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# Embracing the Monstrous-Feminine



The monstrous feminine is a trope I have a complicated relationship with. At its core it is the idea the female body itself is an all consuming abject creature, one that must be tamed, controlled, vanquished. It becomes a site of violence. However, I find its depictions in media often allow a twisted emotional catharsis. where woman is witch, beast of prey, finally the hunter, and not the hunted.

I explored this concept looking at monstrous form, natural and synthetic, leading me to artists such as Giger, which led to draping and sampling in insectoid exoskeletal shapes through pleating. This transformed into exploring deconstructive fashion references like Margiela and Ann Demeulemeester. The resulting samples and collection are a successful exploration and subversion of my original reseach ideas.

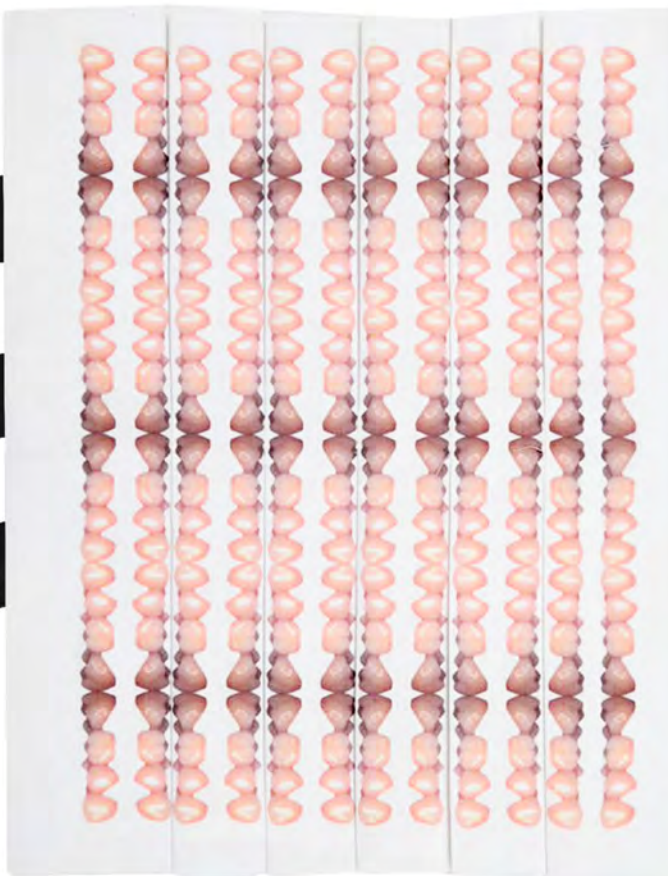




I dream of bloody revenge between  
a vengeful messenger  
righteous and glorious  
serving them that which they deserve  
instead I declaw  
bite my tongue and pull my teeth  
for the sake of comfort  
truth or fagsda  
who could ever say which it is  
how long will this pleasing last  
before my heart breaks completely  
into shards that will become  
shards  
my fatal weapon

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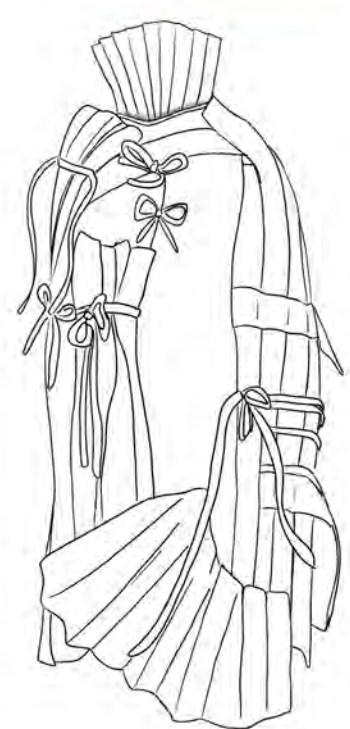
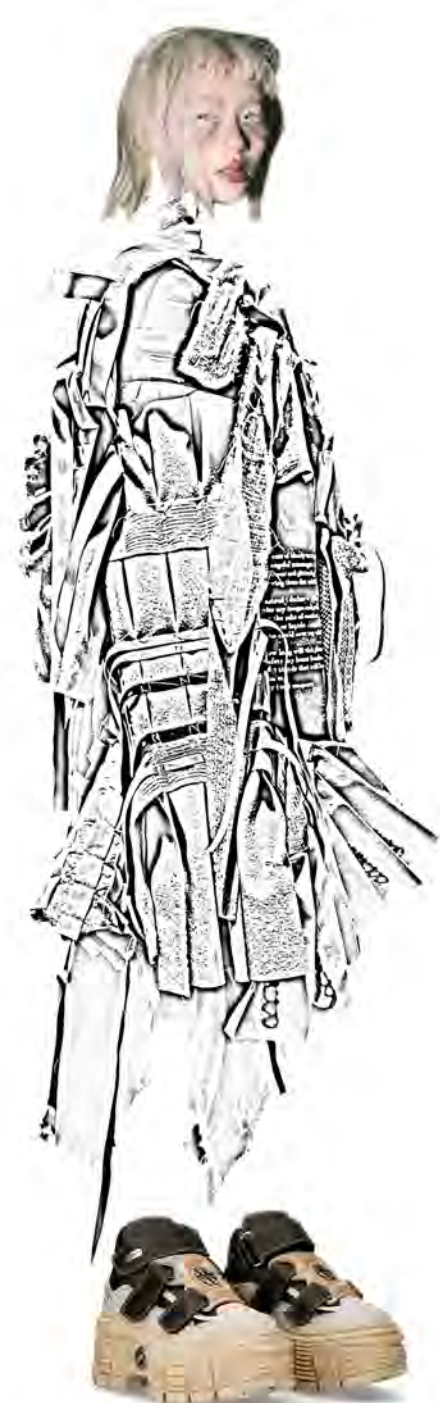
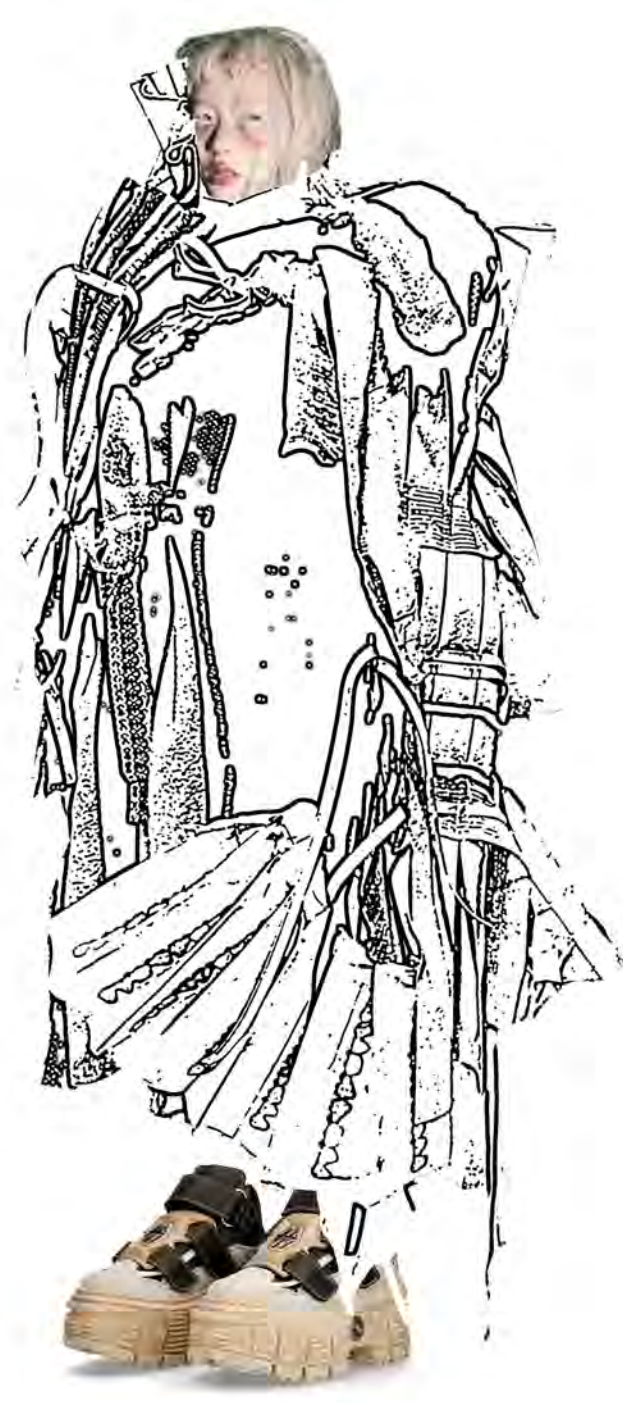
I dream of bloody revenge between my jaws  
a vengeful messenger  
righteous and glorious  
serving them that which they deserve  
instead I declaw  
bite my tongue and pull my teeth  
for the sake of comfort  
truth or fagsda  
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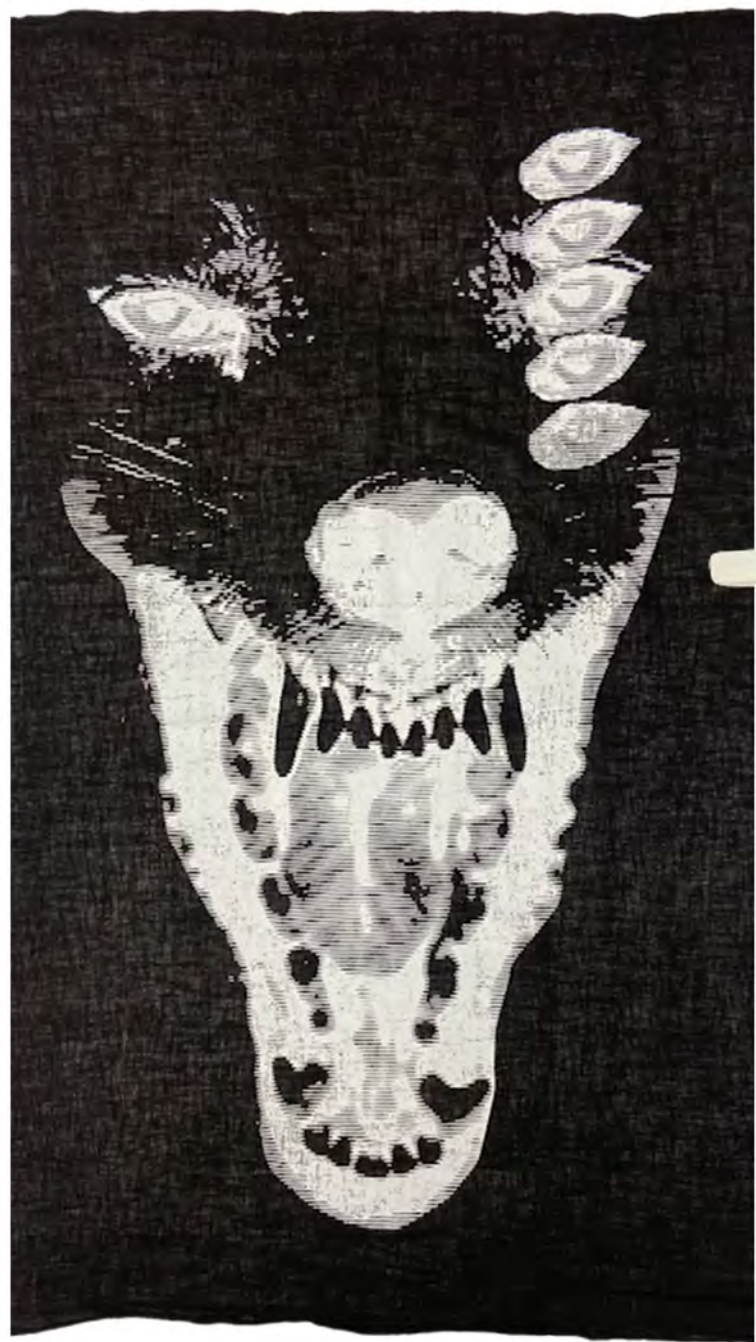




