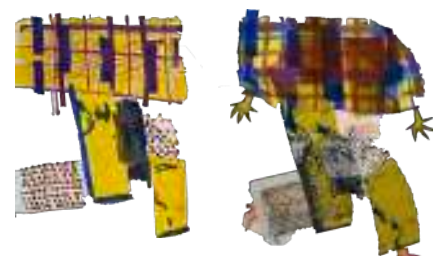
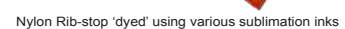


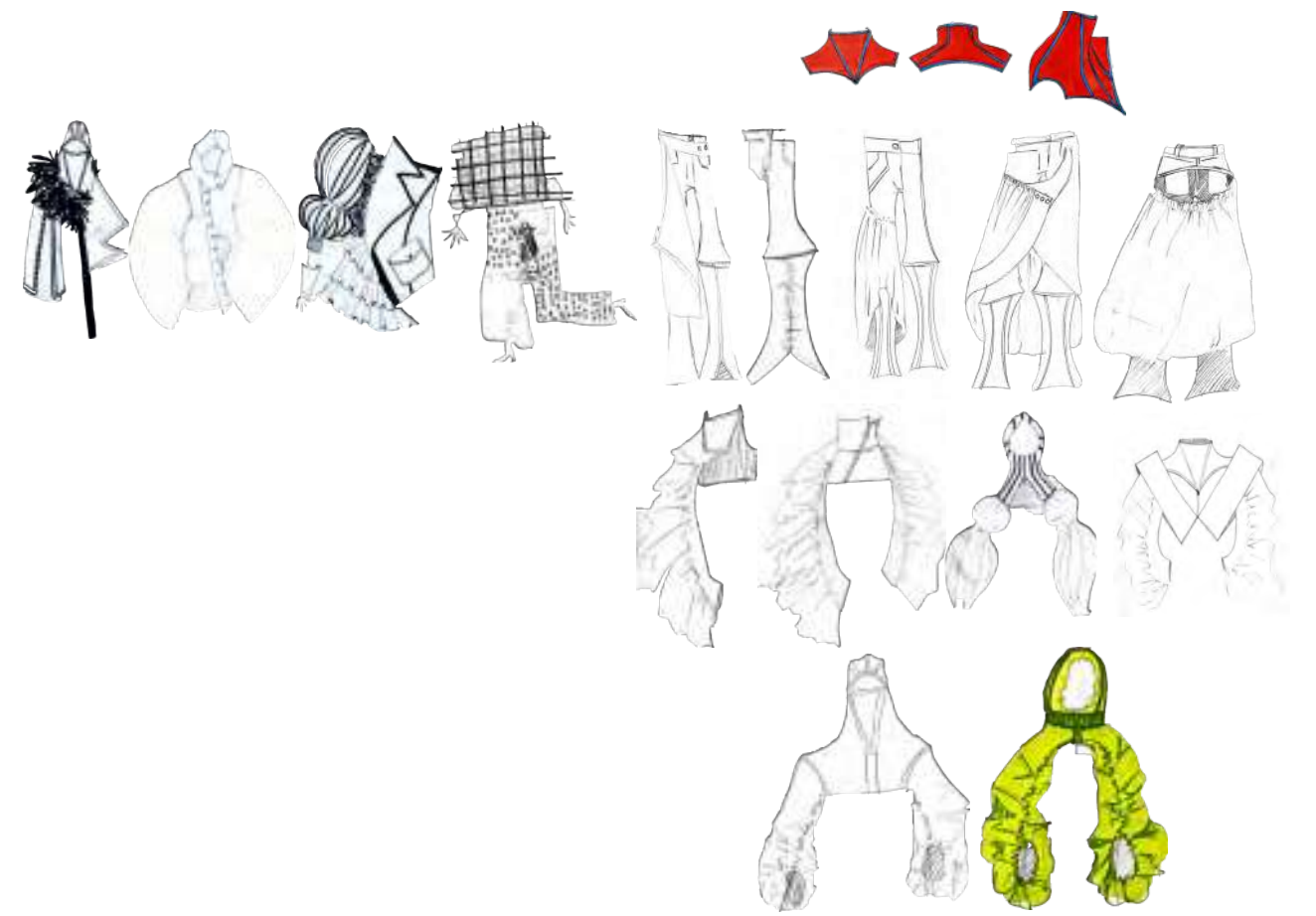
Courtney Pitfield Taster Portfolio

