



Portfolio 101

Sophie Labaki
2026

ABOUT *Me*

I'm Sophie Labaky, a fashion design graduate from the Elie Saab School of Fashion at the Lebanese American University (LAU).

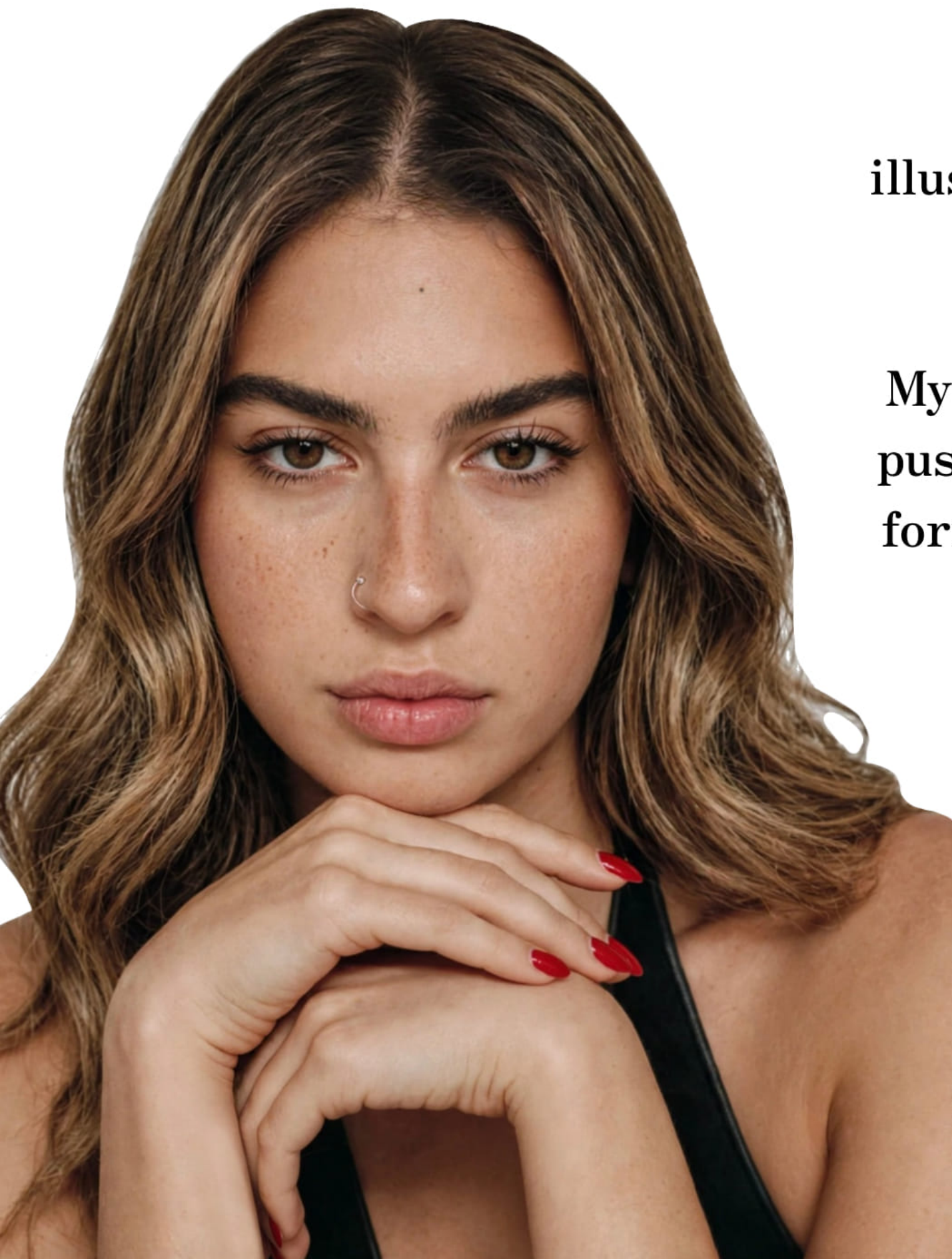
Drawing and painting have been part of my life for as long as I can remember.

Today, I channel that instinct to create through fashion, illustration, textiles, and conceptual design exploring ideas through form, texture, and experimentation.