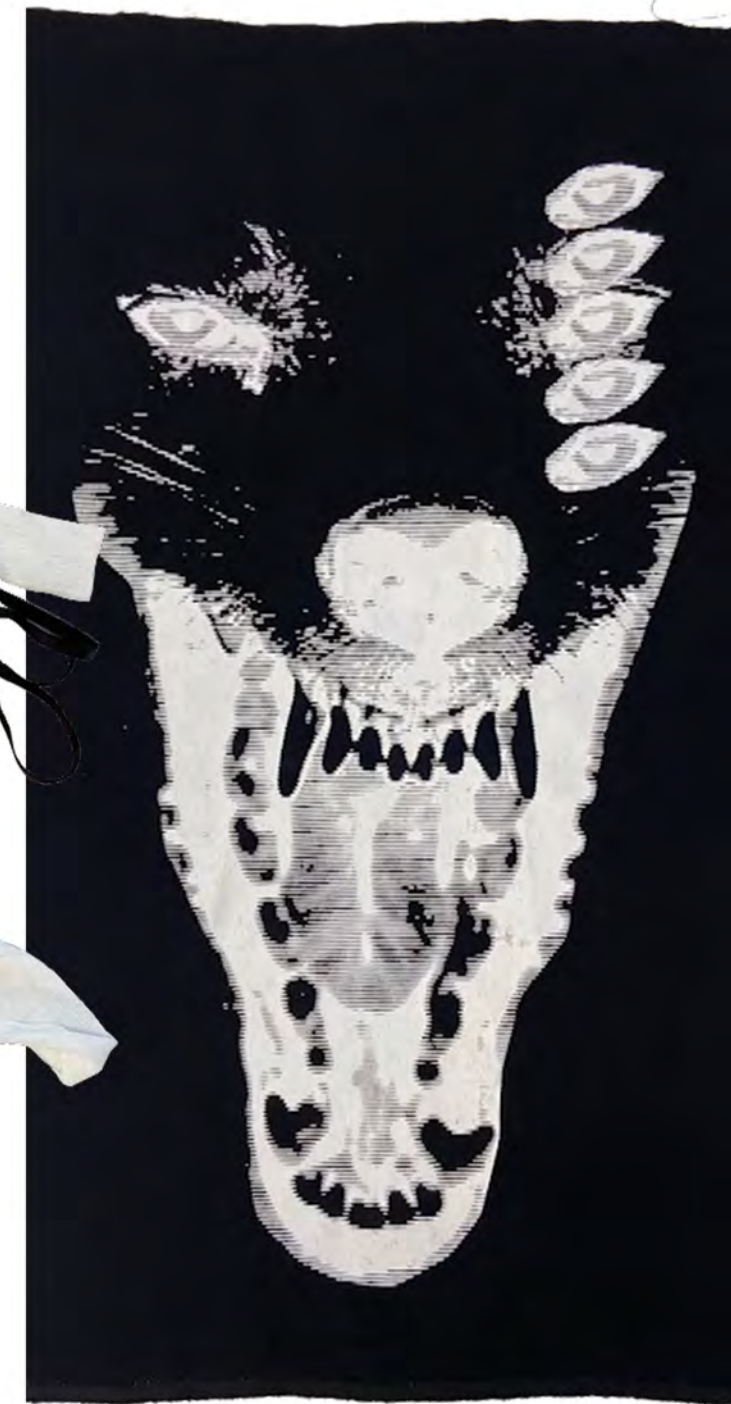
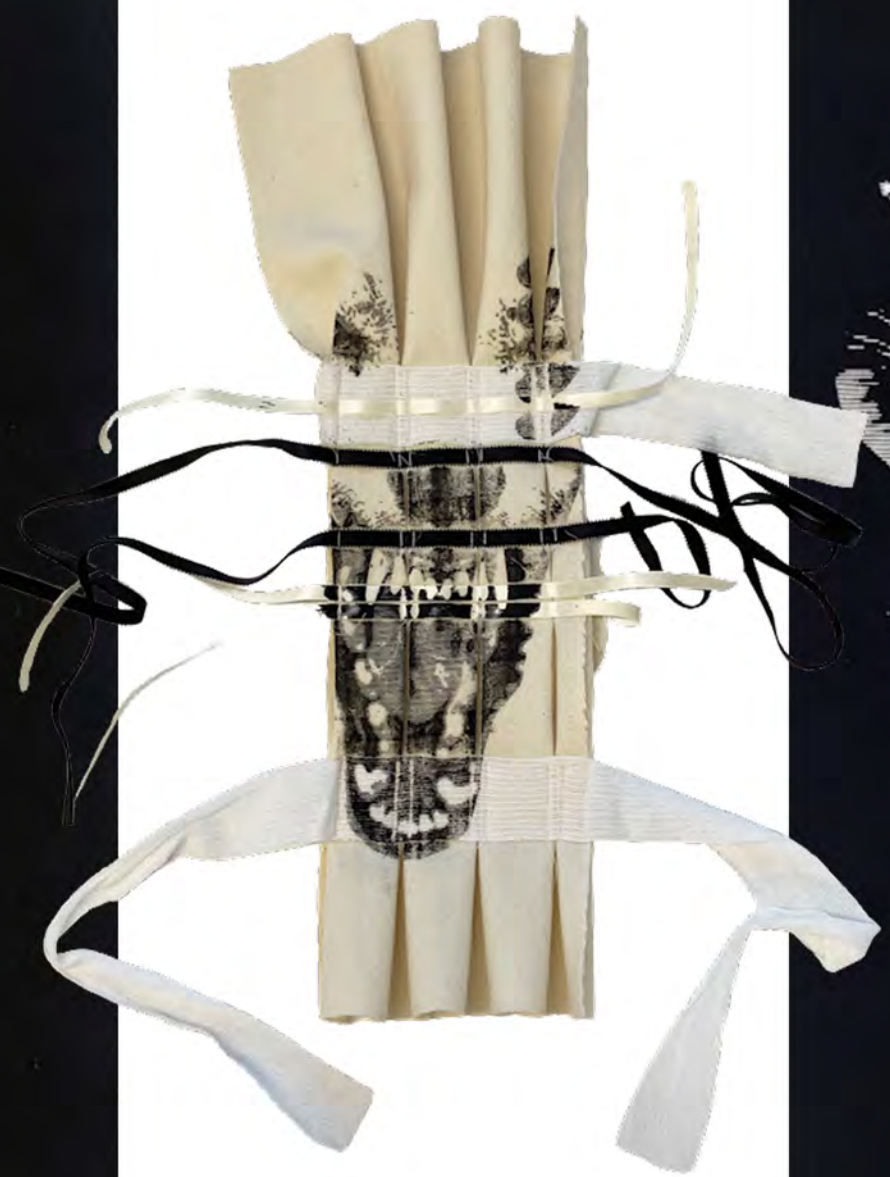