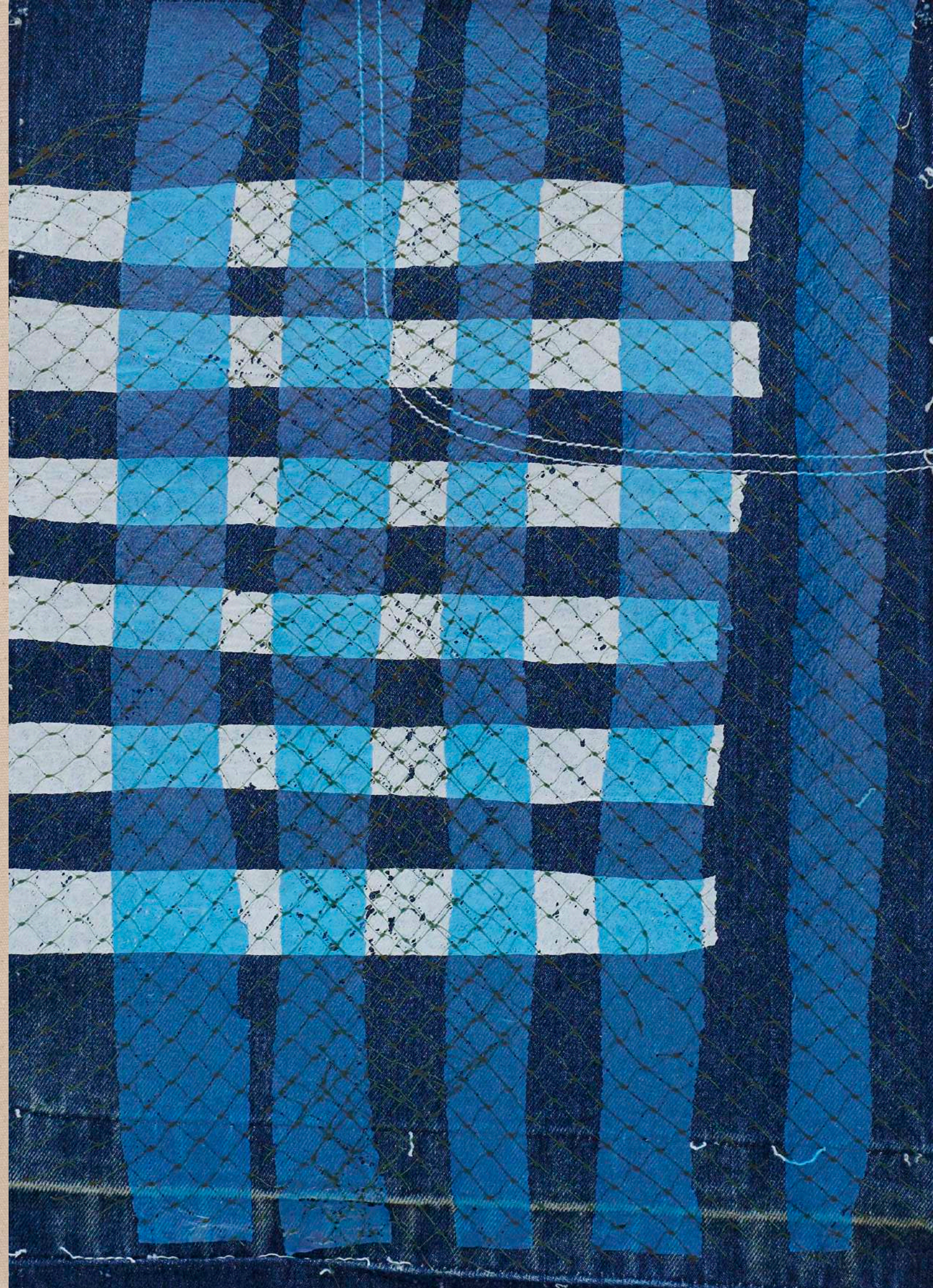
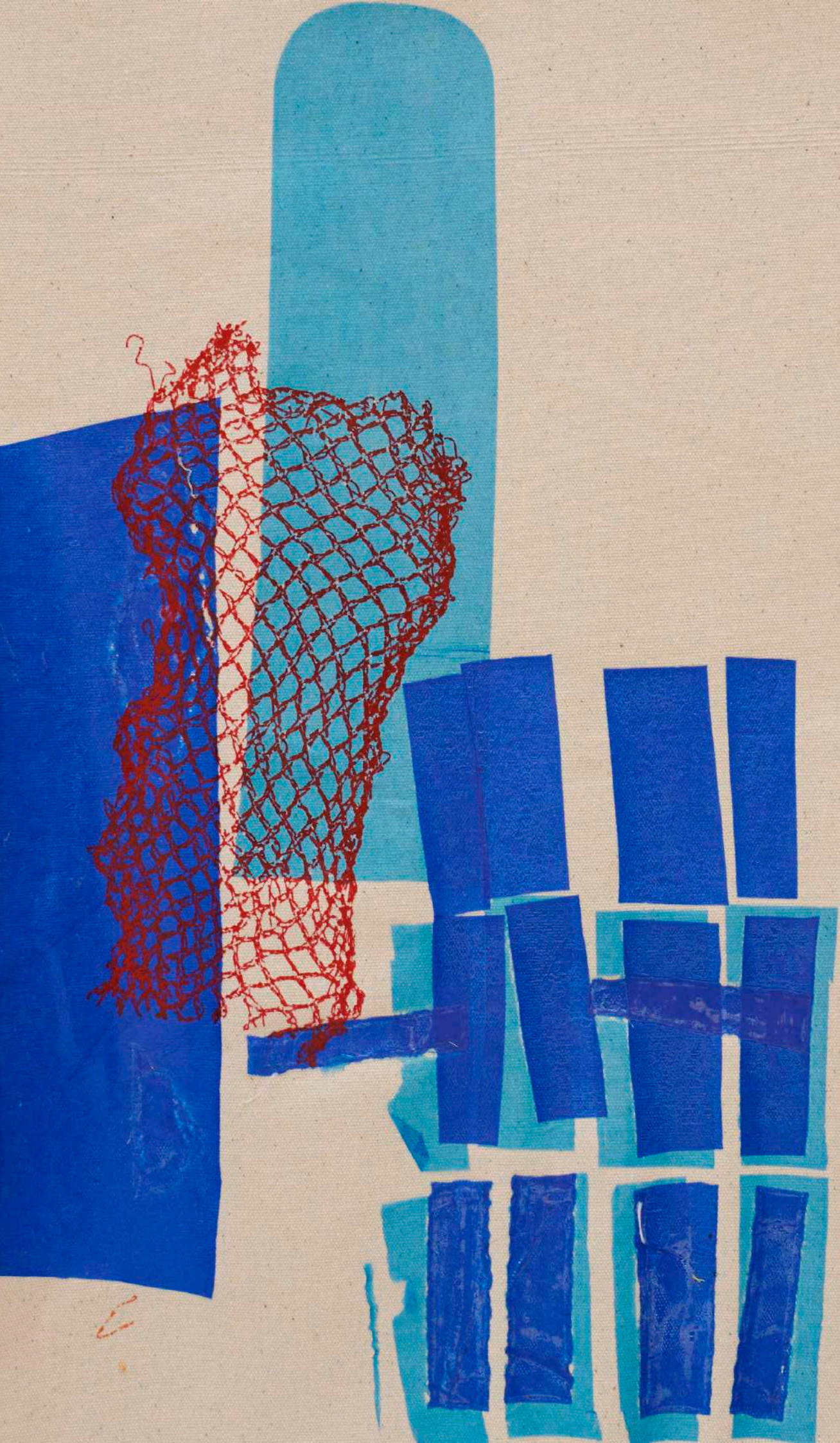
courtneypitfield@gmail.com