My design approach is rooted in experimentation, storytelling, and pushing ideas beyond the expected. I like to explore unconventional forms, materials, and techniques, allowing the concept to guide the way a piece develops.

EXPERTISE

Concept development
Illustration
Photography
Fashion photography
Styling
Draping
Painting
Fabric manipulations/ Textile development
Creative direction
Digital design (procreate)
Technical Drawing / Flats
AI-Assisted Design Visualization
Jewelry designing



The After Trace

ARCHIVE 001

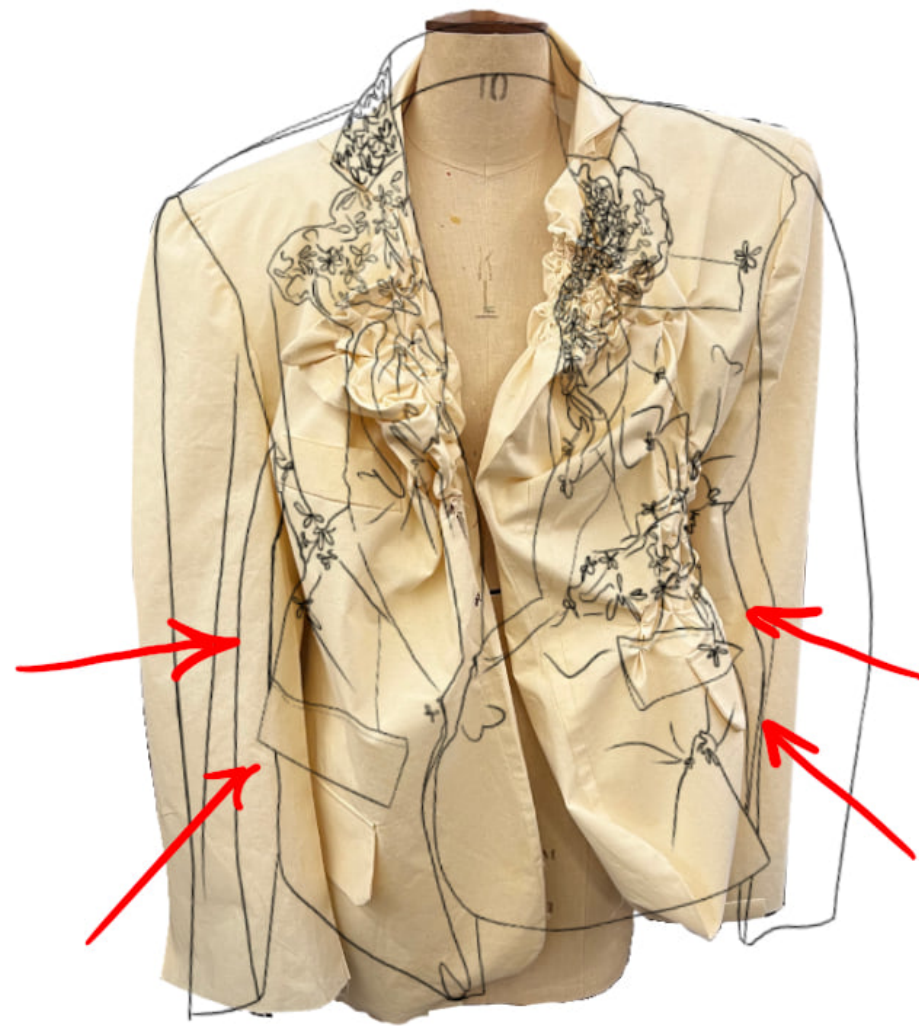
THE AFTER TRACE explores the connection between loss and memory, drawing from the fragments of my mother I carry through childhood memories. Each piece translates a specific memory into an abstract form, preserving a feeling, detail, or moment that remains with me.