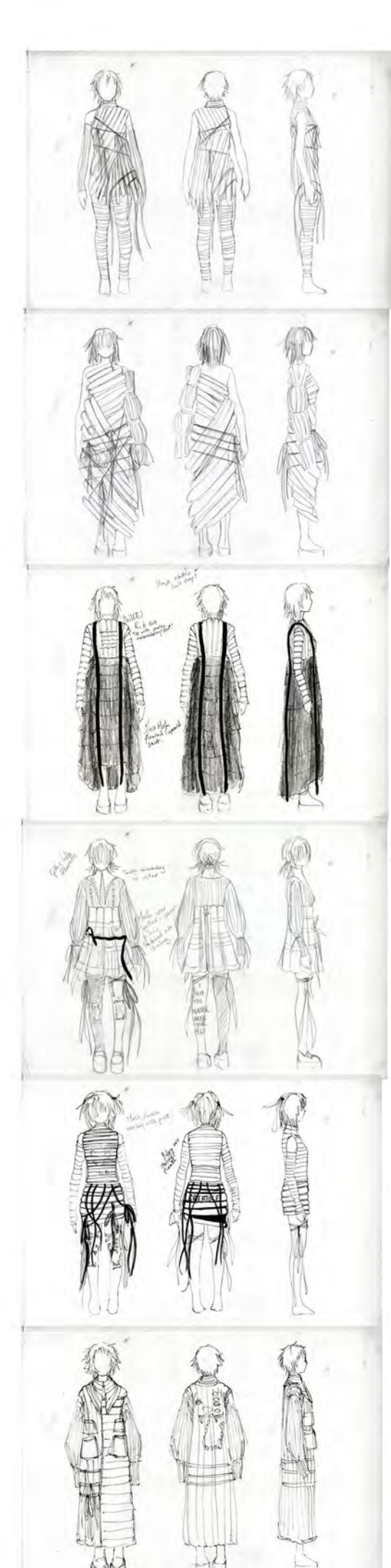
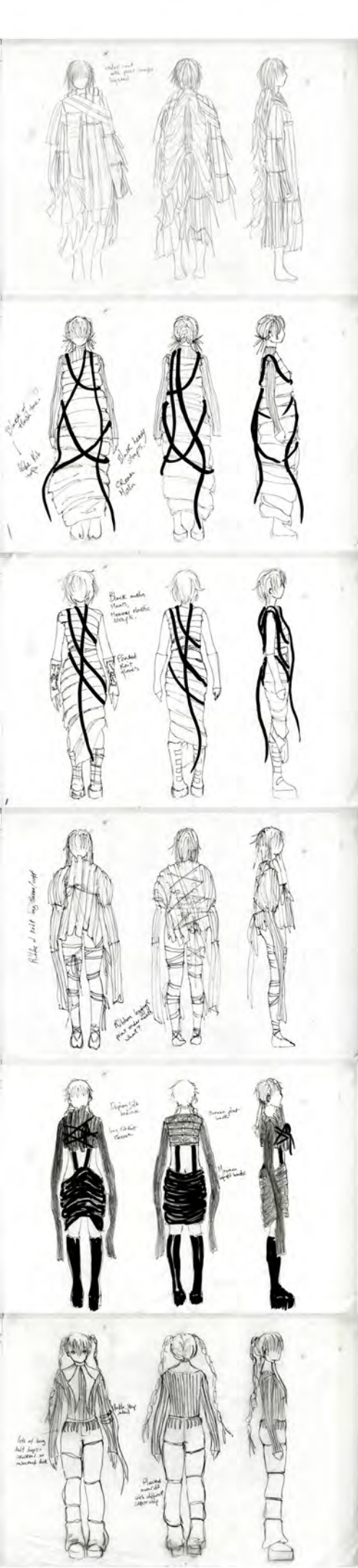




