

CRISTAL MARTINEZ

ESMOD – MASTERS
CREATIVE DIRECTION

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The principle of change, rebellion, freedom, liberation, reform and revolution, and the unexpected breakup of structures; with sudden surprises, revelations and awakenings, cultural innovation, technological invention, experiment, creativity, and originality.

Uranus

ABOUT

CRISTAL MARTINEZ



Hello, i'm a creative professional with 10 years of combined costume & women's ready-to-wear development experience. Currently pursuing an MA in Creative Direction at ESMOD Paris, I fuse conceptual vision, technical skill, and my passion for astrology, natural textiles & dyes to offer unique pieces to a new soul-conscious generation of consumers. My Masters collection, "Choice in Transformation," uses astrological symbolism to explore historical and current themes of women's plight, empowerment, and transformation, offering fashion as a platform for self-expression.

The principle of elemental power; depth, and intensity; with that which compels, empowers, and intensifies whatever it touches, sometimes to overwhelming and catastrophic extremes; destructive and regenerative, eliminative, transformative, ever-evolving; with the biological processes of birth, sex, and death; upheaval, breakdown, decay; situations of extremes, power struggles, all that is titanic, potent, and massive.

Pluto

ESMOD Masters Collection

Choice in Transformation

Throughout history, transformation has moved in cycles – across the sky, through the body, and within the fabric of society. This collection is rooted in the belief that choice is a quiet revolution. Using naturally dyed textiles and celestial embroidery, each garment echoes the rhythms of cosmic change. With modular construction and adaptable silhouettes, the wearer is invited to define how the garment lives on her body—an act of expression, autonomy, and evolution.



Inspired by Richard Tarnas' book, *Cosmos and Psyche*, this project uses planetary symbolism, ancestral dye techniques, and structural design to visualize inner awakening.

The Setting

Since ancient times, women have been the keepers of deep knowledge – blending science, healing, and creativity. In earlier eras, they were often honored as healers, midwives, and sages. But as time passed, their wisdom was sometimes feared and misunderstood, casting them to the margins of society. This collection draws from those timeless archetypes—not as victims, but as pioneers who embraced nature, alchemy, and transformation. Today, we return to their spirit of curiosity and resilience.



In astrology, the Uranus-Pluto alignment has long marked periods of radical societal change. Inspired by Richard Tarnas' 'Cosmos and Psyche,' I use this planetary symbolism to reflect a timeless cycle of transformation. It's a reminder that the fight for women's autonomy and the freedom **to choose** is part of a much larger historical wave. Through these symbols, my collection honors resilience and the power of choice.

Before they were silenced, women were thinkers, healers, scientists, innovators, leaders, nurturing both ideas and life on their own terms. . . .



Queen Buran
First Female Astrologer



Katharina Keppler - Mother of
Johannes Keppler - Astrologer & Astronomer



Gloria Steinem
Activist



Ruth Bader Ginsberg
US Supreme Court Justice



Alexandria Ocasio Cortez
US Congresswoman

Plant Dye Process

Back to the knowledge, back to the experiments -
Returning to the cauldron . . .



Add Alum



Soak 4 hours



Collect Foliage



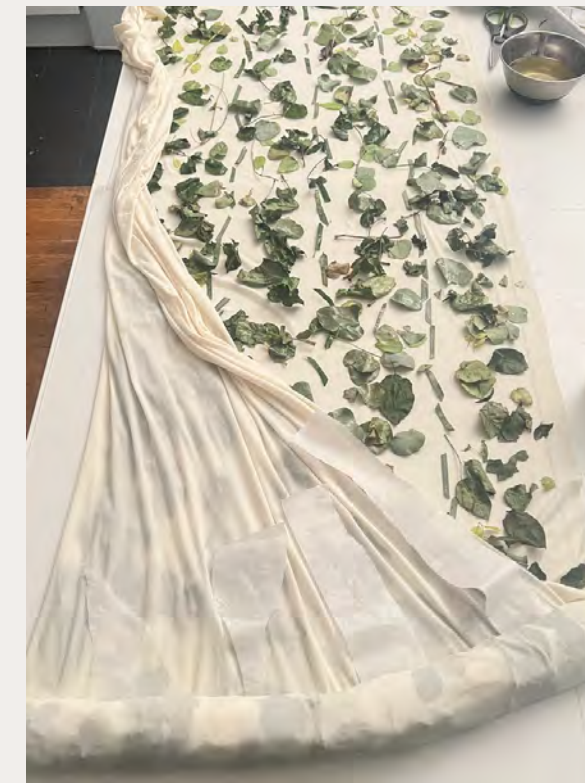
Roll into bundle with
recycled plastic bag