07453660069

@cou.rtneyyy









A PROJECT OF MATERIAL INNOVATION AND EXPLORATION:

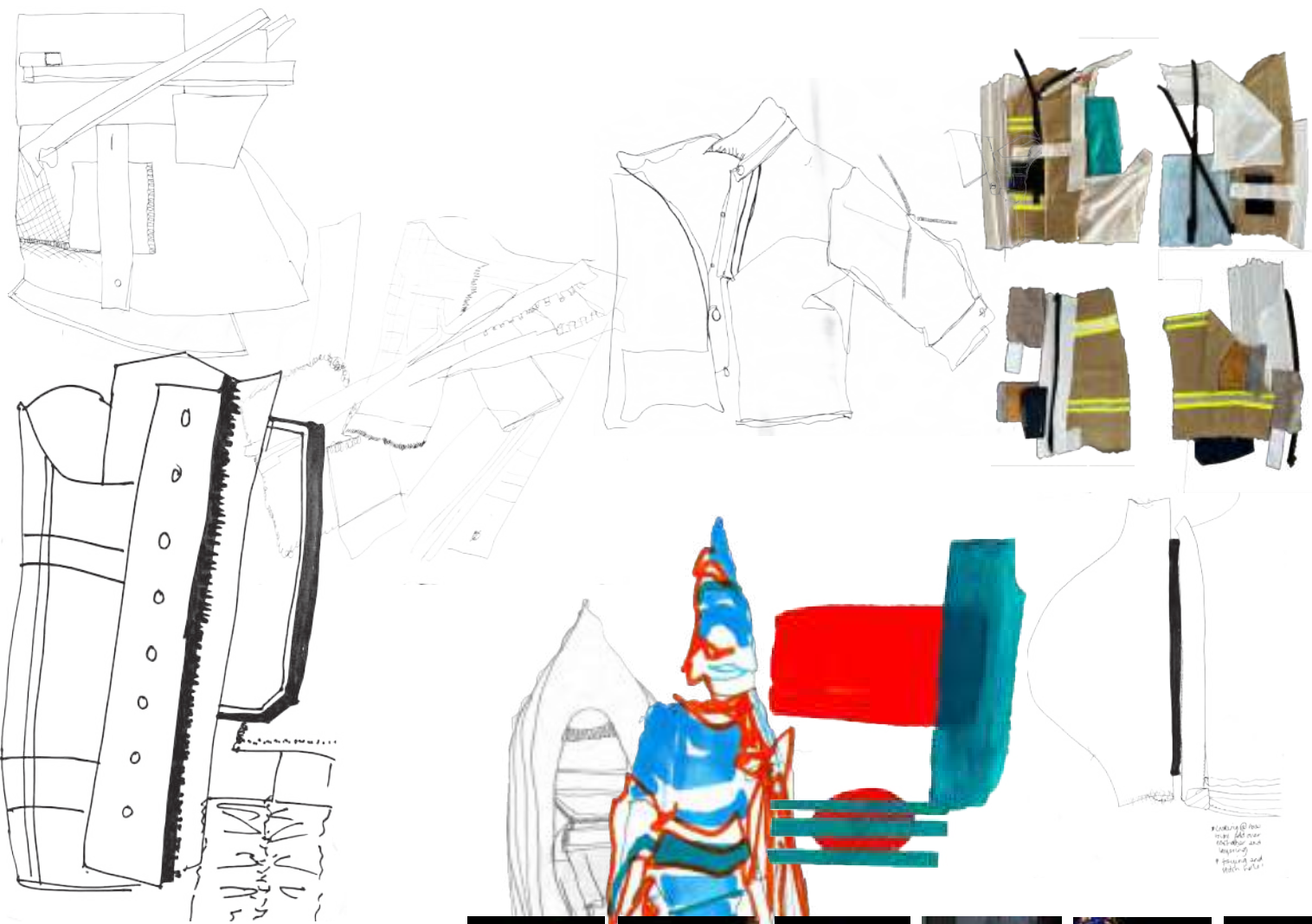
Throughout history fashion is adhered to conventional norms of society, [PROJECT NAME] seeks to challenge the staus quo by diving into the realm of unconventional materials and experimental design. This project aims to blur the boundaries between clothing and the body, creating material samples and garment designs that are not just worn but experienced as extensions of the self. Through a combining of artistry, craftsmanship, and fashion theory, a journey emerges of discovery, embracing the unfamiliar, the eccentric and evoking emotion.