I  
AM  
THE  
MONSTER  
UNDER  
YOUR  
BED

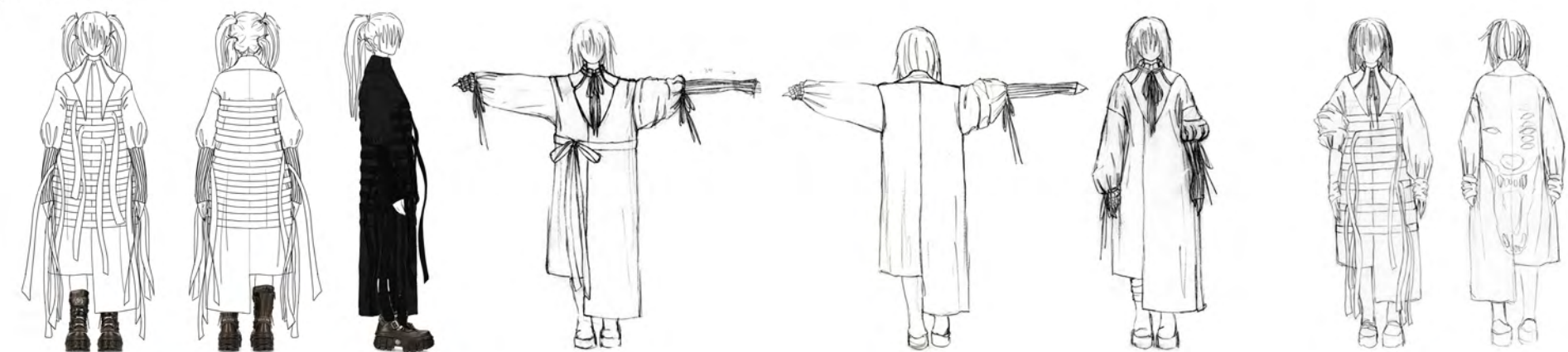








Design variations, working out final design and make:



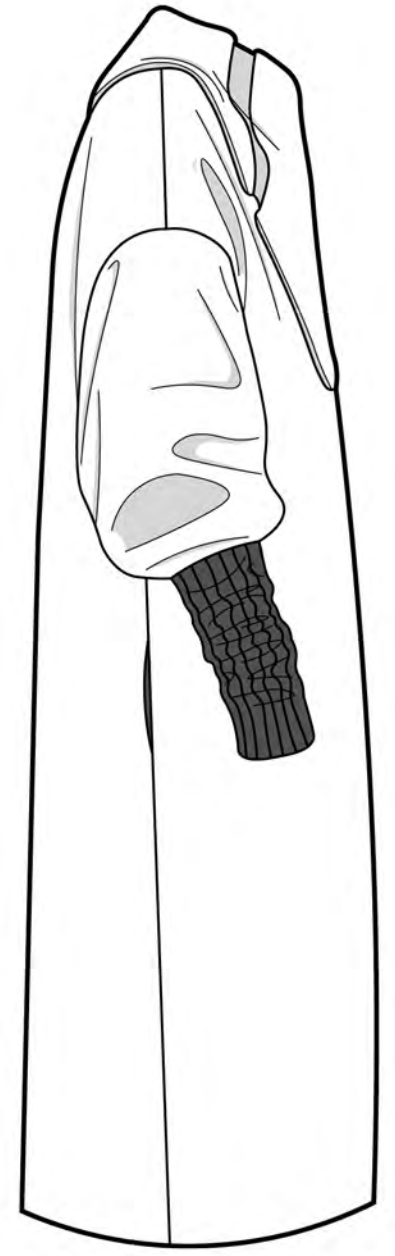
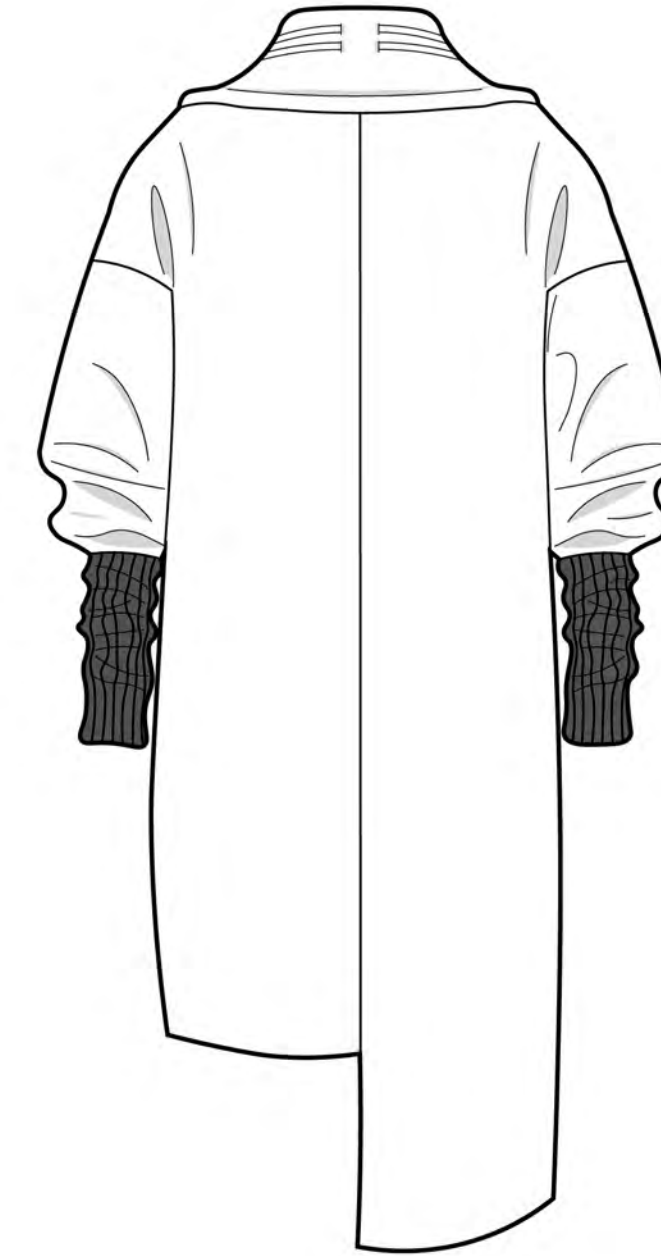
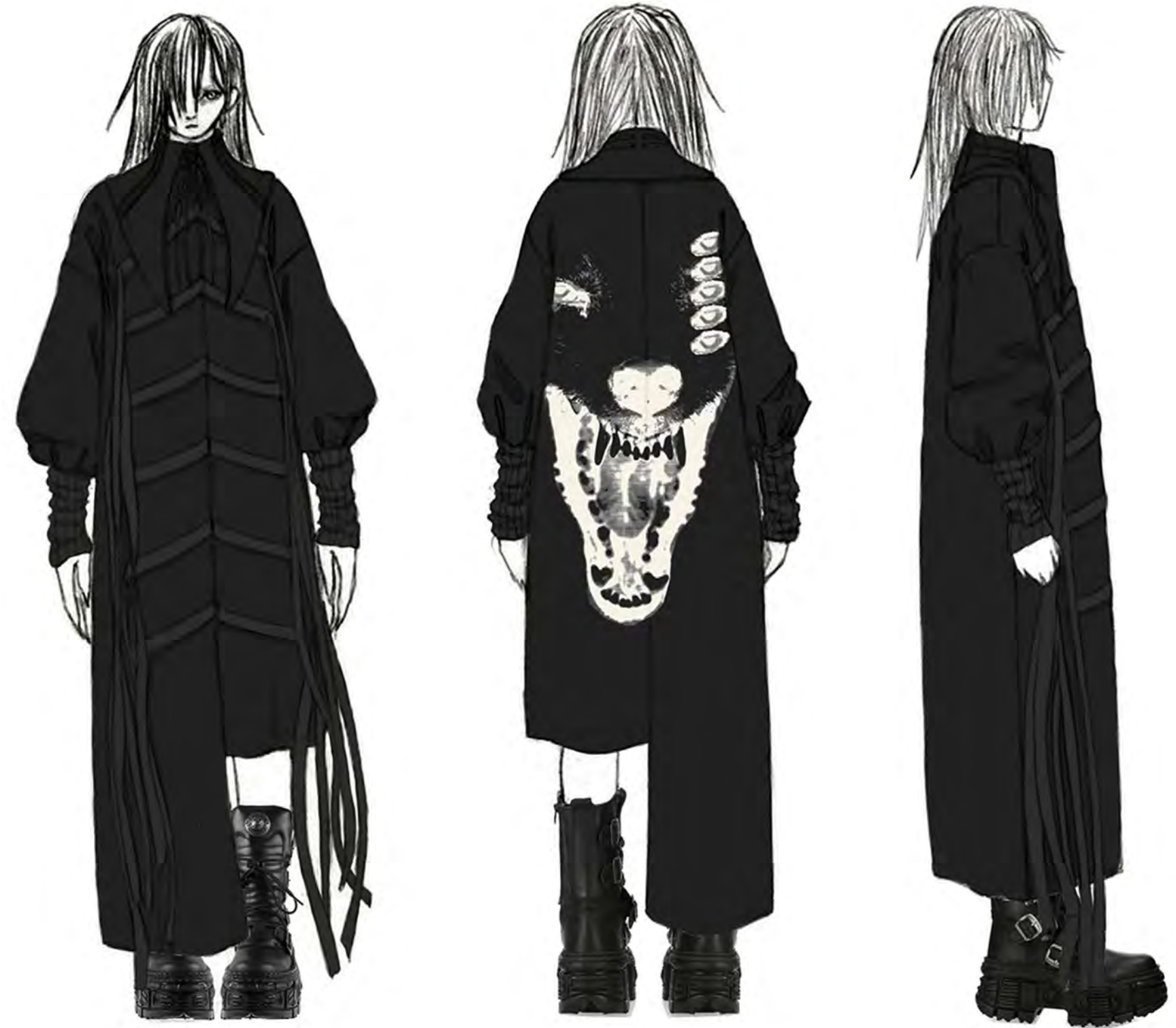
Toiling process of the pleated collar. Trial and error through draping and pattern cutting. Beginning in calico and progressing to toile in wool due to the differing behaviours of the fabric.