Steam bundle dye 4
Hours



Dip in ferrous
sulfate solution



Eucalyptus & Rose leaves



Bundle dye technique



Cool Bundle Overnight



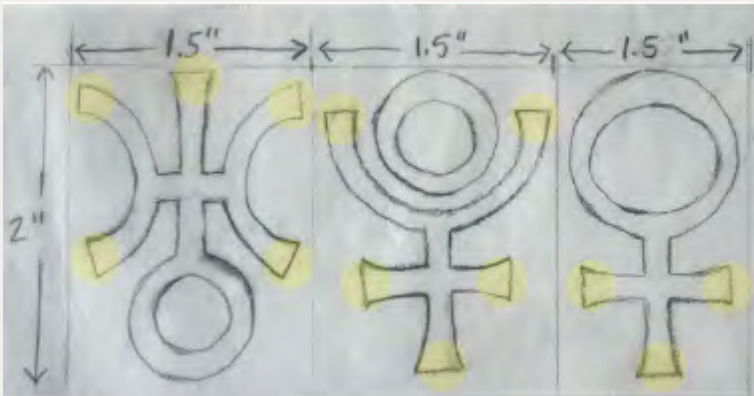
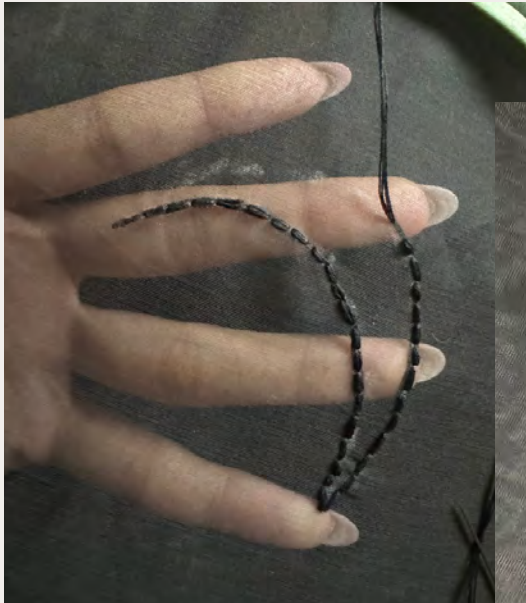
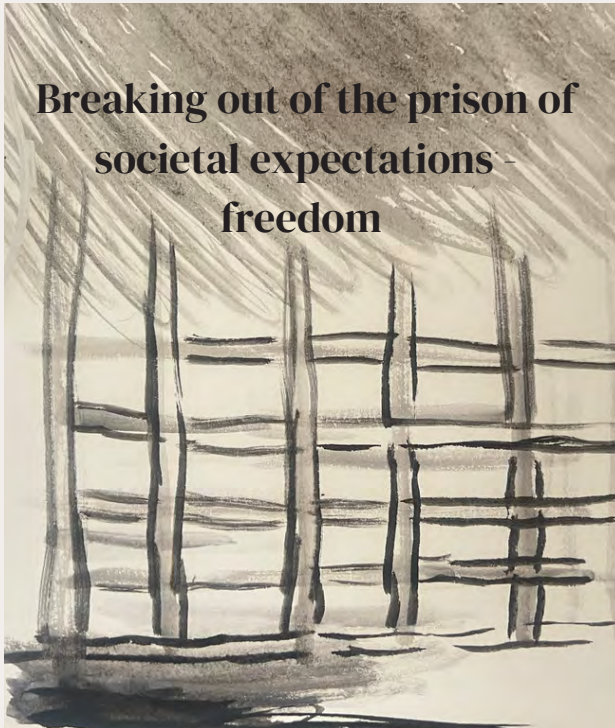
Final Swatch

Print & Embroidery Development

Astrological symbolism that signifies the transformation of societal structures.

Uranus - Society; sudden change; rebellion

Pluto -Transformation; Death & Rebirth; life cycles



Print Designed in Paris & Made in India by Woman Run Business

Hand Embroidery Made in Paris By Woman Run Business

Machine Embroidery Made in India By Woman Run Business

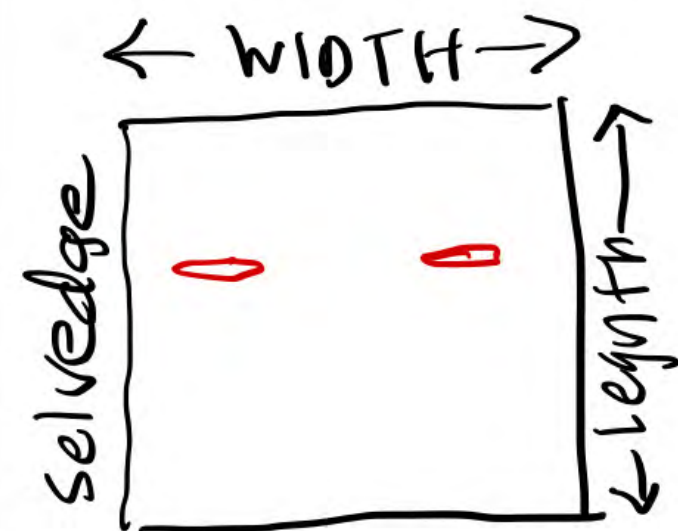
Design research

one pattern, 6 different options
to choose...

