‘SALT WATER GIRLS’

EVE FALLON

CONCEPT

MY LUXURY WOMENSWEAR COLLECTION EMPHASISES THE PARALLELS BETWEEN IMMORALITY AND PURITY. IT IS CENTRED AROUND MY RESEARCH INTO MY FAMILY HISTORY SPECIFICALLY THE 'TANKA' WOMEN AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH WESTERN MEN IN COLONIAL SOUTHERN CHINA. THIS IS CONTRASTED WITH MY FAMILY'S CLERICAL HISTORY IN 1700'S DENMARK. IT LOOKS AT BINDING, FEMALE SLAVERY AND PROSTITUTION AND THE 'WICKED' WOMAN. MY COLLECTION'S SILHOUETTE FEATURES THE JUXTAPOSITION OF SENSUALITY AND ASCETICISM. WITH A MIX OF LARGE GATHERED SHAPES WITH CORSETRY. MY COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS THE POWER OF WOMEN WHILST ACKNOWLEDGING THE SUFFERINGS OF A WORKING WOMAN.

MY FAMILY HISTORY

My research is centred around my family's history. My Grandmother is mixed race - Danish, Chinese and grew up in colonial Hong Kong and Canton. Her father, Danish and lived in Shamian Island with his children and four concubines. His mother Sophia Atkinson was also a concubine. My collection looks at the impact of western men on local Chinese women during colonial times. The experience of these women and their struggles. I'm interested in comparing western fashion with my Chinese ancestry as I believe being mixed to be a big part of myself and my family. The stories in my family has a rich and interesting history and this is something it'd like to share.

MY HERITAGE

COLONIAL SOUTHERN CHINA

I was really taken by this photo from 1945 of my great-grandfather, his concubines, friends and children. The fact that a photograph exists depicts the normalacy of concubines in this time. These women are thought to be descendants of the 'Tanka' people which is now derogatory and refers to the boat dwelling population of colonial southern china. These people were ostracized from the rest of china which is why many started relation-ships with western men.

FLOWER BOATS

The 'Tanka' women were associated with flower boats and prostiution despite the fact many of them weren't prostitutes. They were known for being feisty and were nicknamed 'salt water girls.' I feel they really depict this idea of a strong resiliant woman despite their hardships.