PROCESS

THE JACKET ●●●

Look 1



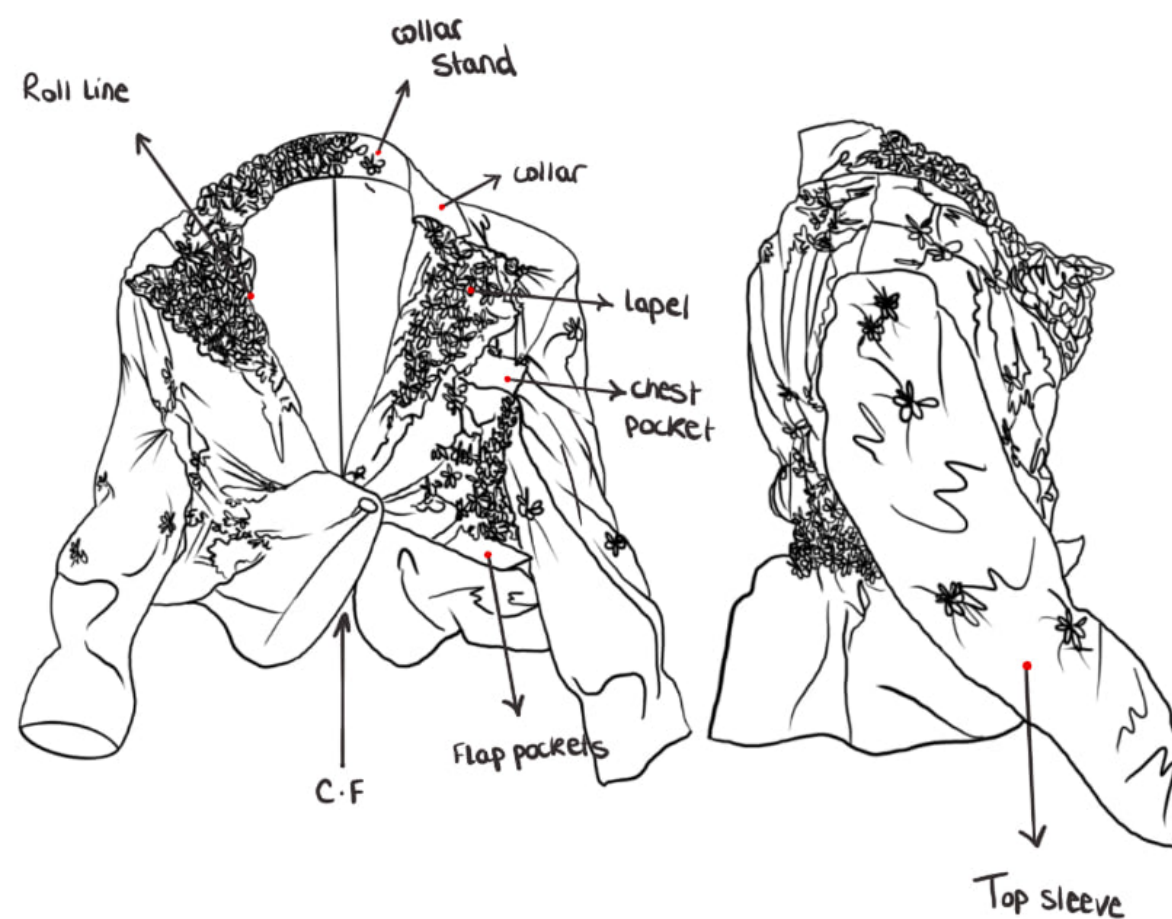
Body - contouring with the smocking



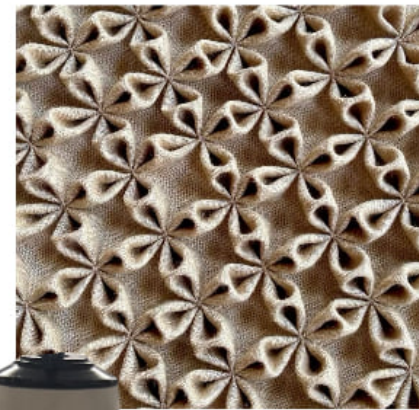
smocking marking



sleeve head



Flower smocking was used to reinterpret & abstract the decorative smocking traditionally found on children's clothing.