OPTION TO CHOOSE



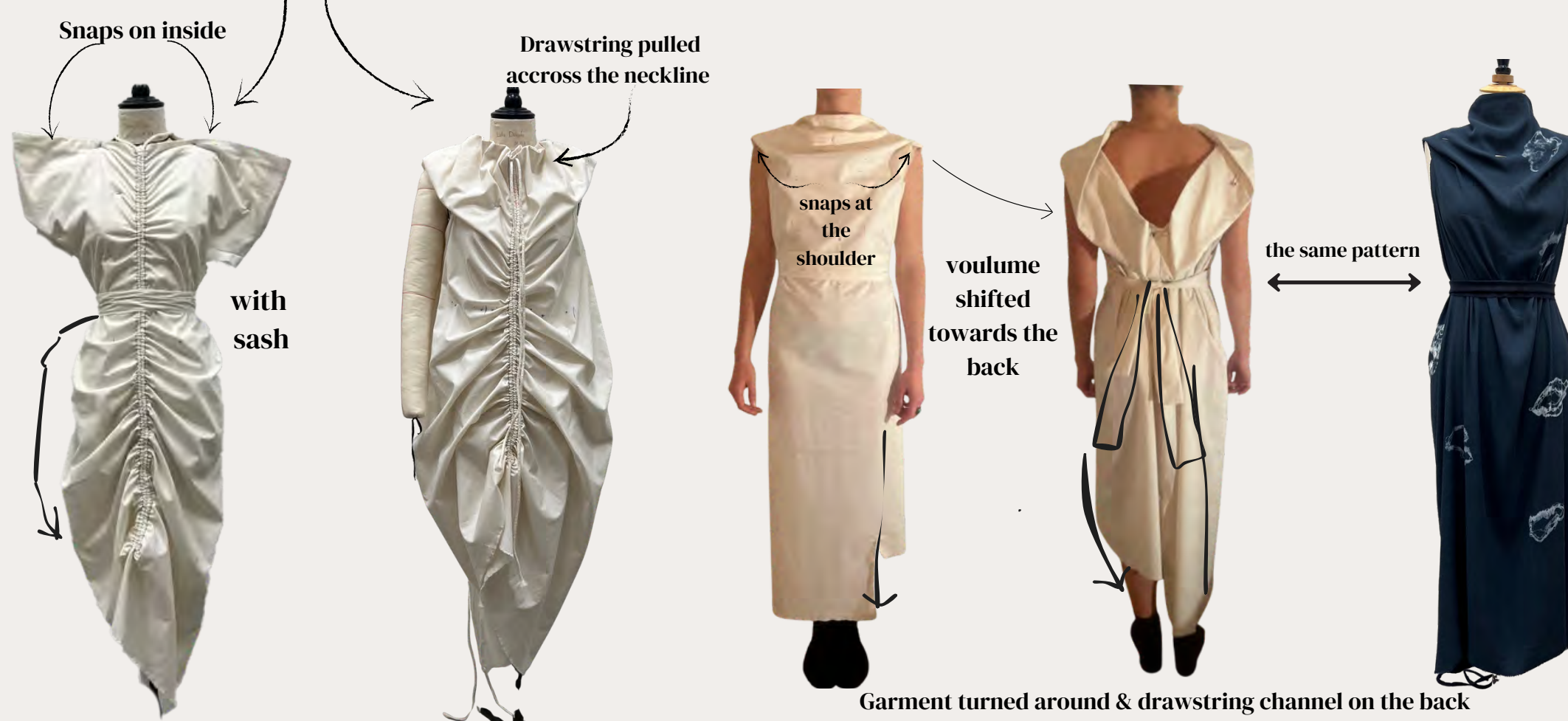
zero waste pattern



1 tube
1 seam
4 openings
several snap
& hook closures...