The finished garment presented on a mannequin.

Print has defects - line on seam, and too light, should've printed with more saturation. However, defect adds to a worn-in cyber aesthetic.



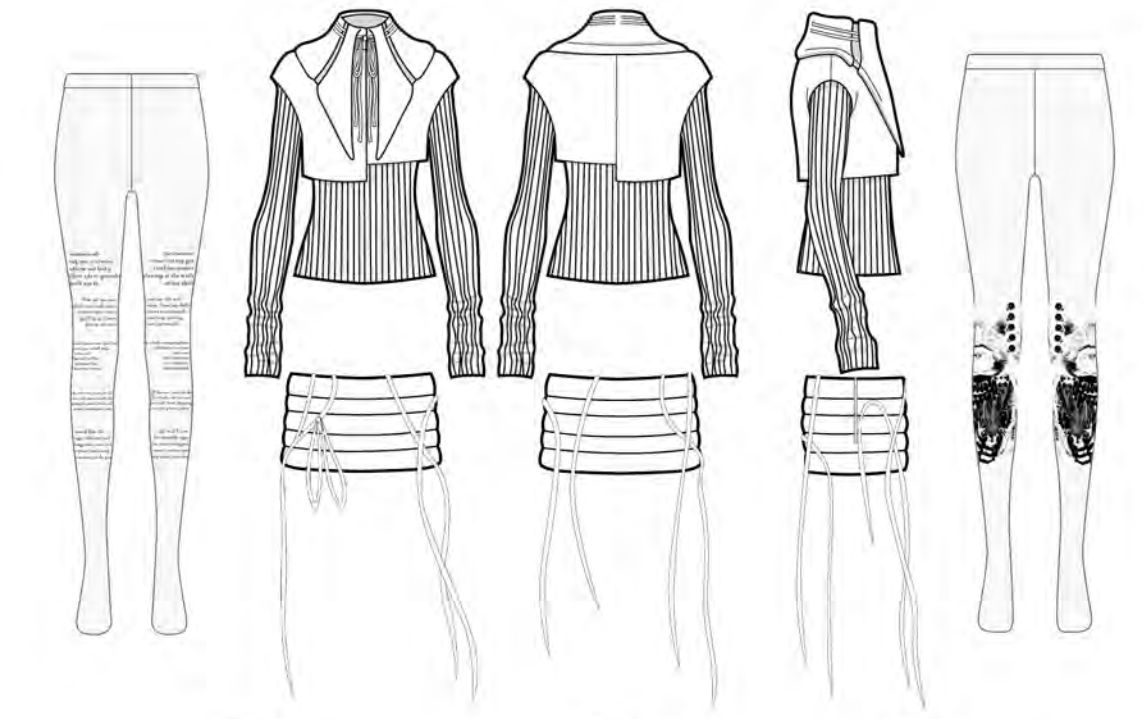
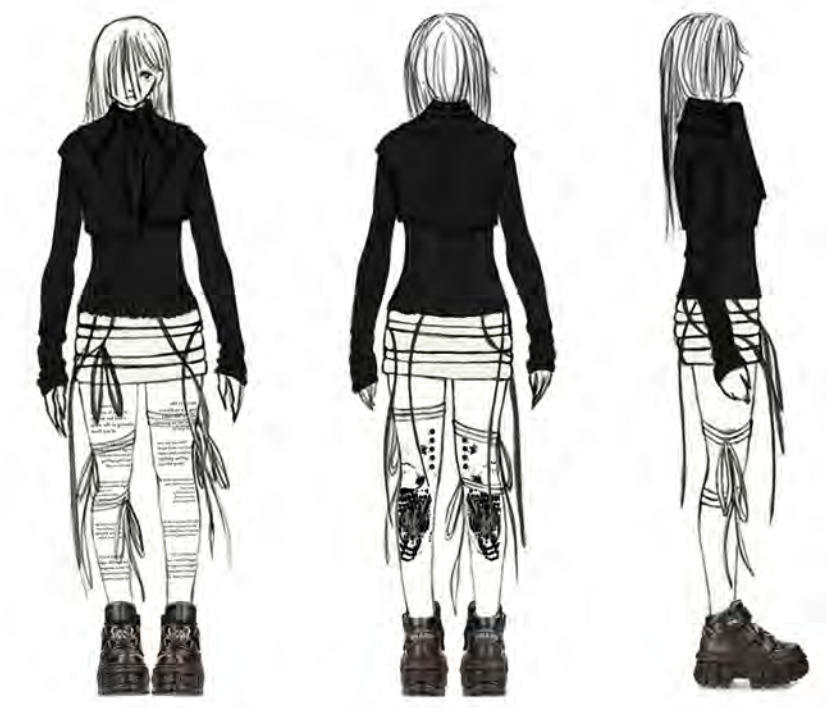
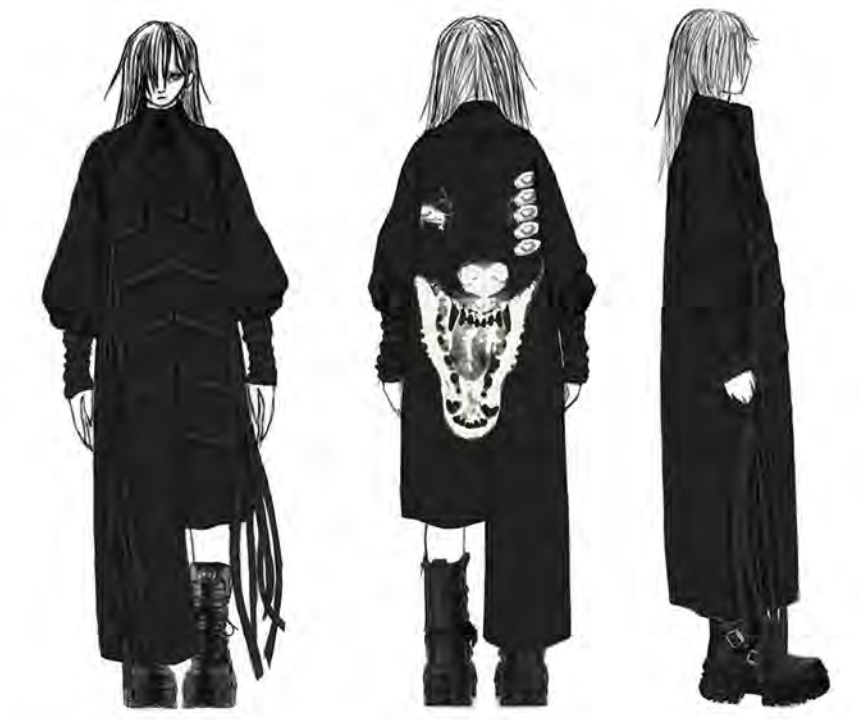
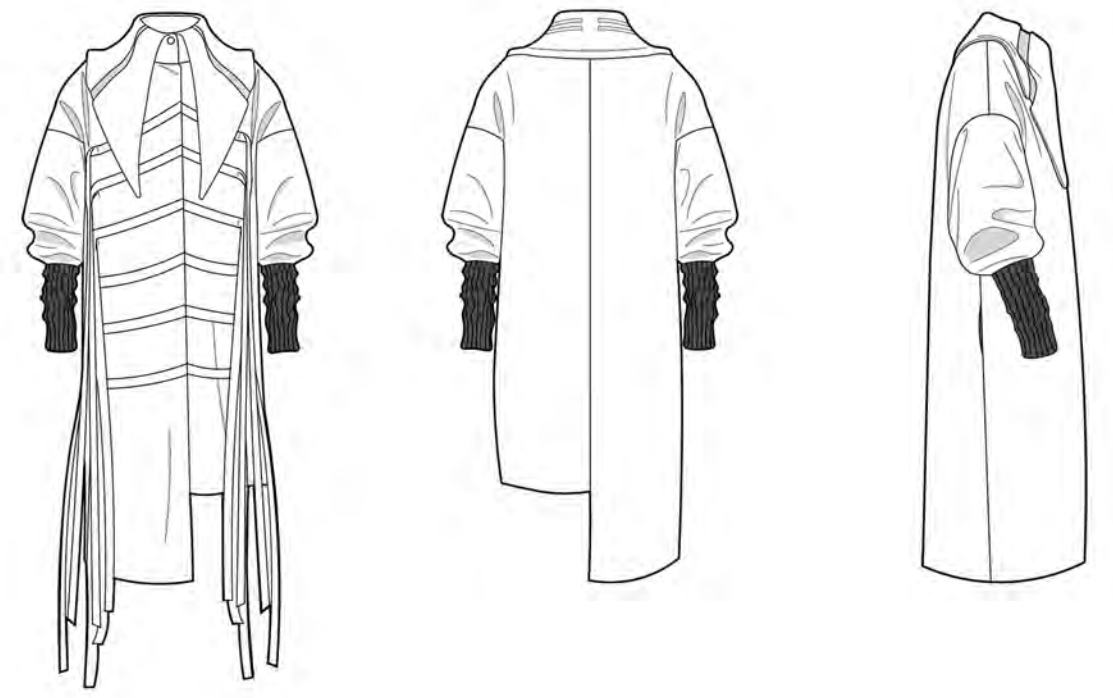


