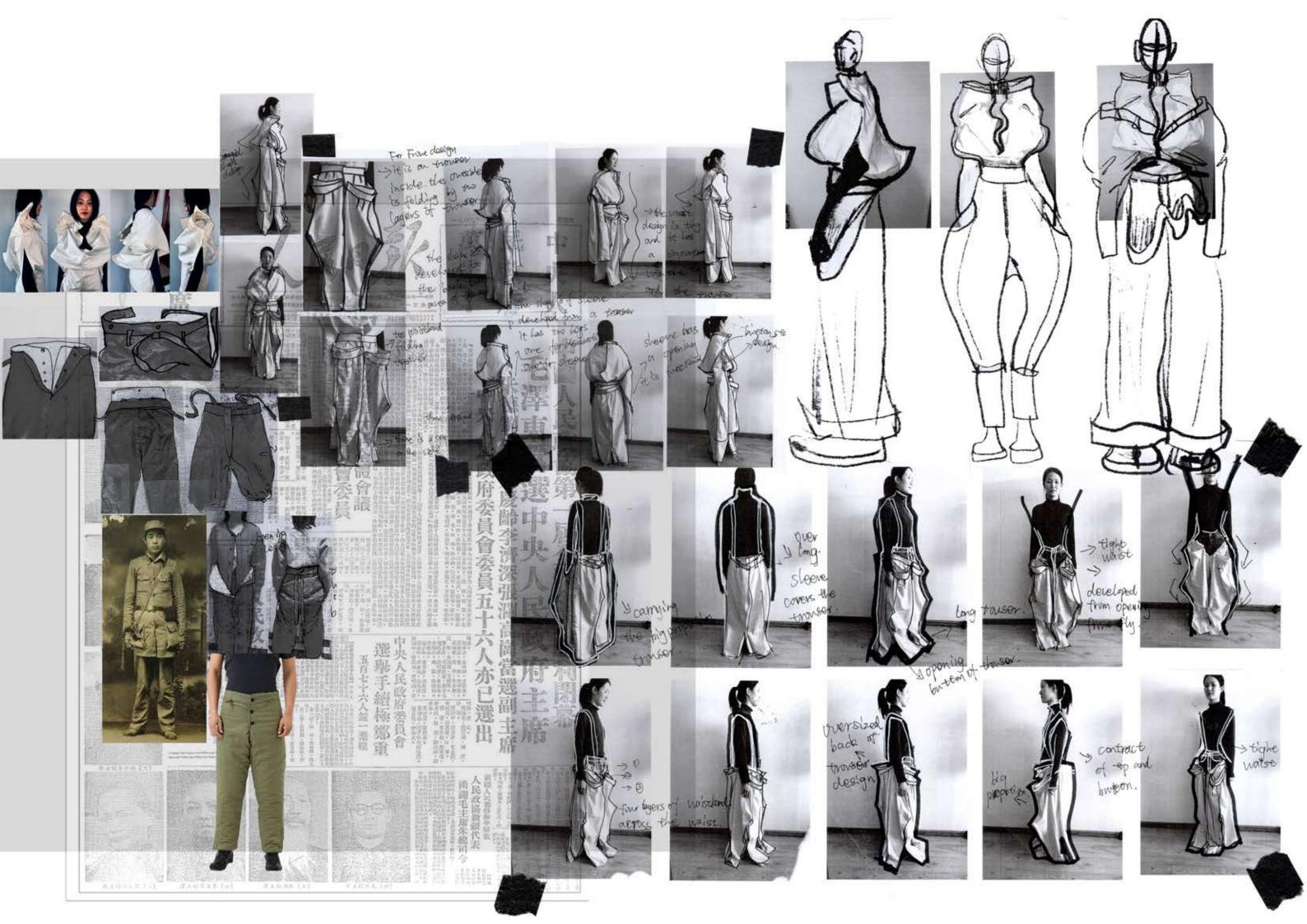






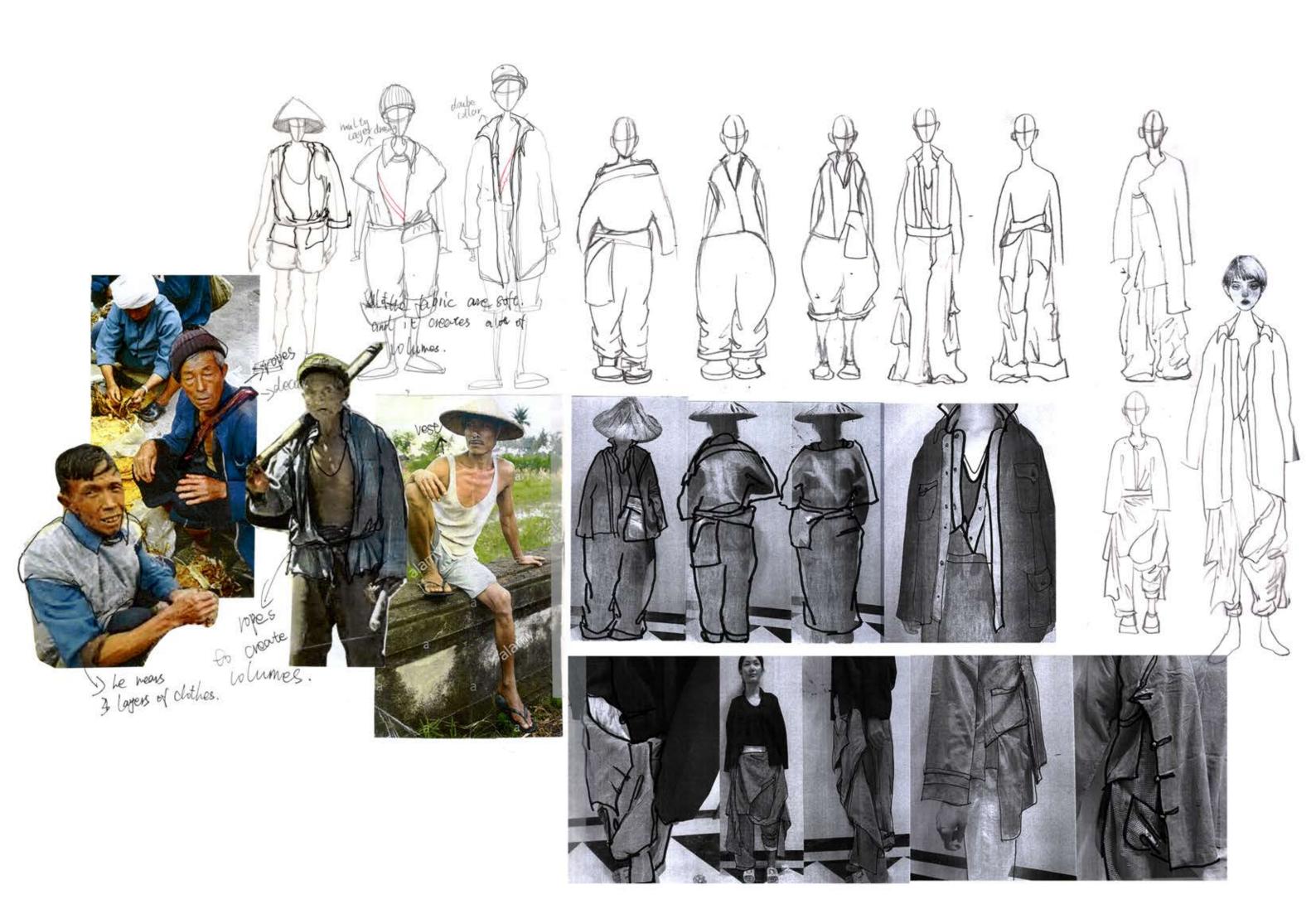






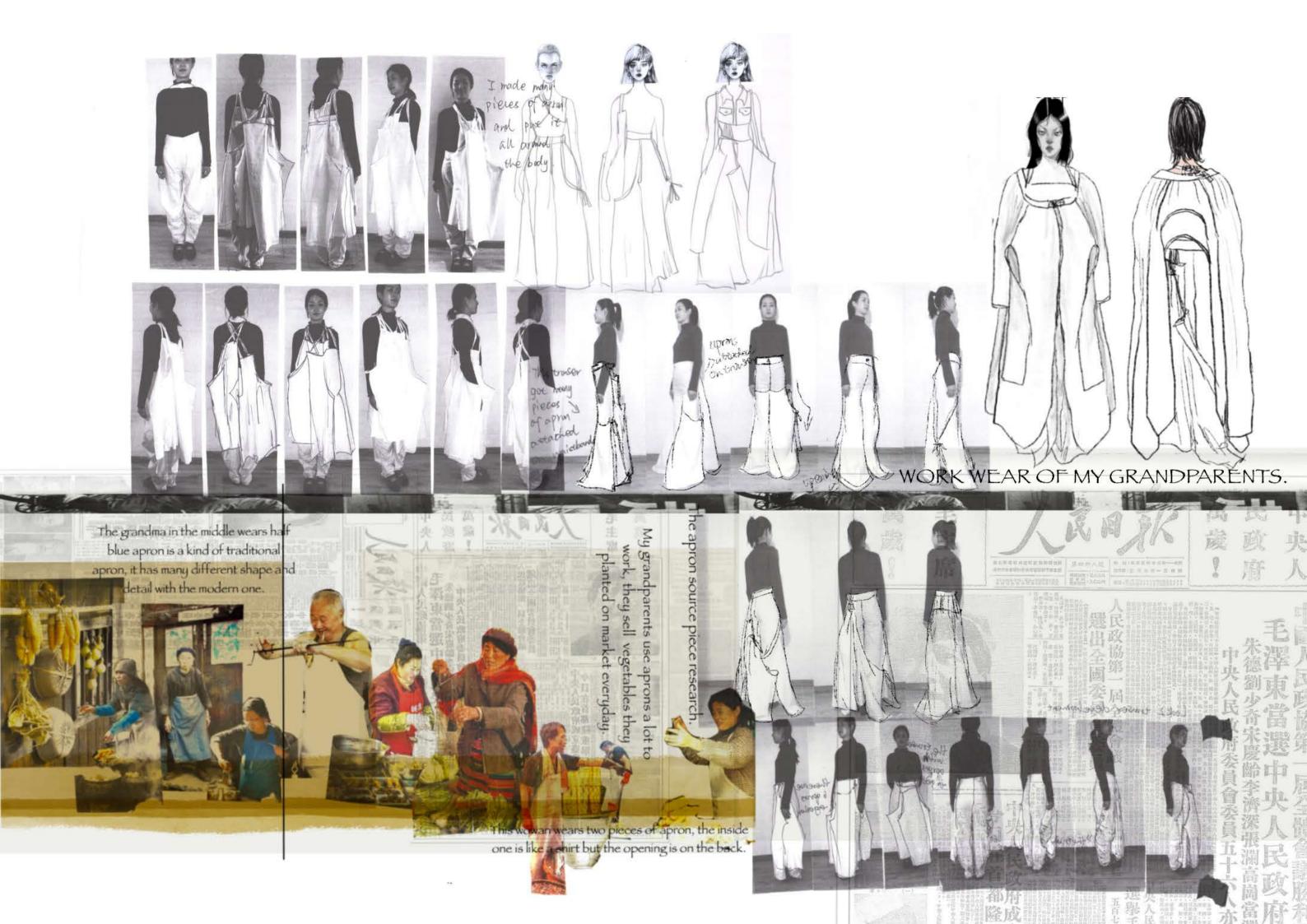


















## GAMBIERED GUANGDONG SILK, SUSTAINABLE SILK

Speaking of Shunde in south China's Guangdong province, many people will think of the delicacy there. But besides good food, the city also enjoys a long history of producing gambiered Guangdong silk (commonly called Xiangyun Sha in Chinese, or Fragrant Cloud Silk), an ancient type of fine silk from Guangdong province.