Collection development

WOVENS

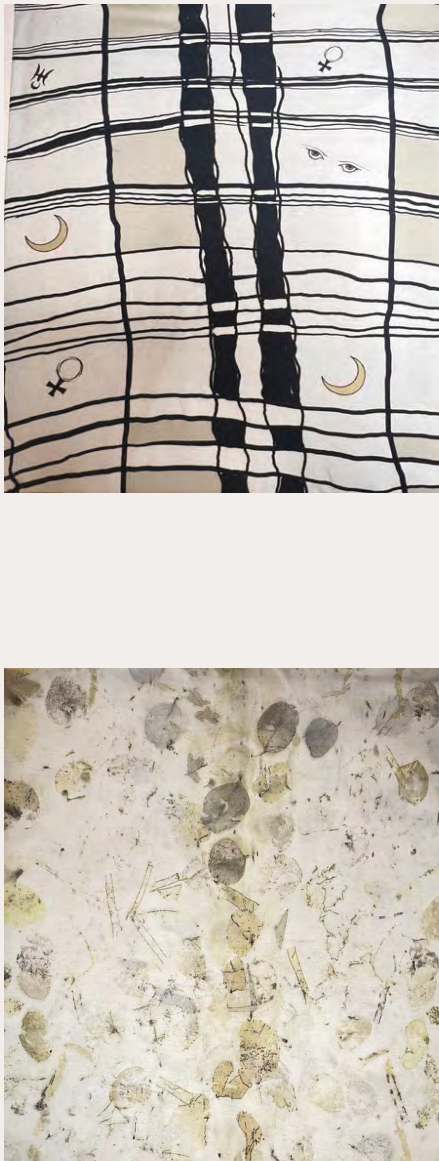
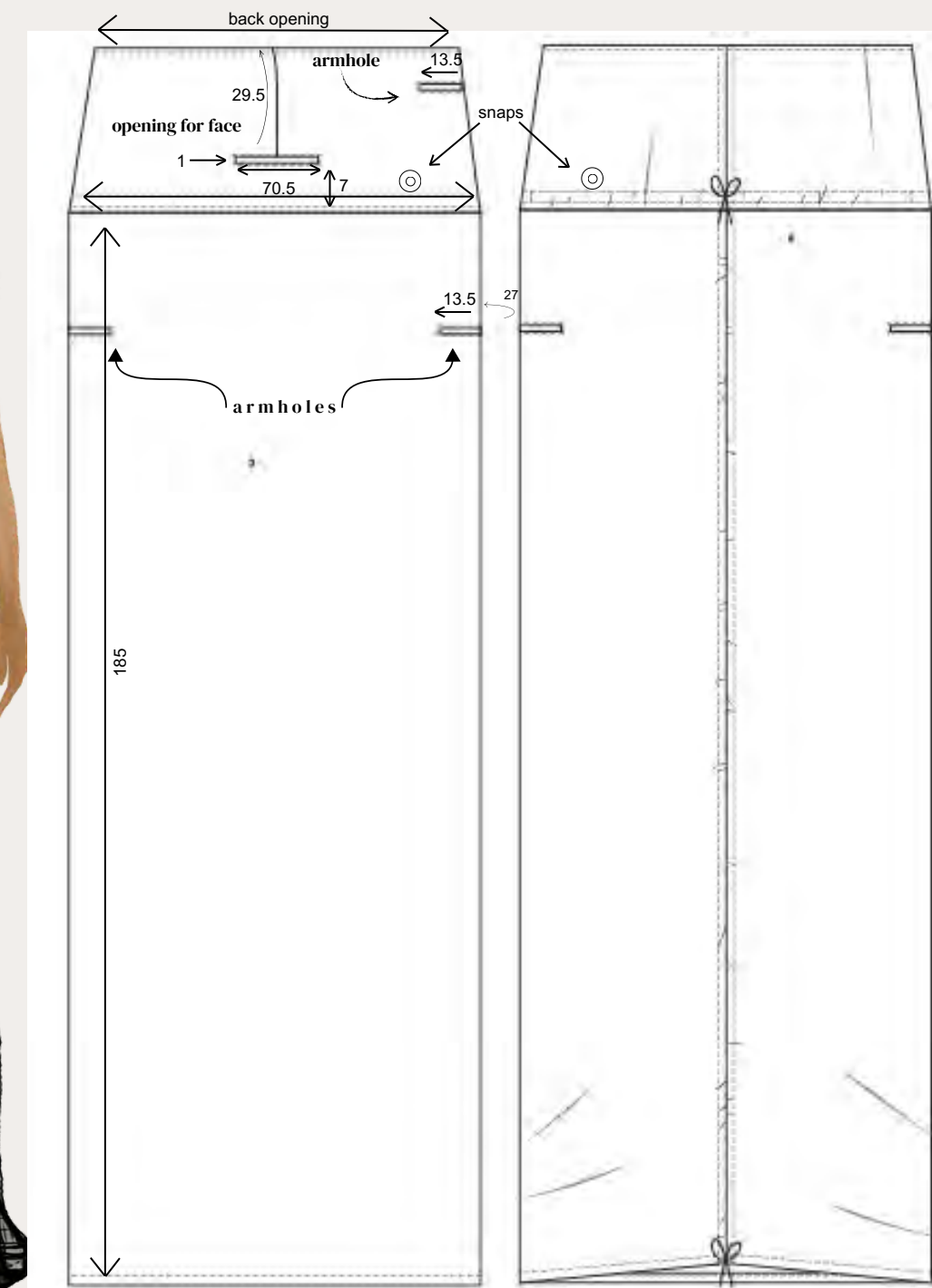
