

'SWORN VIRGINS'

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Sworn Virgins are women with limited options in life who have sworn a life-long oath of chastity to “become” men, taking on the appearance of men, entitled to the same rights as men and socially accepted in the Albanian culture as men. This custom is part of the Albanian traditional culture and is still carried out in Northern Albania.

The reasons for the female-to-male cross gender role are to avoid being forced into an arranged marriage, to become a family head and a legal heir due to the lack of a son in the family and to be able to get involved in blood feuds.

They dress in male clothes, socially engage in activities limited to men and can't have any sexual relations within their culture. Trousers are a very important part of who they are. Some of them refuse to dress like men and wear their traditional clothing instead, both skirt and trousers. I will bring these elements in my collection by transforming men's tailored trousers into new garments as well as have both skirt and trousers as part of my looks.

Crochet is one the key elements of my collection. Albanian women spend their childhood hunched over fabric, needle in hand, learning to crochet doilies and embroider designs on tablecloths. I have upcycled old family crochet doilies which most Albanian families use to decorate their tables into new modern items.







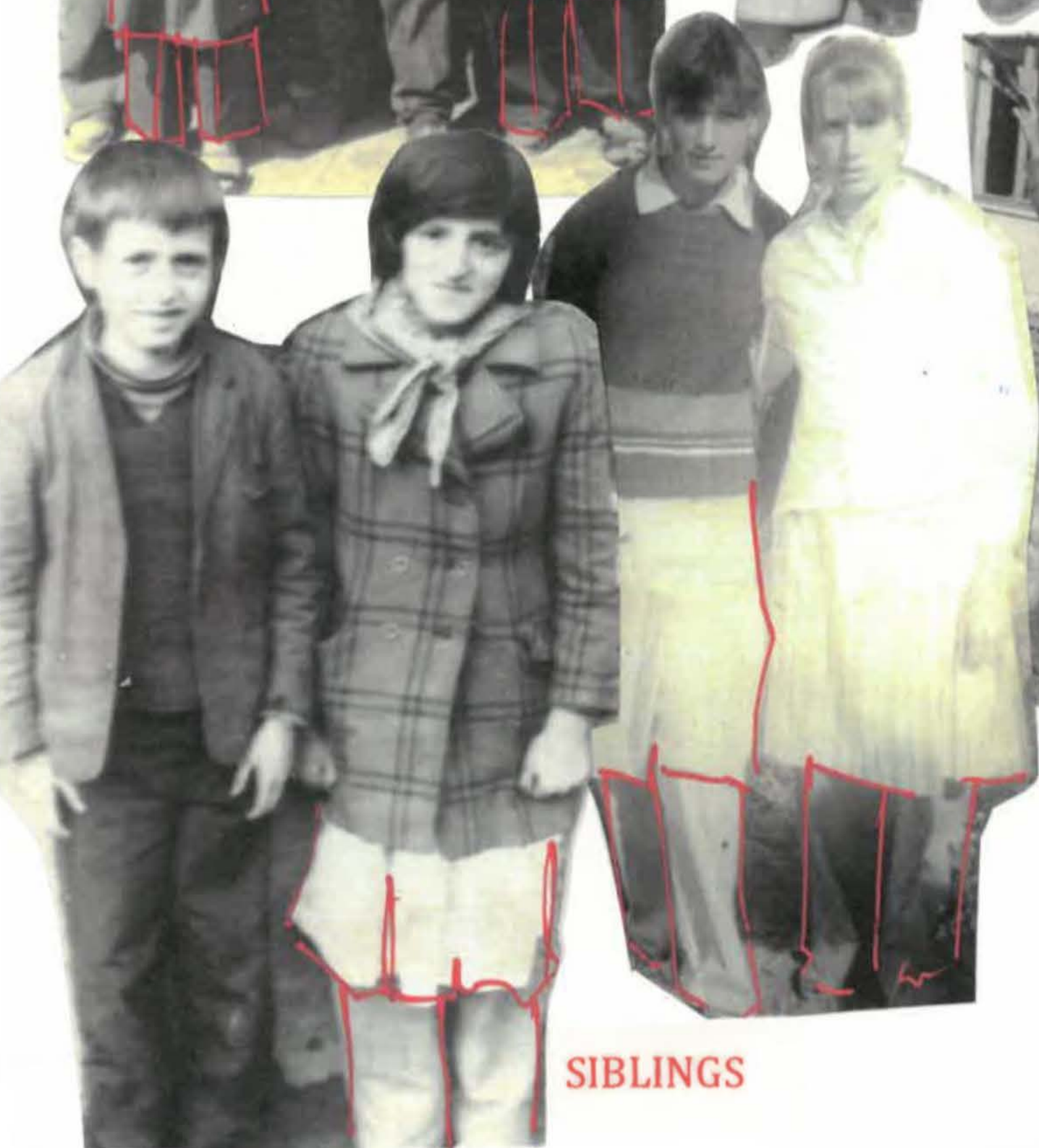
MILITARY WOMAN

NEWLY MARRIED

STUDENT



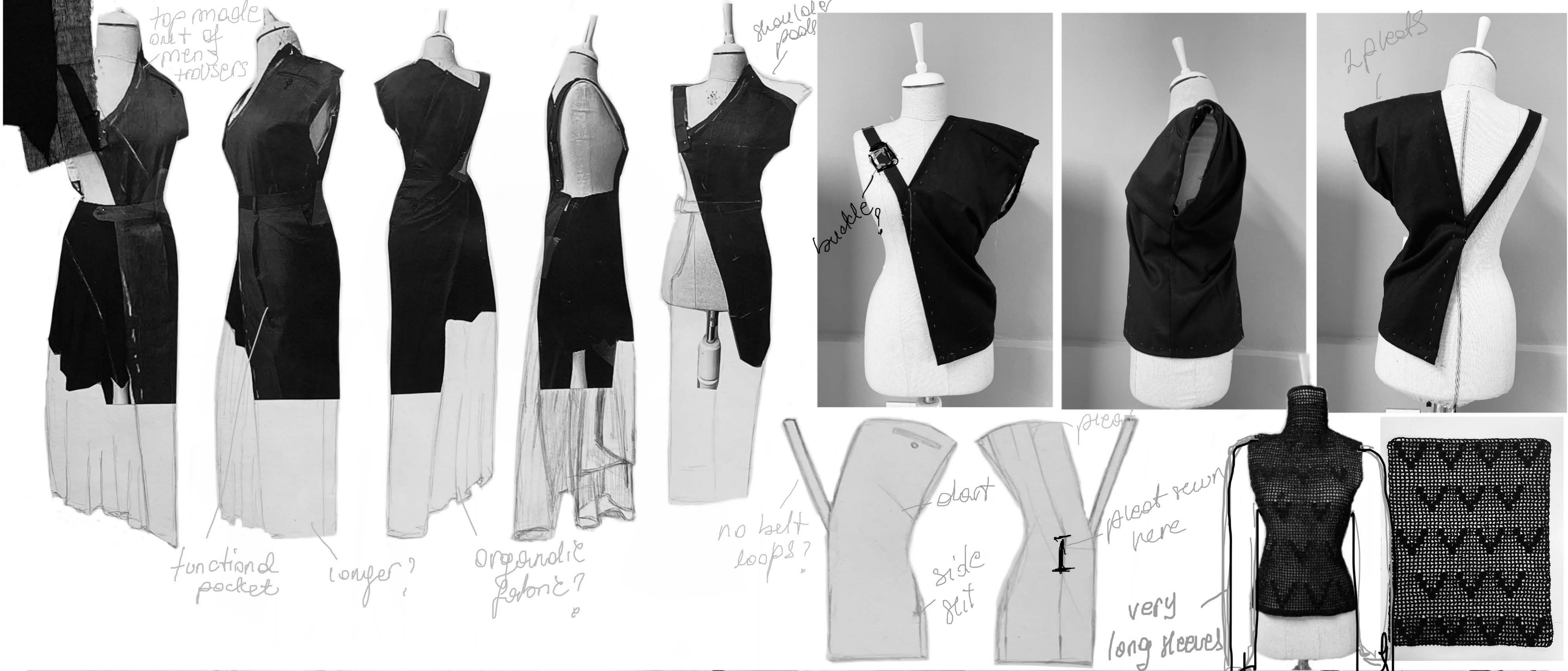
Old family pictures, North Albania. Women used to wear both skirt and trousers and they still do in these regions especially in the mountains.