KEY THEMES:

- UNCONVENTIONAL MATERIALS:**
Departing from traditional fabrics, I explore materials that one would not typically be grouped together, ranging from: latex, denim, silicone, rubber, nylon and tights. By integrating these unexpected mediums, you can redefine the possibilities of textile design.
- JUXTAPOSITION:**
Through thoughtful juxtaposition of disparate elements the preconcieved notions of harmony and discord are challenged. By combining the raw and refined, delicate with robust and the quiet with the loud, a visual language is created that speaks to the complexity of human expression.
- RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLOTHING AND THE BODY:**
The clothes we wear are more than just bodily coverings; they are dynamic forms that interact with the wearer in profound ways. If you were to consider the body as both the canvas and the collolaborator, the boundaries between self and attire are reimagined. The outcome of this project is to invite the viewer to engae on a visceral level, evoking emotion and sparking dialogue.
- METHODOLOGY:**
 - MATERIAL EXPERIMENTATION:**
Aiming to push the limits of materiality, exploring new shapes, textures, and properties to create textiles that defy conventions. By joing opposing fabrics and non-traditional materials together in a variety of methods to explore their potential.
 - SCULPTURAL FASHION:**
Design approach is sculptural, employing techniques of manipulation and deconstruction to shape the fabrics into dynamic forms that can be applied and contextualised onto the body.
 - PLAYFUL EXPLORATION:**
Embracing playfulness and experimentation mixed with spontaneity into my creative process to uncover intruiging and unexpected beauty.

RESEARCH AND INSPIRATION:

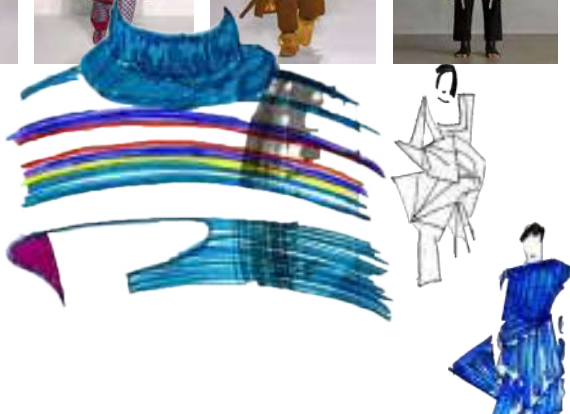
Drawing from fashion theory, my exploration is contextualised within the broader category of fashion as art and a means of visual communication and culture. Examining historical norms and contemporary movements to enrich my understanding of the transformative power of fashion and the capability to provoke thought and emotion. By looking at J.W. Anderson's "Disobedient Bodies", the work of Sarah Lucas and reference to Victorian undergarments I curated a series of textiles that I could then contextualise to explore shape, tension and tactility.



Walter Van Bierendonck Winter 21/22 'Future Proof'



Craig Green S/S 2021 and A/W 2022



Junya Watanabe Spring 2024 RTW



What my Research is about:

my research started off by looking @ 19th century (Victorian era specific) fashion, inc: undergarments, accessories and fabrics more directed towards womenswear.

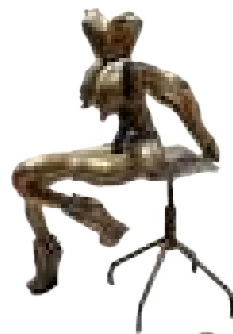
* this then lead me to looking into the politics of this era and how this was reflected within womens clothing ie restrictive