children's clothes smocking



Enlarged lapel



Extended sleeves

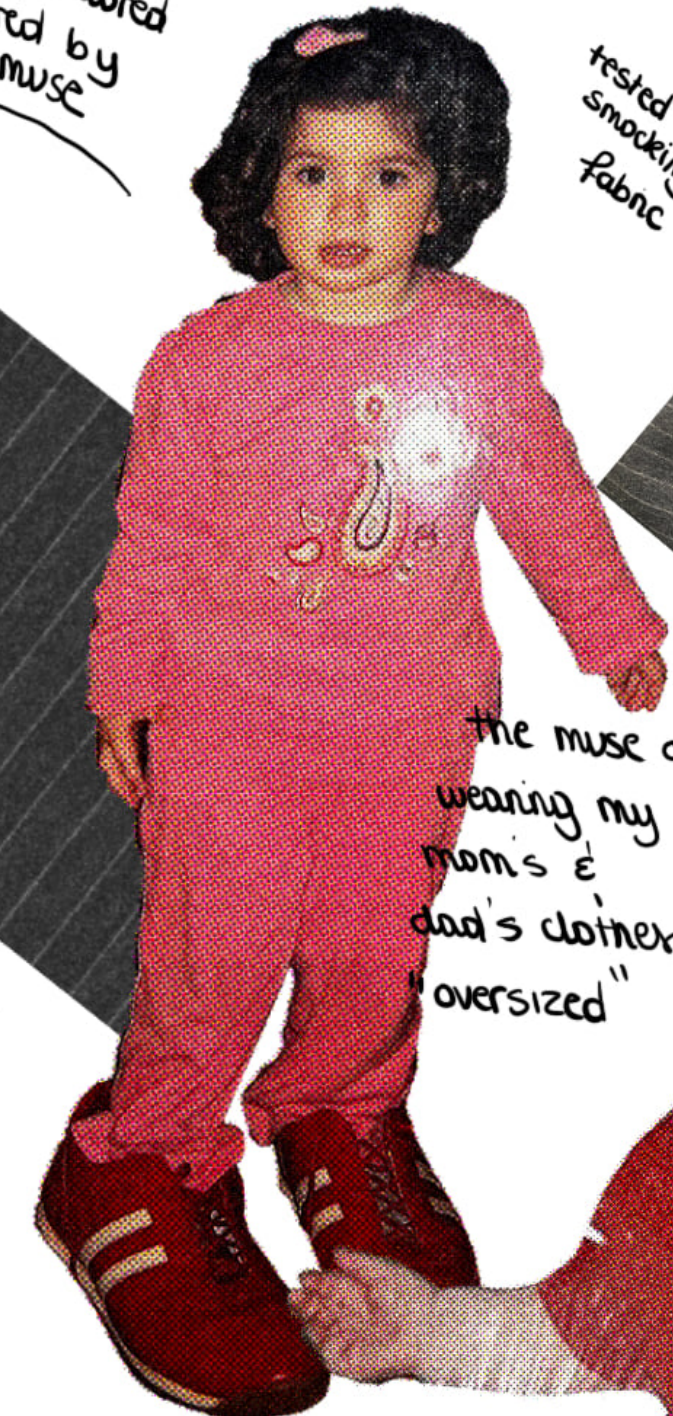


Began with a 3XL men's tailored jacket

"oversized" men's tailored Jacket inspired by that muse

men's tailored wit striped fabric

tested smocking on fabric



the muse of wearing my mom's & dad's clothes "oversized"