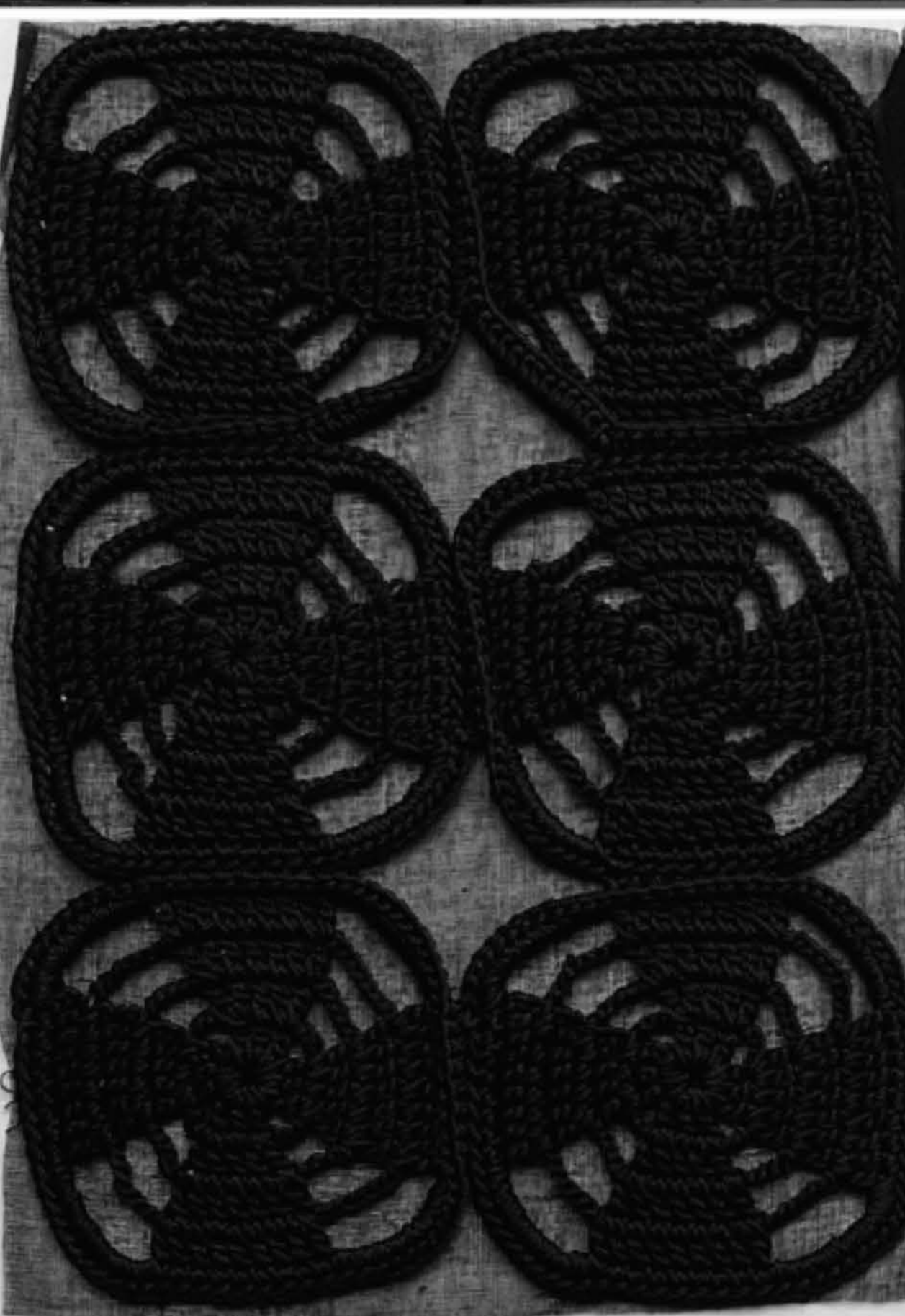
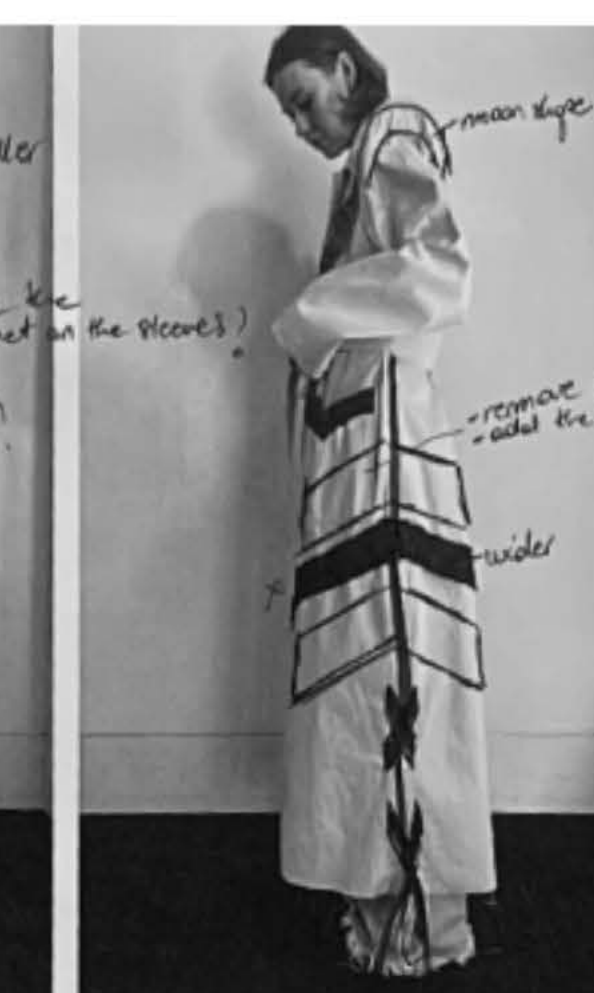