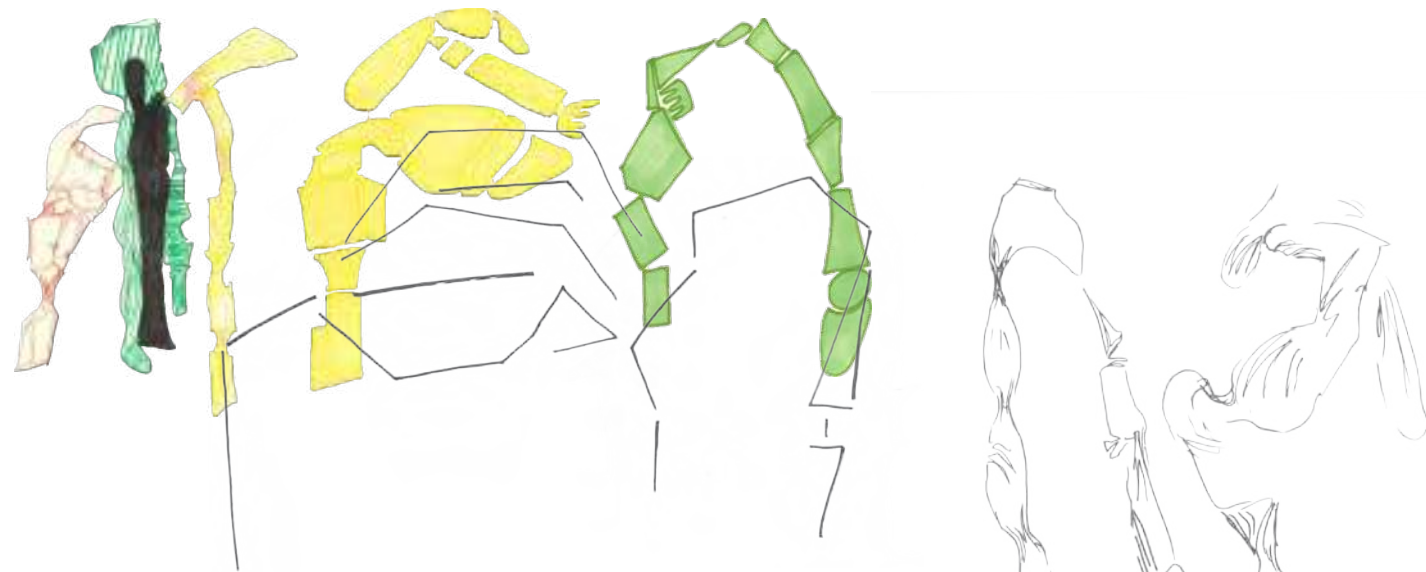


↓
sculptural
textiles

↓
usage of hoisting
& tight's properties

↓
stretch,
expand,
constrict,
conceal





Final photography of sample using a range of materials, joined using non-traditional techniques



Untitled Session0435.JPGUntitled Session0437.JPGUntitled Session0440.JPGUntitled Session0441.JPGUntitled Session0442.JPG



Untitled Session0443.JPGUntitled Session0444.JPGUntitled Session0445.JPGUntitled Session0446.JPGUntitled Session0447.JPG



Untitled Session0448.JPGUntitled Session0449.JPGUntitled Session0450.JPGUntitled Session0451.JPGUntitled Session0452.JPG



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COURTNEY x LIBERTY

LONDON

For my collaboration I have decided to choose: Liberty London, a luxury department store located in the heart of Central London. Liberty are renowned for their eclectic mix of high-end fashion, beauty, homeware and accessories stocked around the store, easily recognised by their Tudor-style exterior.