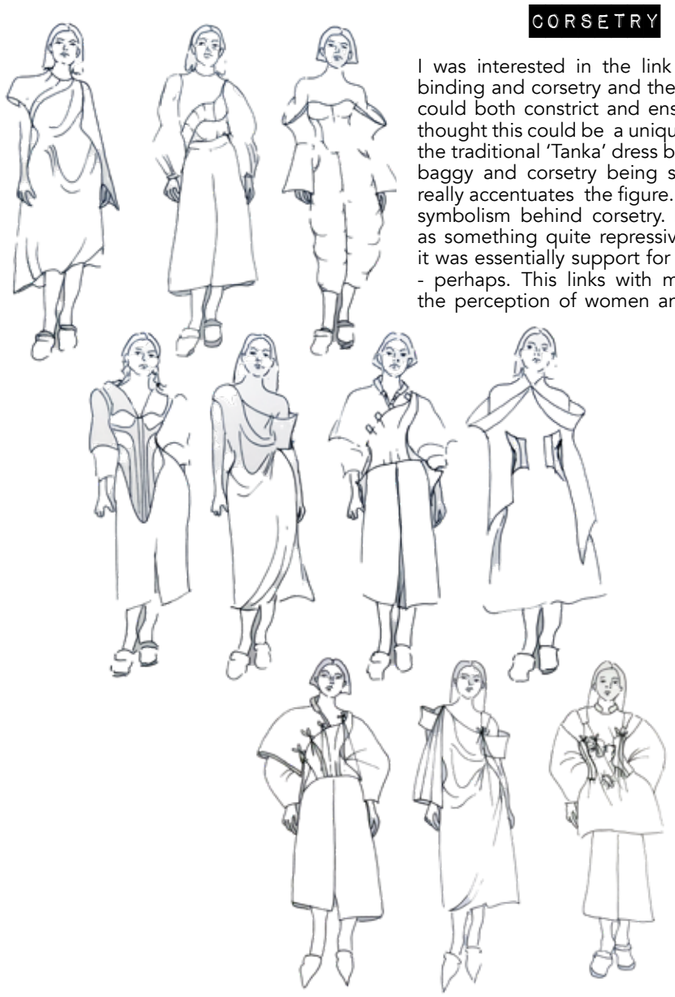
RESEARCH

DANISH LUTHERANISM

Before my family moved to Hong kong, many of them were Lutheran priests in Denmark. I feel the correlation between these two almost opposing themes very interesting. The stark difference between purity of religion with the keeping of concubines in china is a unique theme. I was inspired by mixing the large shapes of lutheran priests with chinese dress and the contrast between loose and tight clothing.

SIMONE ROCHA
SPRING 2022 READY-TO-WEAR

RESEARCH



CORSETRY

I was interested in the link between foot binding and corsetry and the idea that they could both constrict and enslave women. I thought this could be a unique contrast with the traditional 'Tanka' dress being loose and baggy and corsetry being something that really accentuates the figure. I also liked the symbolism behind corsetry. It's often seen as something quite repressive and evil but it was essentially support for a lot of history - perhaps. This links with my research on the perception of women and wickedness.

RESEARCH

ROKSANDA

SPRING 2019 READY-TO-WEAR

GATHERING EXPERIMENTATION

Following my research into binding and constricting I developed this technique of ruching with boning. I tried it out in many different ways and was most struck with how it looked on sleeves.

DEVELOPMENT

SLEEVE DEVELOPMENT

PATOU SPRING 2022 READY-TO-WEAR

LOOK 1

I continued experimenting with ruching sleeves and developed a sleeve for a coat with ties. I continued the ruching in the coat and developed it with the intention of reflecting my binding and also clerical research.

DEVELOPMENT

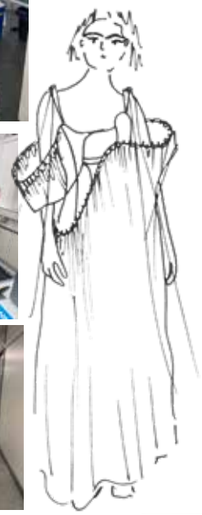
DEVELOPMENT

CORSET

I was excited to incorporate corsetry in a different way into my collection. I developed the pattern for my corset straight from the mannequin in order to get a tight and body complimenting fit. I intend to make it a tie up back in order to make it more wearable and more figure hugging. I think the end result lends itself well to my research and reflects the feminine nature of my style.