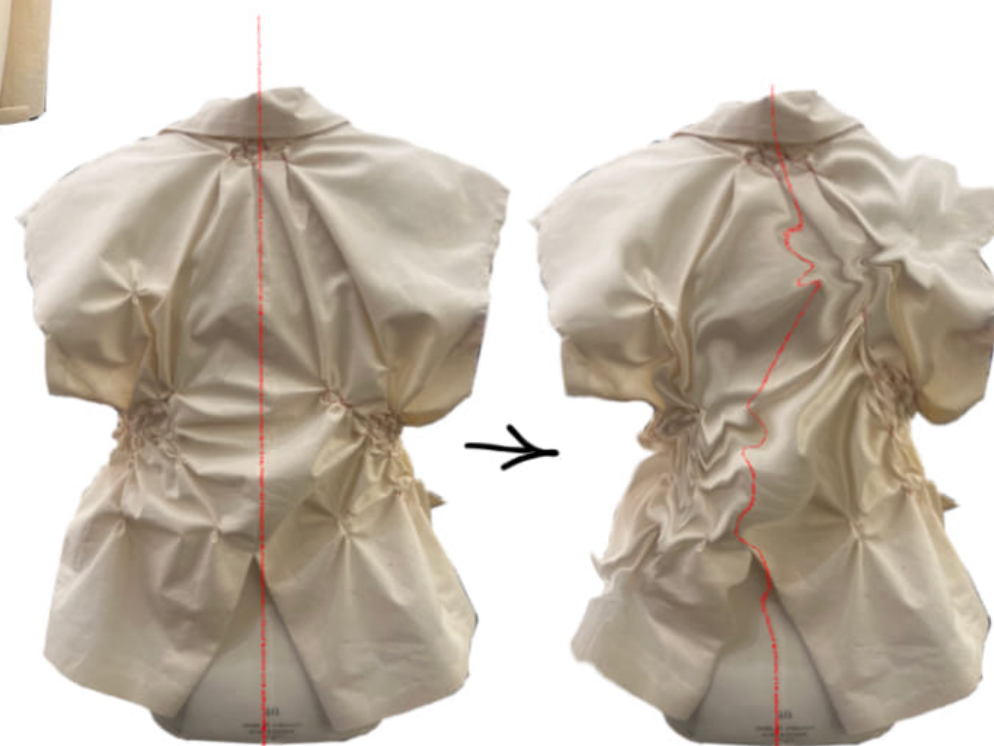




the process of
shrinking through
smocking



Digital replica
of smocking
to study its placement
& the distortion it
creates



"The shoes"
look 1



the muse of
wearing my
parent's
clothes



Should make it more
asymmetrical

"The technique explores the idea of
seeking closeness within something
once distant, turning excess into
intimacy & absence into a form of presence."



metal wire was integrated
along the jacket hem to
accentuate & structurally
reinforce the sculptural curves
created by the smocking

"Smocking became a central language
of the collection, transforming oversized
garments into forms that gradually draw
inward & embrace the body."

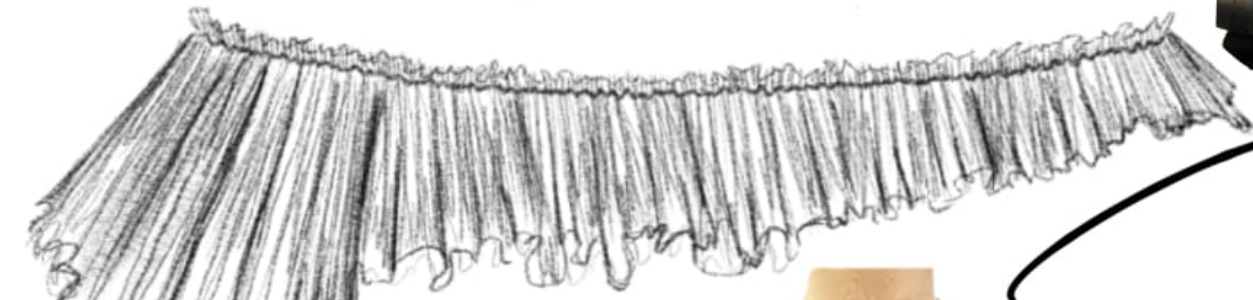
PROCESS

THE SKIRT ●●●●●●

Look 1



sketch of the flat tutu : $\approx 2.5m$



Began with basic gatherings



added more layers of gathering & built the tutu by "wrapping" it around the body



spray painted the tulle ff & tulle to build layered, abstracted impressions of childhood memories,

beginning with small-scale silhouettes of toys from my childhood before expanding them into larger, fragmented forms.



resin sequins dyed with indian ink



The shirt process



PROCESS

THE DRESS ●●●●●● Look 2

shape of dress was inspired by the coffin

began with studying volume & silhouette of dress using paper

3 layers of sheer organza (each layer with spray painted flowers)



inspired by a childhood drawing, the motif was recreated through spray paint, carrying the innocence of childhood into a garment symbolizing loss.

The flower becomes both a trace of childhood & a symbol of grief & remembrance.