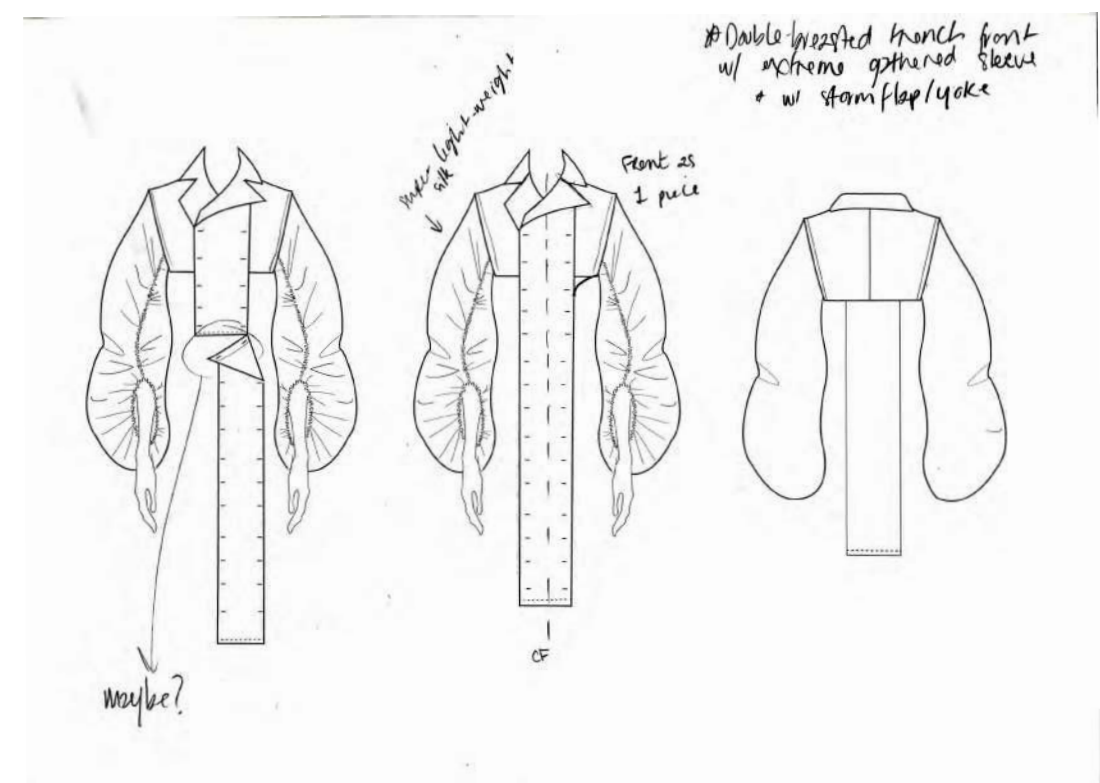
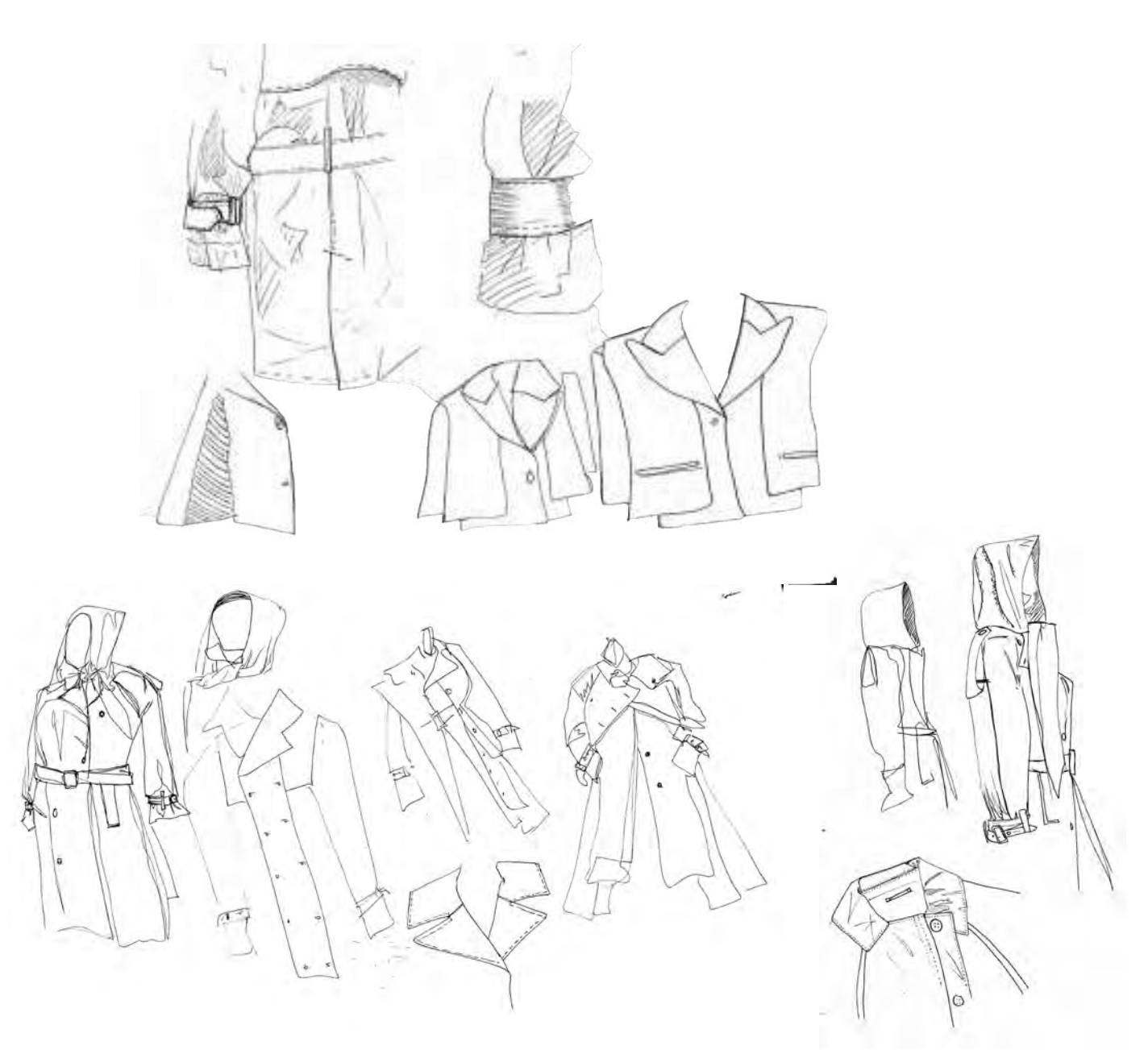
What makes Liberty stand out is their rich history and unique identity, first opened in 1875 by Arthur Lasenby. L. He wanted to make beautiful arts and crafts from all across Asia and the Middle East, the original Liberty prints were reproductions of: spring florals and paisleys which are now iconic and widely celebrated, adorning scarves to shirts. By using hand woodblock printing techniques onto Mysore Silk (India) the artists/ designers at hand could make multiple repeats.