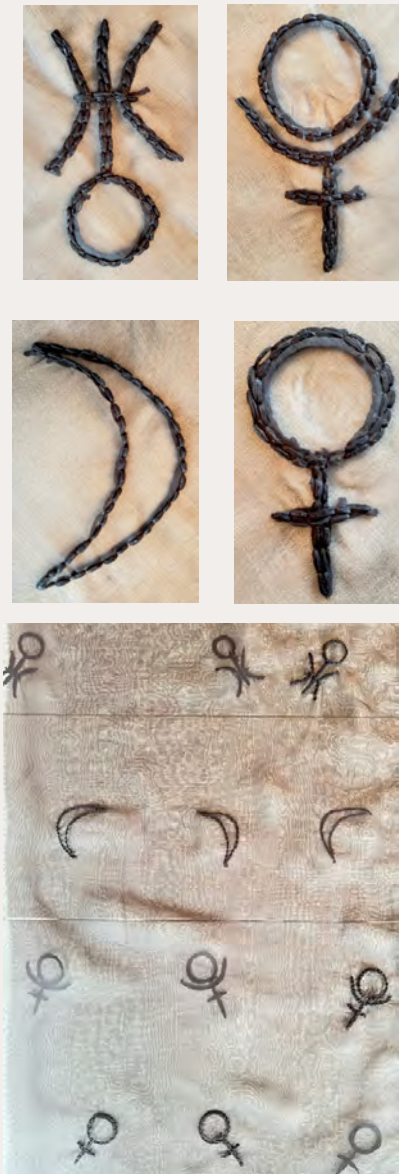
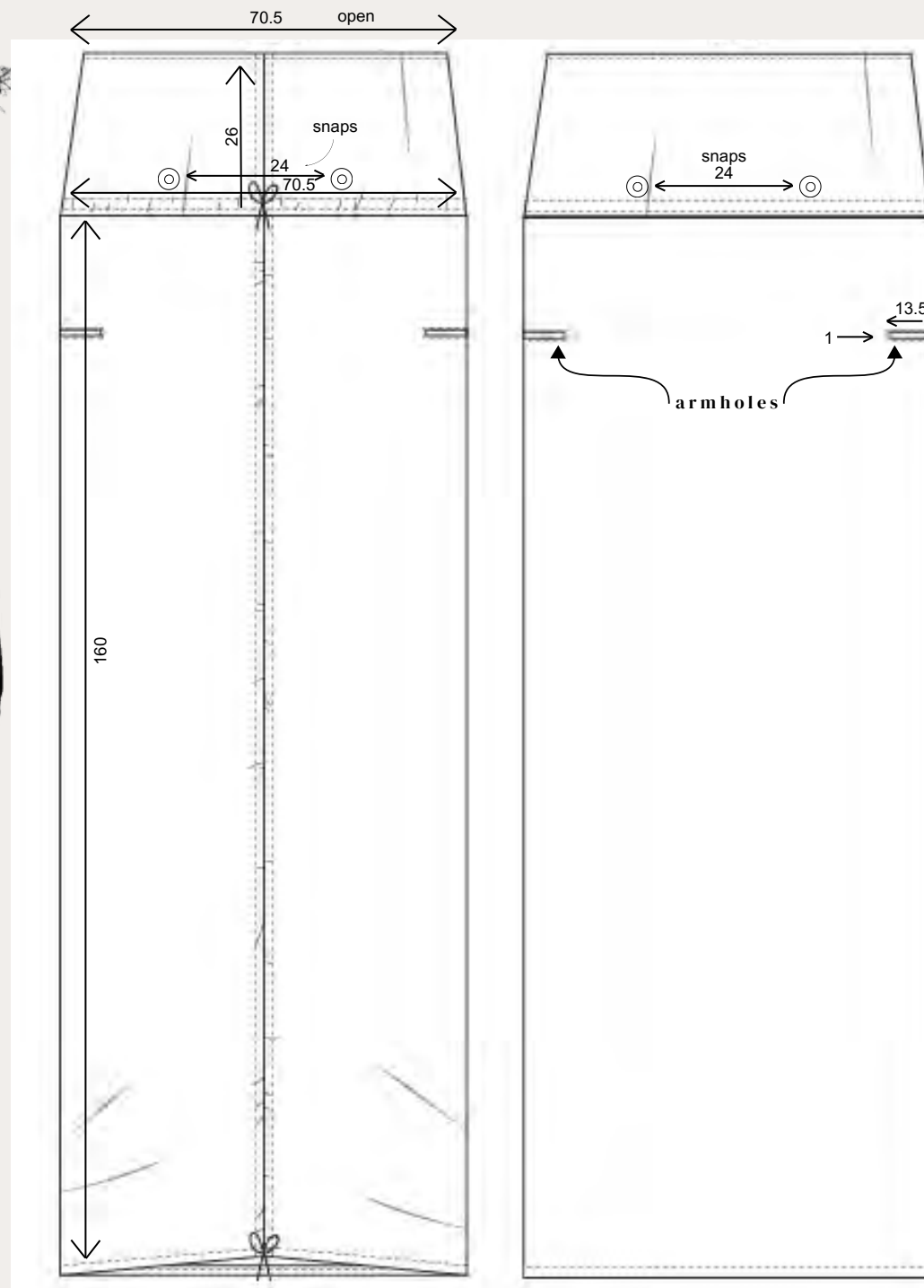