*Heavy Trafalgar Wool shell 533gsm*  
*Deadstock Burberry Poly-cotton lining*  
*Cotton-lycra ribbing*  
*Viscose grosgrain undercollar*  
*Silk grosgrain ribbons*





**oversized asymmetrical coat**  
oversized pleated pointed collar  
pleated puff sleeves with elongated  
rib cuff. decorative grosgrain ribbons  
mimic ribcage shape before draping down.  
concealed poppers closure. collar closure  
visible popper and grosgrain ribbon ties.  
black heavy trafilgar wool.  
cotton and lycra knit rib  
polyester grosgrain ribbon 5cm & 1cm

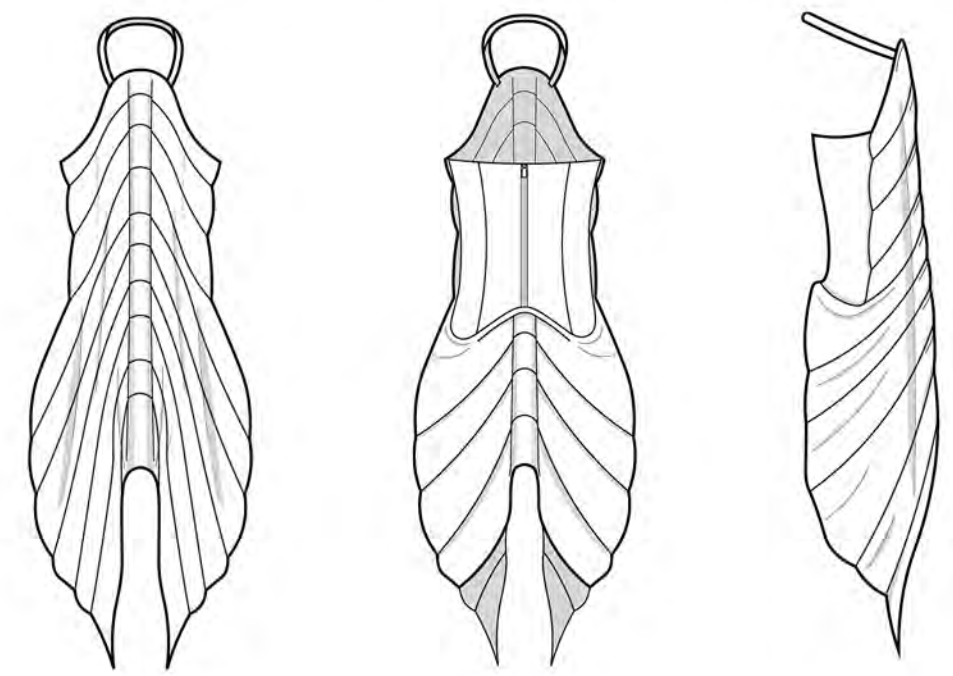
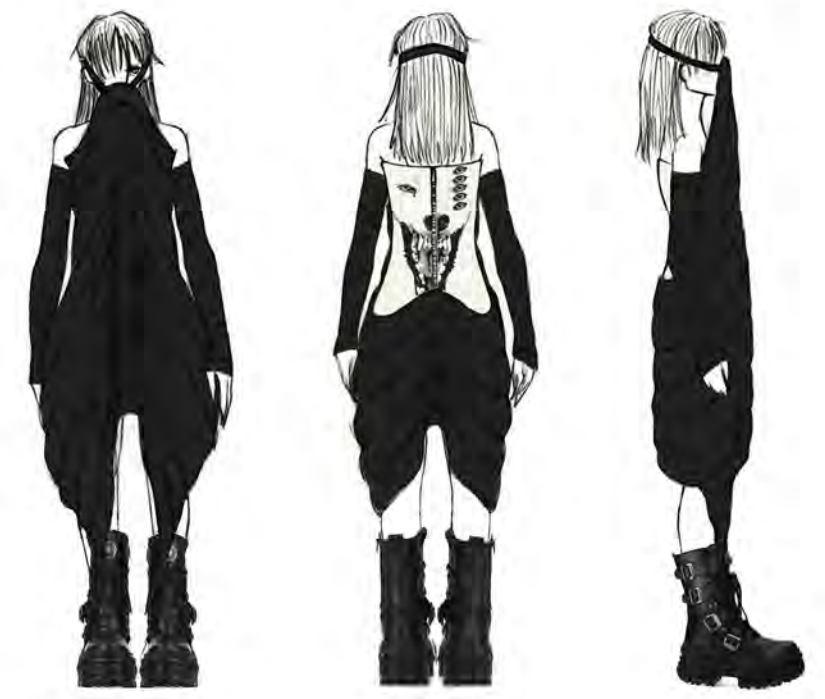
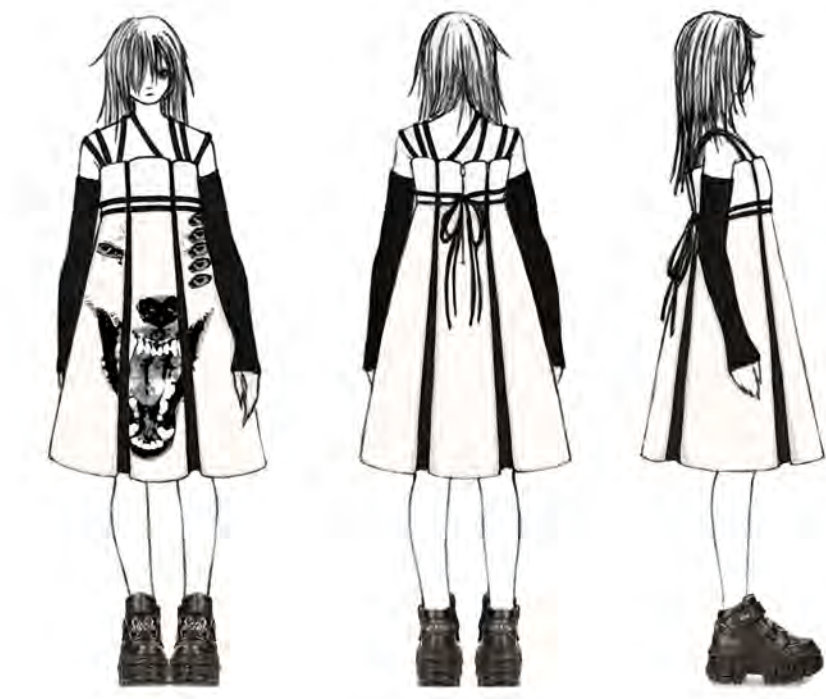
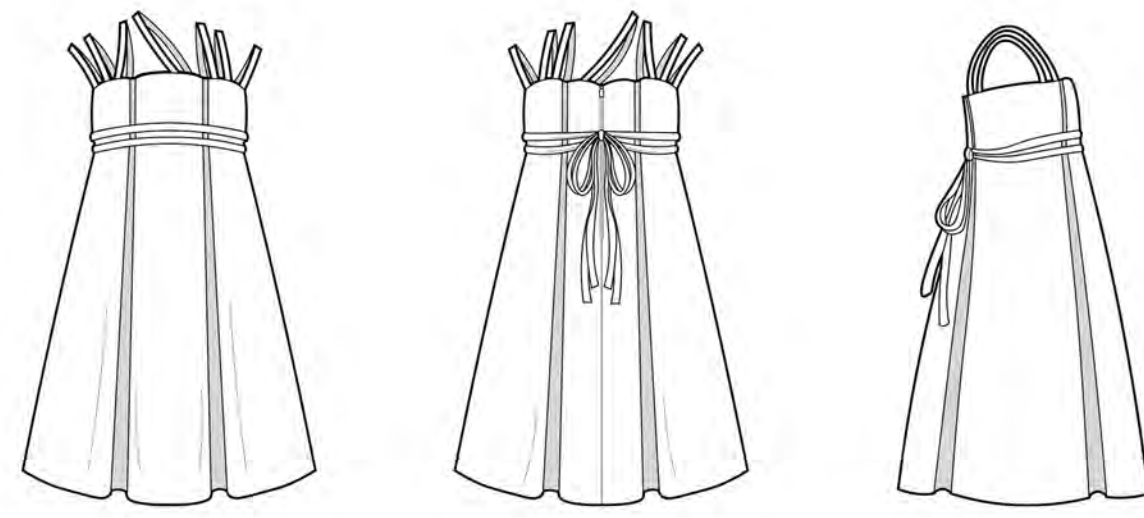


**asymmetrical jacket top**  
oversized pointed pleated collar  
asymmetric cropped "jacket"  
in black heavy trafilgar wool  
cotton jersey ribbed underlayer attached

**pleated mini skirt**  
off white wool crepe and  
black viscose grosgrain  
black grosgrain ribbons  
concealed side zip closure