Trial 3

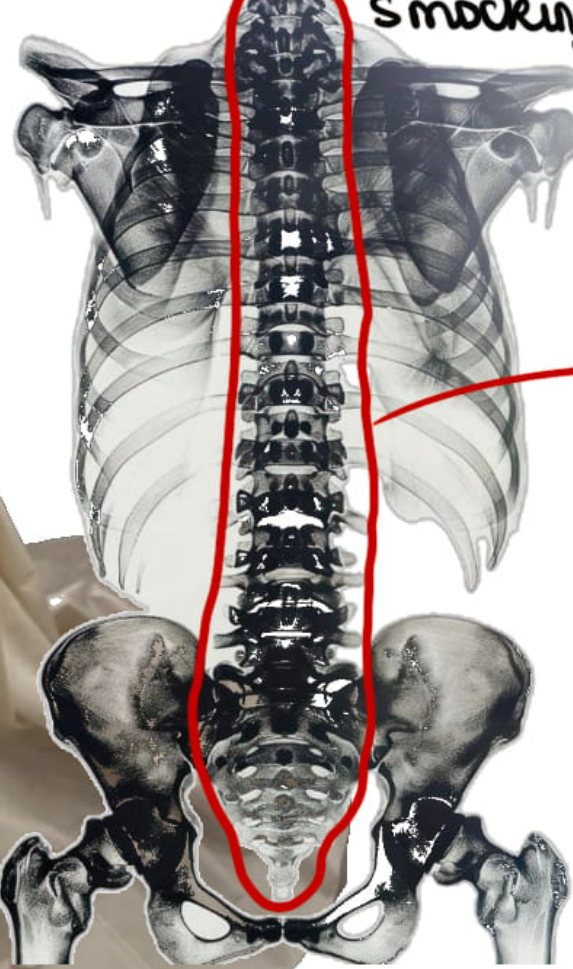
Trial 2

Trial 1

enlarged smock

asymmetrical

canadian spinal smocking



The smocking naturally created pleats along the edges, which i elongated & developed into side ruffles.

Side pleats

Volume to be added

→
Ai developed version before sewing it

→ inverted coffin

3 layers of sheer organza

(each layer with spray painted flowers)



Feather ??



PROCESS

THE DENIM SET ●● Look 3



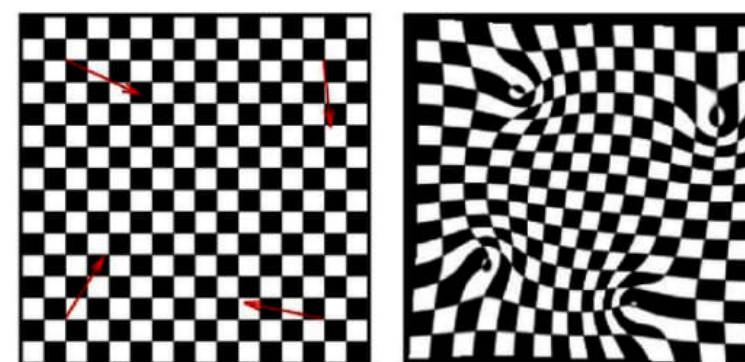
denim
overall

denim pants



An affine transformation provides a global, rigid alignment that preserves straight lines, while a Thin-Plate Spline (TPS) models complex, local, non-linear deformations by bending smoothly like a physical metal sheet to distort my garment relate it to my concept of memory distortion as time passes

Thin-Plate Spline (TPS)



inspired by "TPS" deformation, I distorted the garment to reflect the way memories shift & transform with time. Like memory, its original form remains recognizable yet gradually becomes altered, fragmented, & distorted.

Distortion

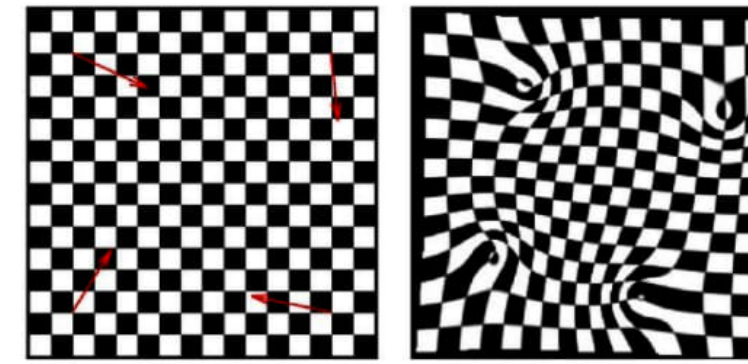


PROCESS

THE TRENCH

●●● Look 4

Thin-plate Spline (TPS)