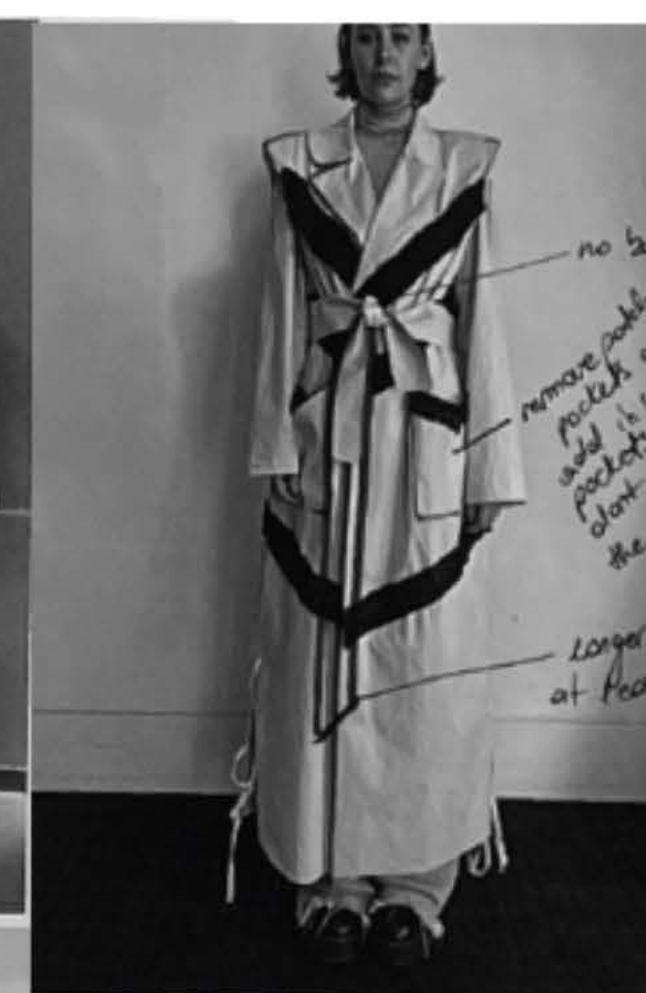