**printed poetry tights**  
heat sublimation print on  
100 denier nylon tights  
off white grosgrain ribbons attached

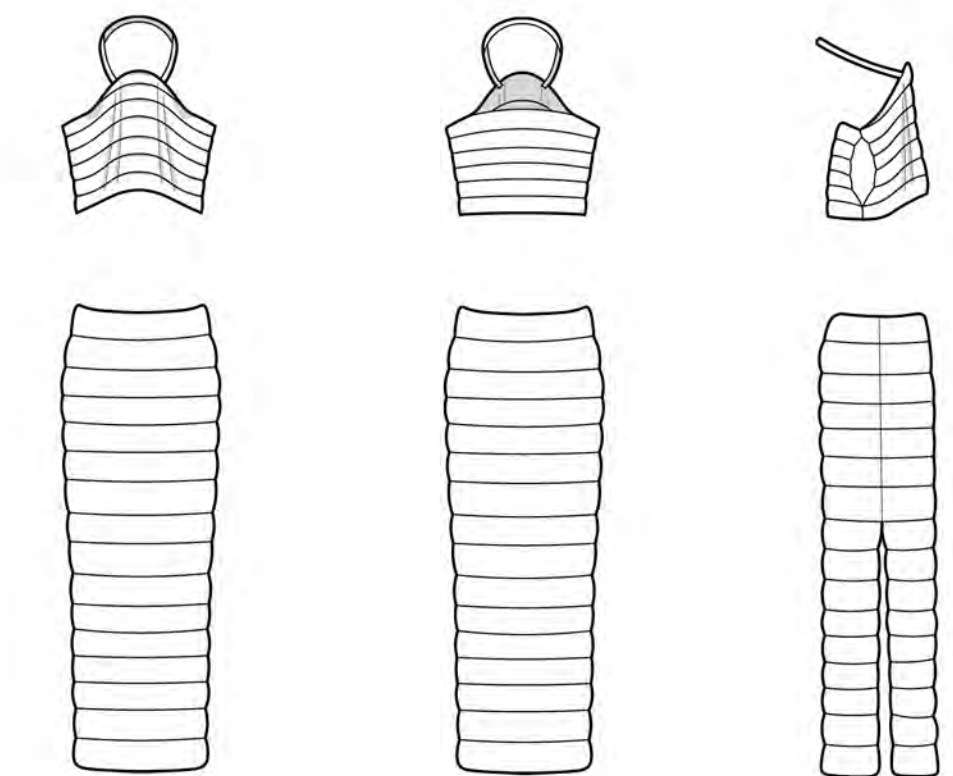
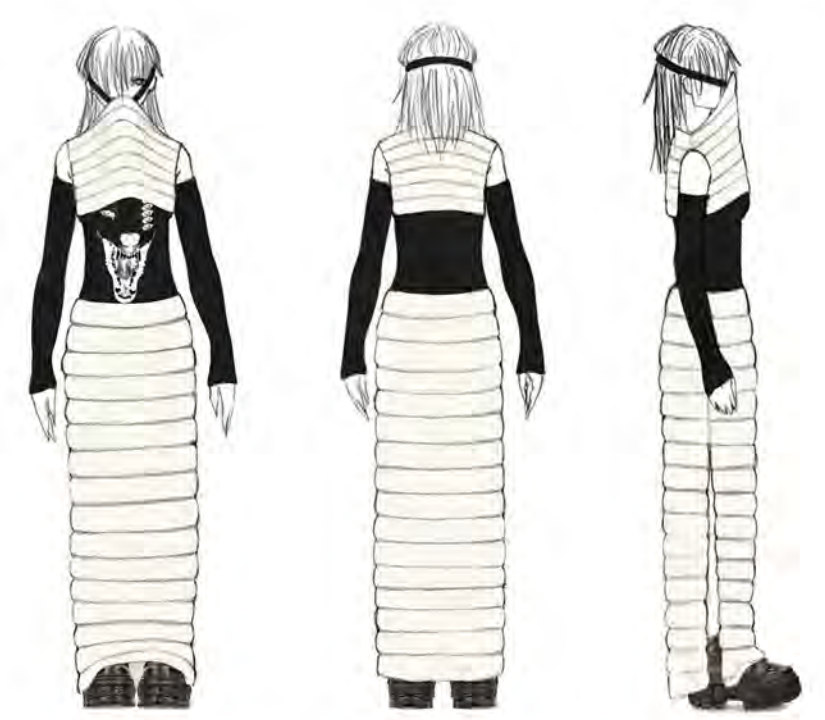
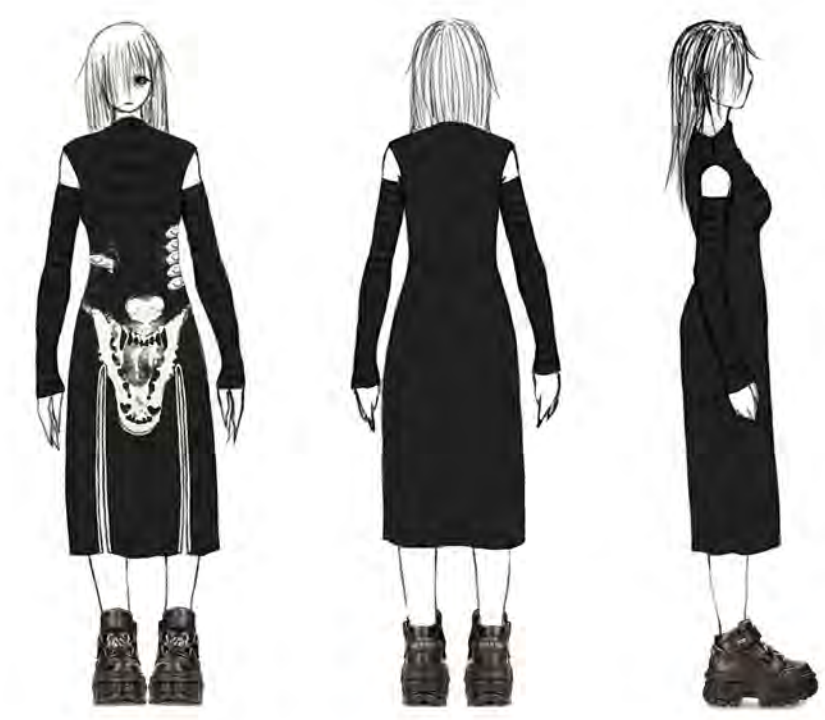
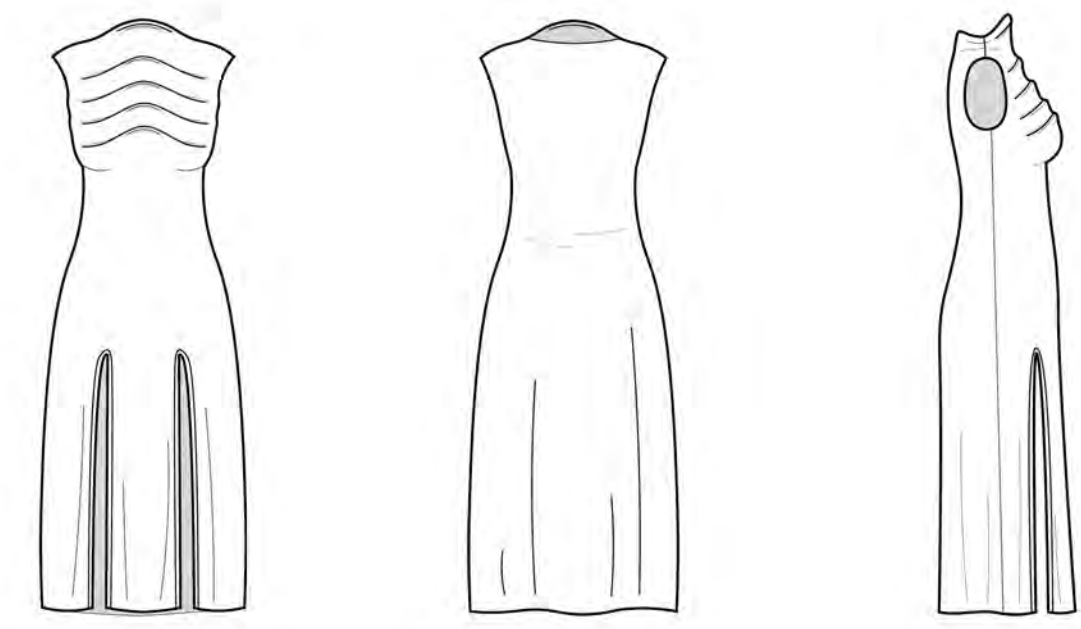
**pleated babydoll dress**  
centre back zip closure and grosgrain ribbon ties  
asymmetrical ribbon straps  
off white heavy wool (twill weave)  
black viscose grosgrain  
  
wide rib knit arm sleeves  
cotton & lycra



**pleated mask midi dress**  
upward pleats drape like exoskeletal shell  
elastic holds up elongated neckline to  
create a mask. back panel printed.  
chunky metal zip closure  
black dupion silk  
off white cotton twill

bandage arm sleeves  
black cotton jersey

**exoskeletally pleated midi dress**  
black heavyweight cotton jersey  
small upward pleats on the chest  
create an exoskeletal appearance.  
slits on legs edged with off white  
cotton bias binding



**pleated mask cropped top**  
upward pleats create shell-like shape  
elastic holds elongated neckline to create a mask  
concealed hook and eye closure under arm  
off white dupion silk

**pleated maxi skirt.**  
box pleated to create insectoid shell shape  
side slit to allow for movement  
off white dupion silk

ribbed jersey printed vest  
black cotton jersey