MARQUES' ALMEIDA AUTUMN 2021 READY-TO-WEAR

LOOK 2

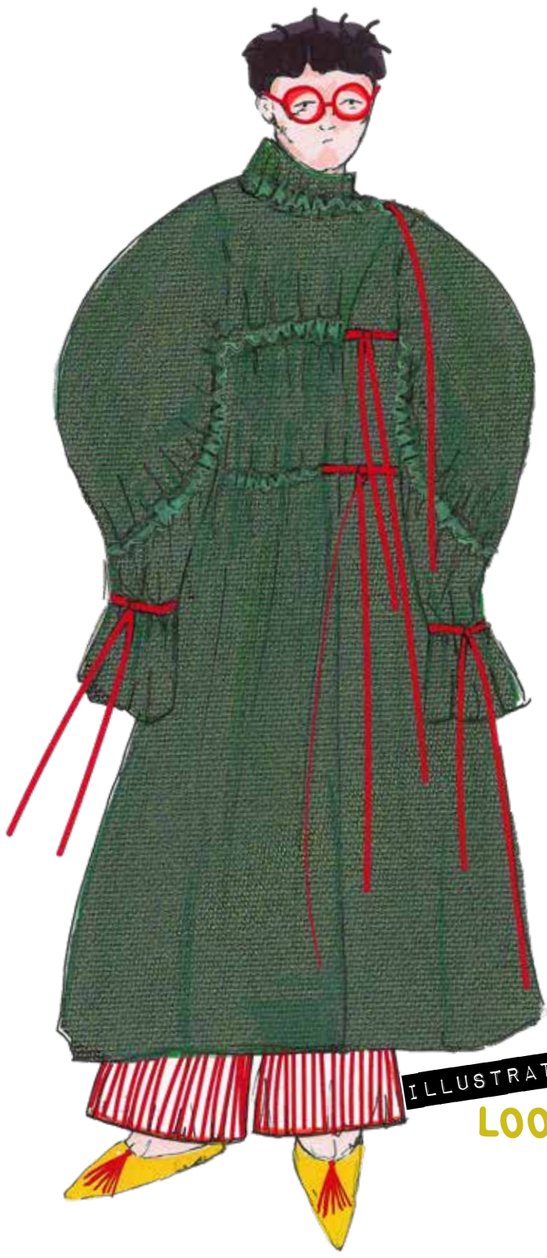


I developed a corset dress after experimenting with the ruching with boning. I like the way the skirt of the dress flows and is both tight and flattering to the body and loose and voluminous.

LOOK 3

DRIES VAN NOTEN

AUTUMN 2022 READY-TO-WEAR

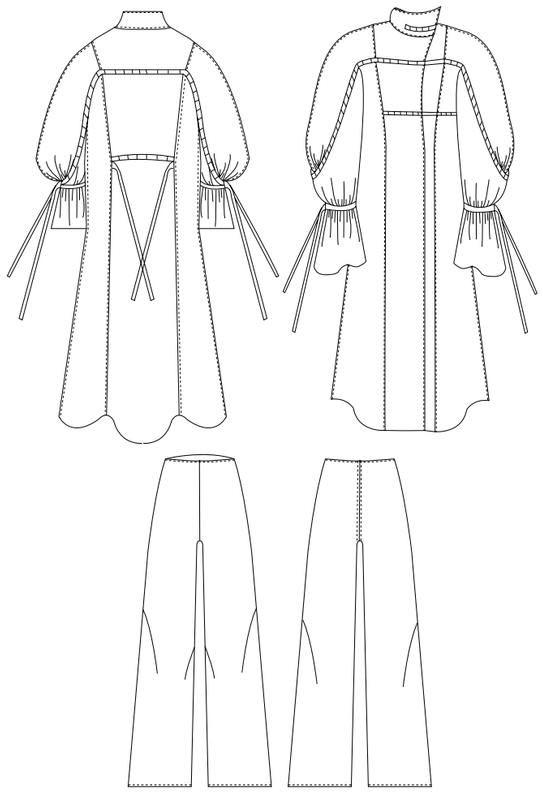


ILLUSTRATIONS

LOOK 1

RANGE PLAN

LOOK 1



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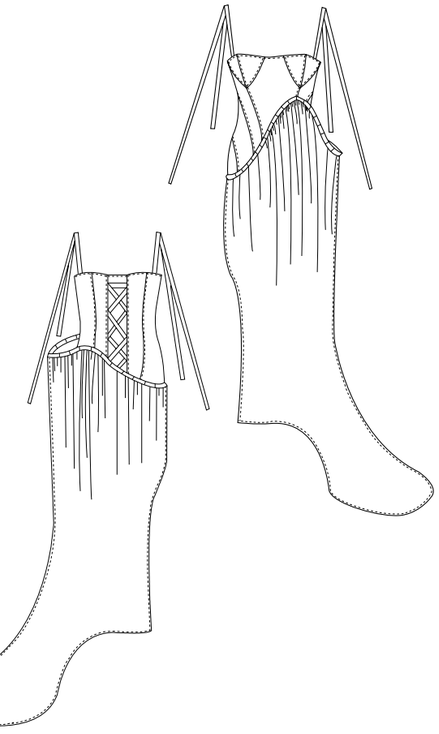