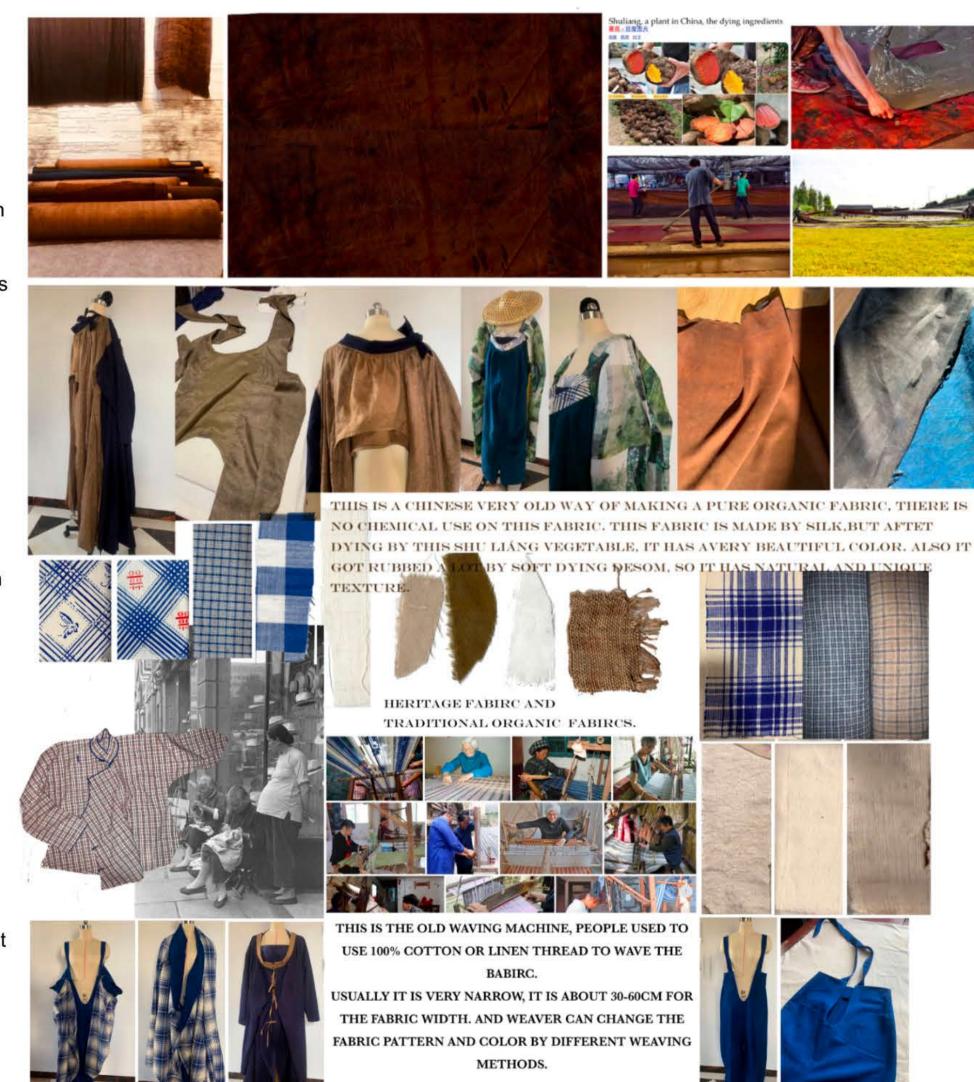
Also known as Liangchou silk, gambiered Guangdong silk is dyed by hand with the juice of dioscorea cirrhosa, a wild plant with medicinal properties, which is unique to Guangdong province thanks to the typical soil and sunlight in the south of the Nanling Mountains (Five Ridges). When did the Cantonese start making gambiered Guangdong silk? Around 1,700 years ago, people living in Lingnan region first used the juice of dioscorea cirrhosa to reinforce fishnets. Later, they used the extract of dioscorea cirrhosa to dye leather and boots.

During the reign of Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty (1403-1424), with the rapid development of silk making techniques, Cantonese people started to dye silk fabric with the juice of dioscorea cirrhosa, and that's how the earliest gambiered Guangdong silk was made.

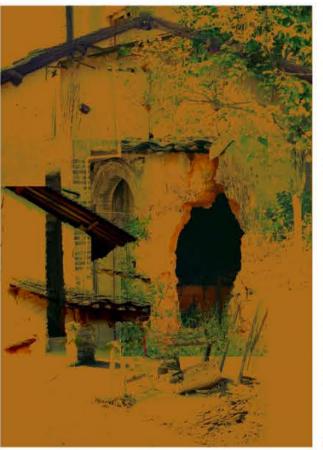
Then at the beginning of the Republic of China, silk fabric with twisted eyes was first developed in Nanhai as well. Those with small jacquard flowers were called Zhang Sha, while those with large jacquard flowers were called Yun Sha. Both types of silk fabric became gambiered Guangdong silkafter being dried.

As the only kind of fabric dyed with plant, gambiered Guangdong silk is not easy to acquire. The old-fashioned producing process of gambiered Guangdong silk takes as long as six months and involves a complexity of methods and procedures, including dip-dyeing the silk in dioscorea cirrhosa extract for 35 times and then spreading it on river mud and afterwards putting it out to dry under the sun.

It takes another 3-6 months before the silk can be finally used for making clothes. All these make the silk one of the most expensive silk in the world.













Print development board