A key tenet of Liberty's design story is 'Renewal and Rediscovery', by creating cyclical prints and motifs that come in and out of fashion depending on the current trend. For example, some historical moments were during the 1970s gothic revival, Art Nouveau style from the 19th century was popular; during the aesthetics era of Oscar Wilde, the sunflower motif rose in popularity. As well as references to artistic movements and current culture, Liberty prints always have a botanical collection of seasonal floral imagery, consistent throughout the year.

I decided to do my collaboration with Liberty as I am a Textiles-based designer specialising in creating bold, vivid prints. I wanted to create a series of floral prints from primary research in my own style and apply them in several contexts. For fashion I wanted to apply them to a series of outerwear garments in heavy-weight, thick fabrics that typically contradict traditional dainty silks used by Liberty. Furthermore, my process of designing said prints is through hand-rendering with the likes of oil pastels, marker pens and pencils, a mix-media approach.



Primary research of flowers during spring, later used for drawings and then digital collaged print



MUSE:

Sara Composcarone (@saracampz)

With a vibrant, over-the-top aesthetic, Sara's style is the epitome of Maximalism; she doesn't just wear clothes, she creates art with her curated ensembles. Adopting the philosophy of 'more is more', there are no rules when it comes to self-expression through fashion.]

Effortlessly she mixes and matches genres as a celebration of creativity and individuality, her wardrobe being a collection of statement pieces with chunky accessories, embellished bags, statement jewellery, bold eyewear that demands attention and the abundance of colour.

A kaleidoscope of patterns and prints, clashing neons with digital prints paired with tactile textures: fluffy fur, sleek vinyl and more, adding depth and dimension to the look. When it comes to silhouettes, it is all about the drama and fun of it all: flowy dresses with exaggerated babydoll cuts, layers and layers of fabric that move freely and individually, bulky accessories and paired with eccentric hair and makeup.

She extends her personality through daring hair and makeup, bold colours, avant-garde shapes and graphic lines that push the boundaries of conventional beauty standards. I chose this influencer as my muse as she utilises fashion as a vessel for self-expression and visually communicating her unique perspective. With an infectious energy and limitless creativity it proves that fashion should be freeing, fun and extravagant.



DESIGN SPRINT

For this brief I decided to choose the WGSN project. I designed for the Glimmers pathway and was inspired by the ideas of fun, joy and relaxation. Glimmers are micro-moments of joy, peace or safety and come at unexpected moments, from this I wanted to develop a concept for garments that lift one's feelings.

My idea is to develop a series of 'fun suits' with the aim of supporting guilt-free joy that embraces the fun and chaos of living and helps manage the consequences. To create something that embodies joy, fun and is a spectacle for the eyes.

CIRCUS ACT:

By merging glimmers with rebellious undertones for this concept thinking about the themes of the circus, including: clowns, costume, endless movement with Victorian era references. Using my creative direction to create bold prints, motifs and big silhouettes to create garment pieces that can be interchanged with endless possibilities for the wearer to curate.

I referenced collections from Viktor and Rolf couture, where interesting textures and pattern were used for statement collars and neckline ideas. In addition, looking at the work of Min-Ji Kim, a fashion and textile designer that uses fashion as a vehicle to explore notions of exploring the body and taking up space unapologetically, juxtaposing masculine and feminine tropes with bold colours and unconventional materials.





chunky
leather
belt
which skirt
attached
to
one side
half pleated
skirt
→ detachable
from waist
+ hair
removable

lycra
body
-digitally
printed