ILLUSTRATIONS

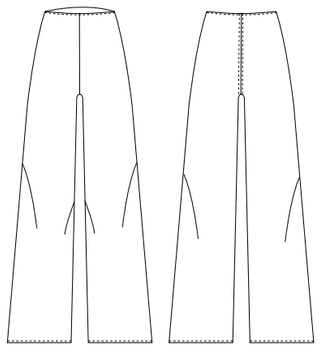
LOOK 2

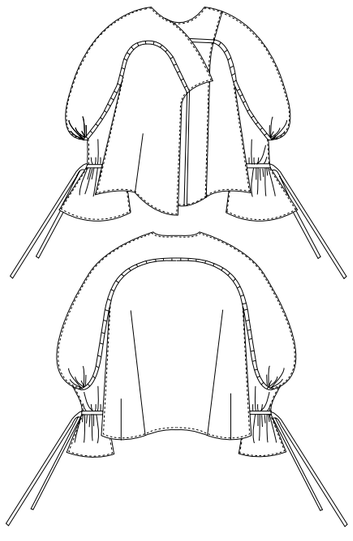
ILLUSTRATIONS

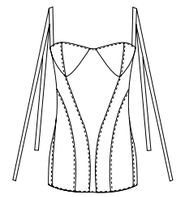
LOOK 3

RANGE PLAN

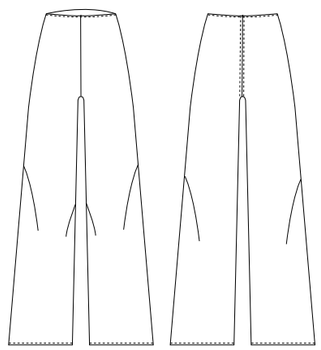
LOOK 3

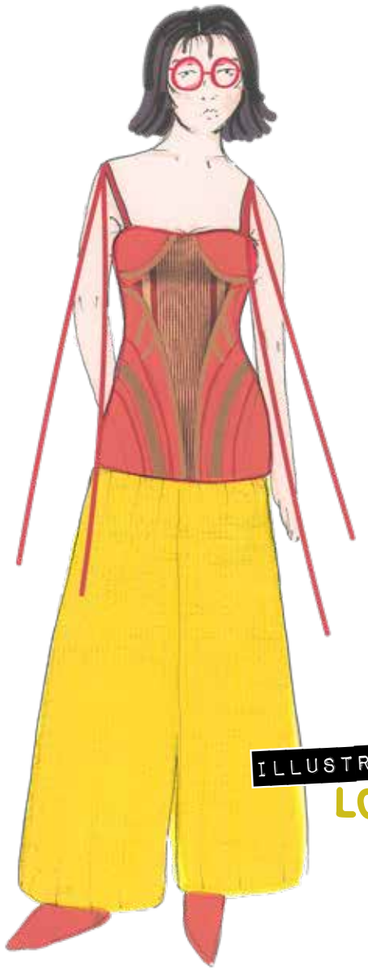




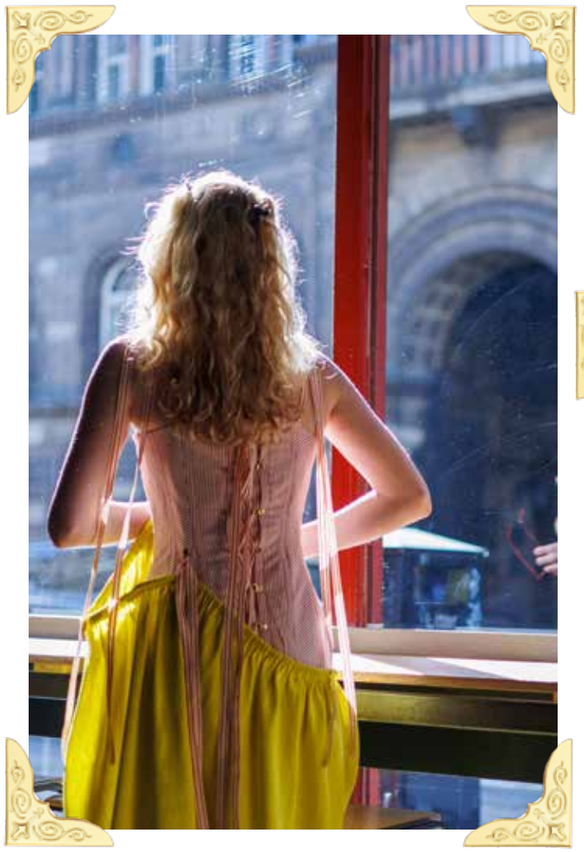


LOOK 4





ILLUSTRATIONS

LOOK 4

LINE-UP