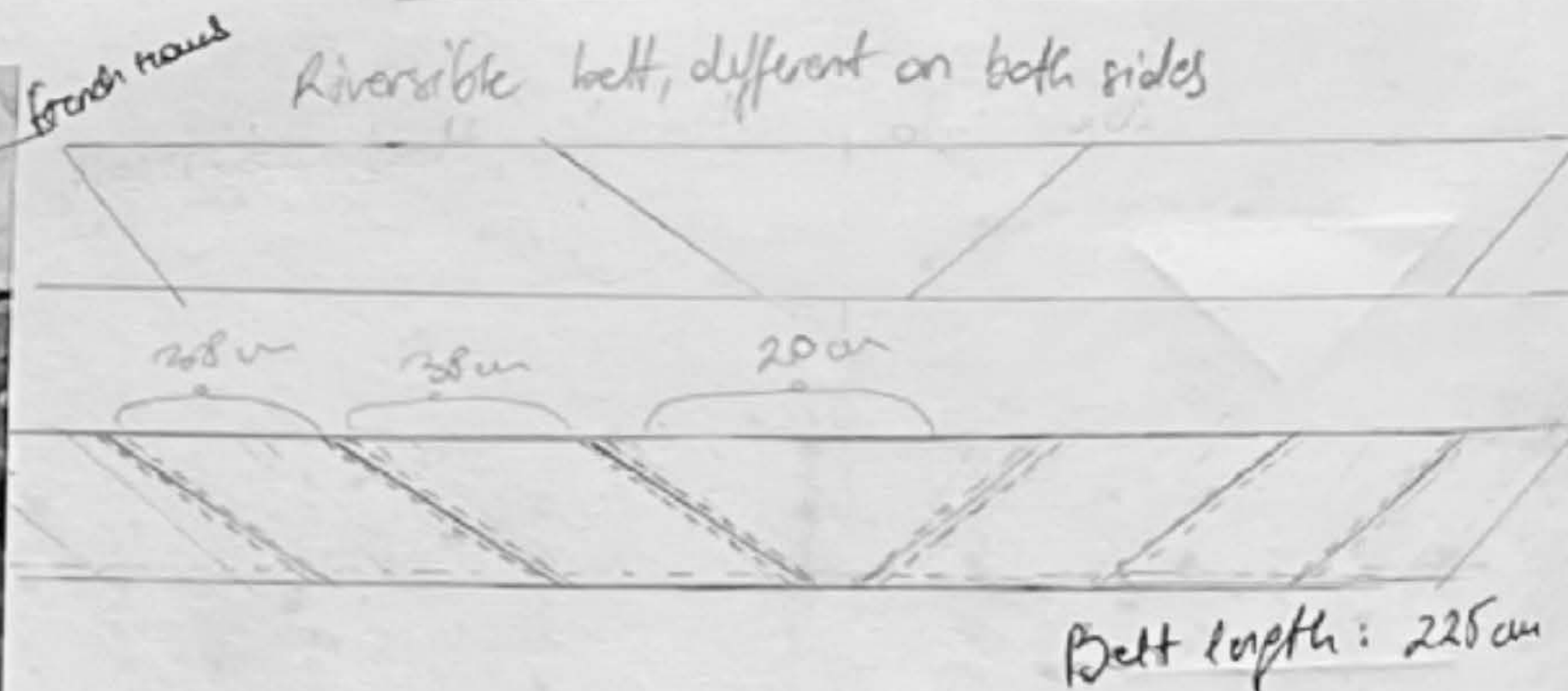
SIBLINGS











hand sewing the braided thread into the holes as the fabric is too heavy to sew around it



ORGANIE SERIES AS A FACING FOR THE CROCHET