KNITS



Flats

Option 1 - Woven



Option 2 - Knit

Lineup



Heliodora



Buran



Ruth



Katharina



Gloria



Roe

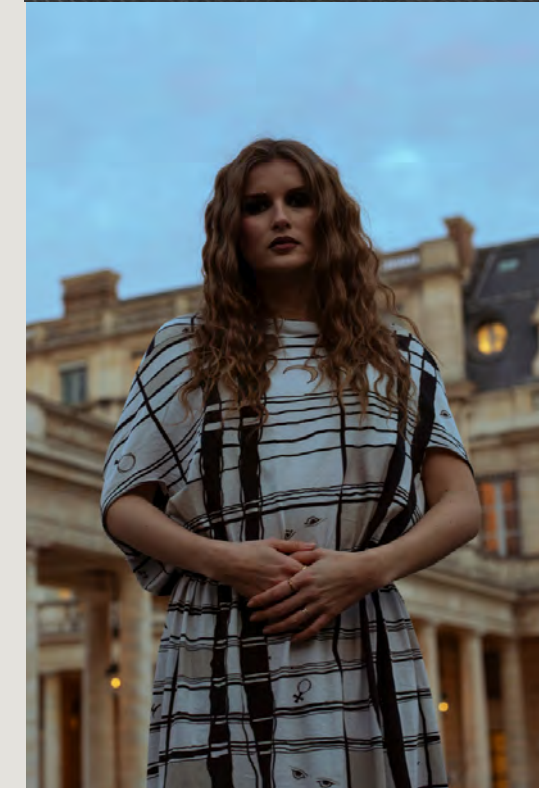
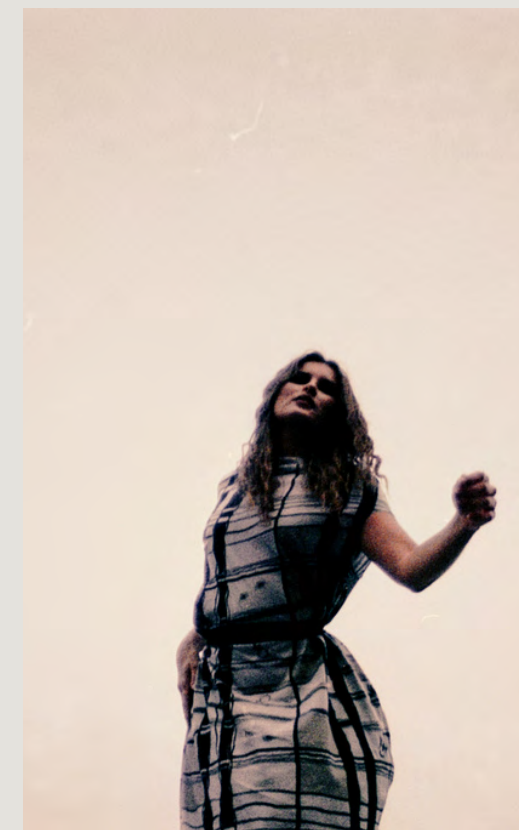
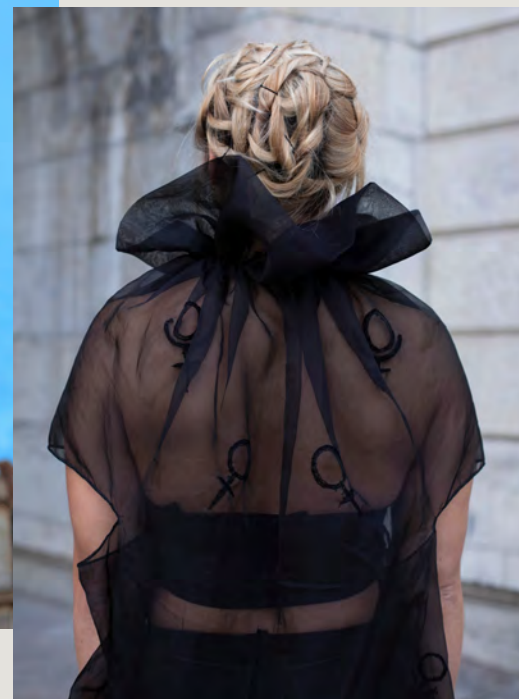
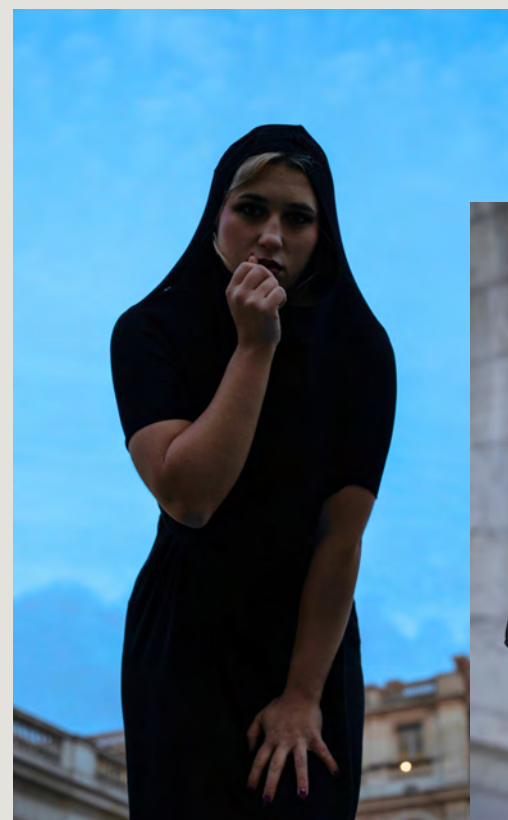
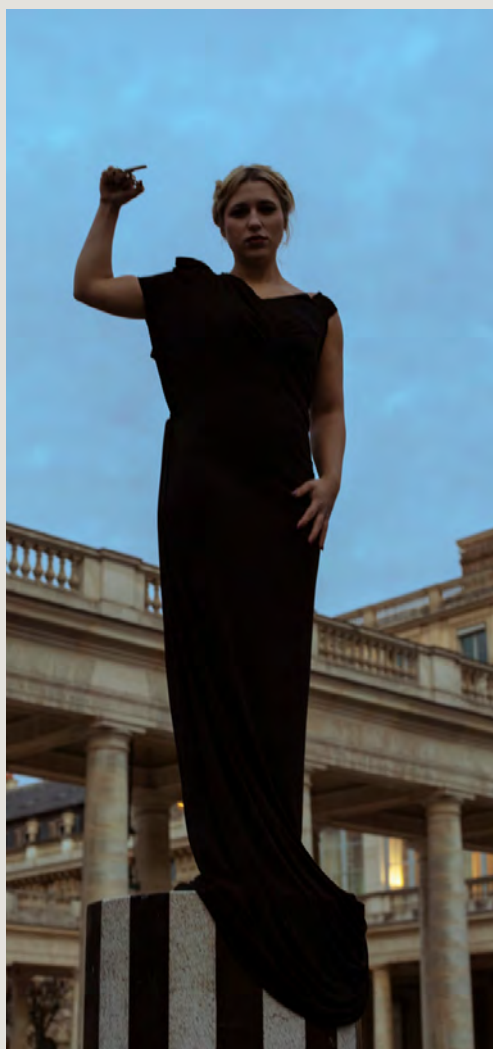


Alexandria

2 patterns - Transformable design



LOOKBOOK



Past Experience

Miranda Bennett Studio (2020 -2023) Style Development Assistant

Developed several styles:

- Graded pants to include sizes 32 - 42.
- Developed several designs including shawl coat from designer sketch.
- Test new finishing methods for transparent apparel
- Write stitching orders for seamstresses.
- Create first samples in house.
- Alterations



****Limited process photos out of respect for brand confidentiality and pre-launch discretion.**

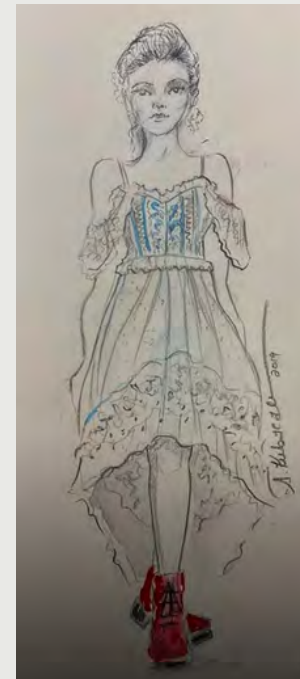
Past Experience

Butler Opera & Zach Theatre (2015 - 2020)

Costume Design Assistant / Head of
Wardrobe

Developed several costumes:

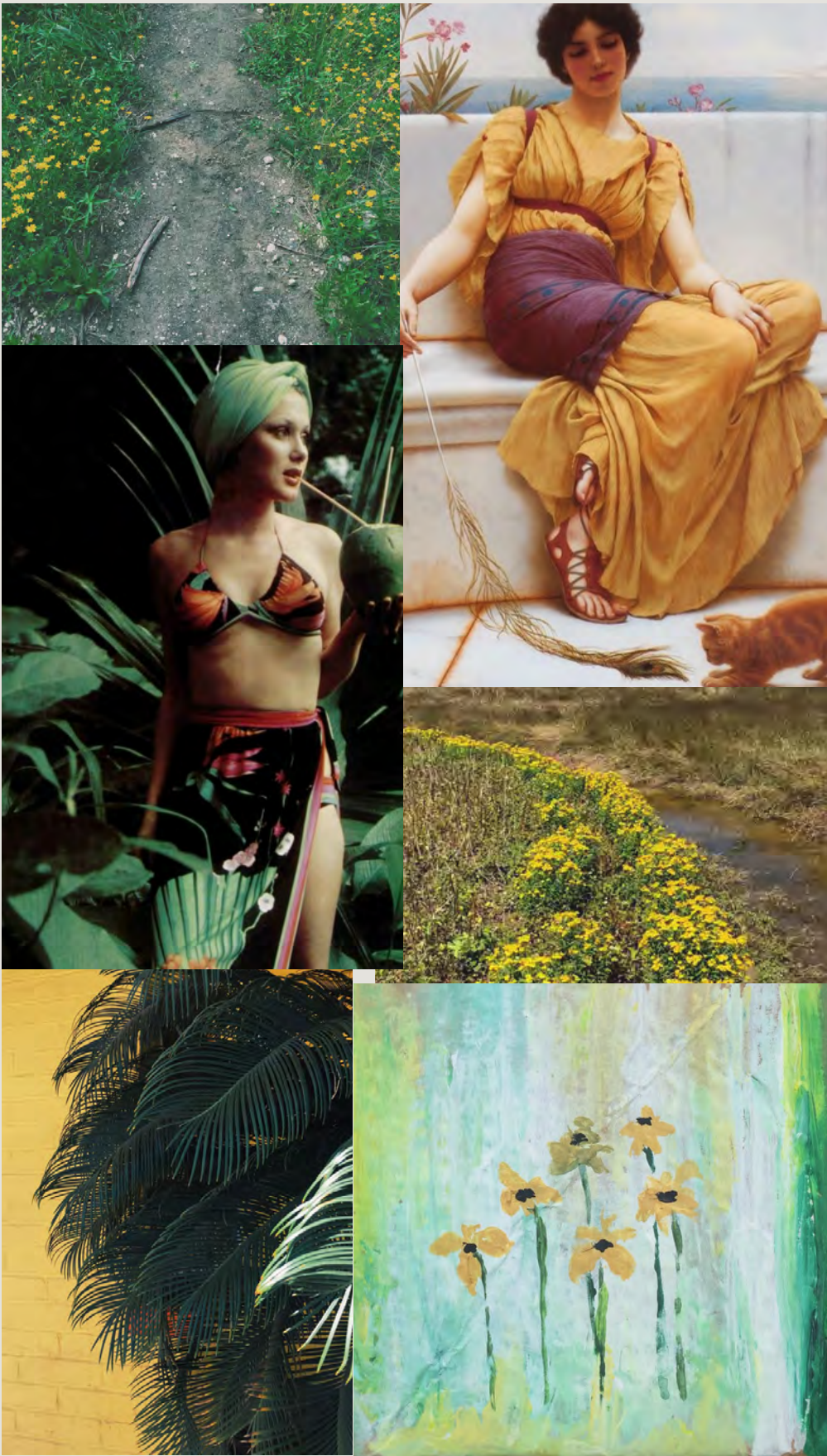
- Hand and machine sew costumes
- Fabric manipulation
- Schedule and assist in fittings
- Pull all accessories from stock
- Set up dressing rooms
- Hair & makeup assistance
- Manage backstage



****Limited process photos to respect production timelines and the costume designer's creative role before public release.**

Self Directed Project - Cristal Martinez SS16
Creative Director/ Designer

Inspiration



hand illustrations



i hand macramed & hand dyed the textiles w/ mix of tumeric and mexican mint marigold plant



creative direction for lookbook



bts



runway



Self Directed Project - Cristal Martinez SS15
Creative Director/ Designer

Inspiration



silk velvet metallic burnout fabric



hand illustrations



creative direction for lookbook



devolpment of toiles using recycled textiles



Cristal Martinez SS15
Creative Director/ Designer