The concept of (TPS) was also used for the trousers in this look



The pussybow was inspired by the ribbons my mom used to tie my hair

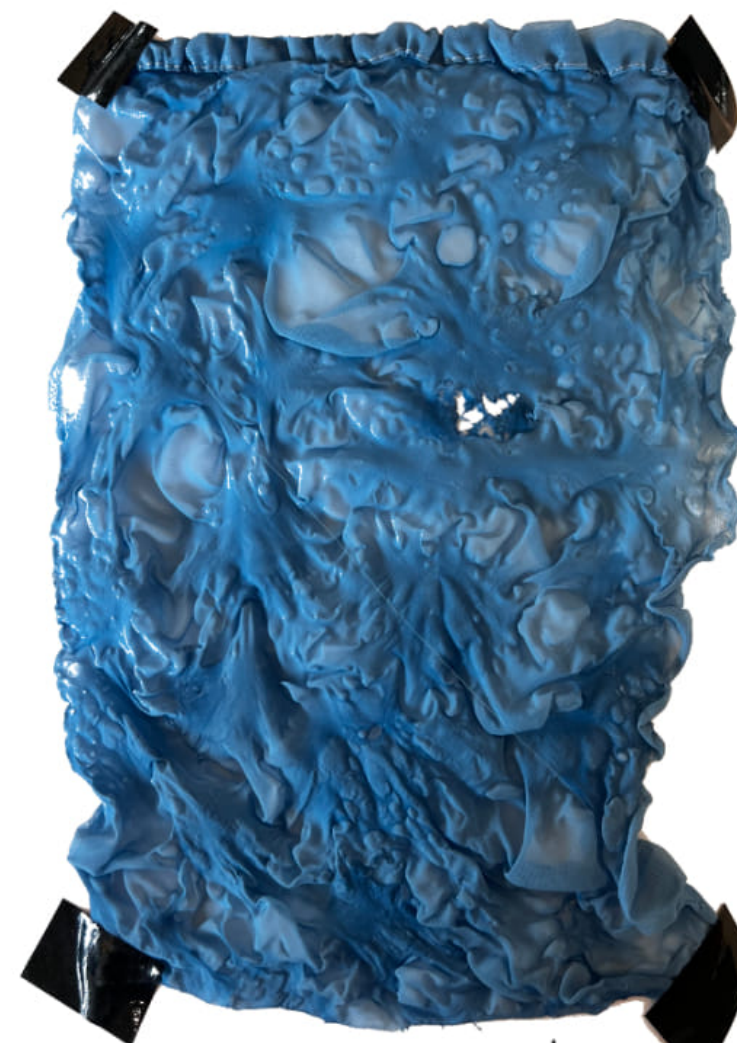
Smocking technique was inspired by the braiding my mother used to do with my hair



FABRIC EXPERIMENTATION



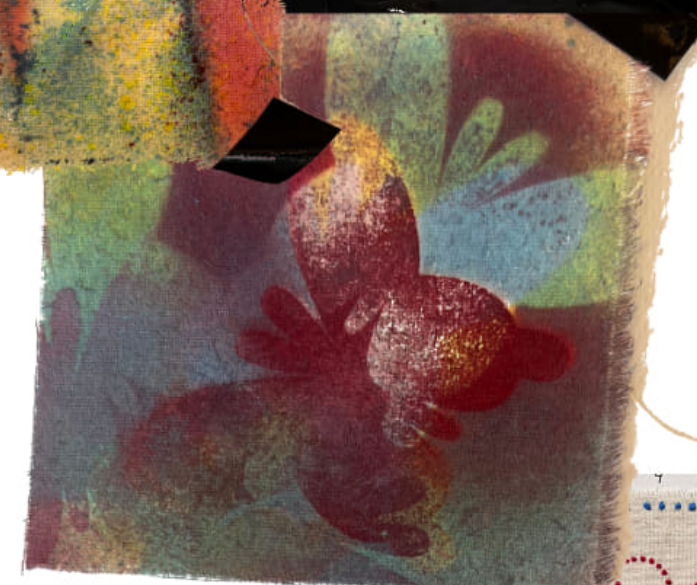
acetone image transfer



heat gun + polyester / nylon based fabric



Spray painting using childhood toys



I used different A & B resin ratios & dipped the fabric to test its flexibility

These fabric experimentations formed part of my process throughout the collection, with some evolving into final pieces while others remained as explorations of different techniques.



shibori dyeing



smocking



3D paint to recreate childhood paintings



LOOKBOOK

ARCHIVE 001 ●●●●●●●●

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FUSION

ARCHIVE 002



FUSION was inspired by my fear of death and my study of the body's transformation after death, including decomposition and the process of mummification.

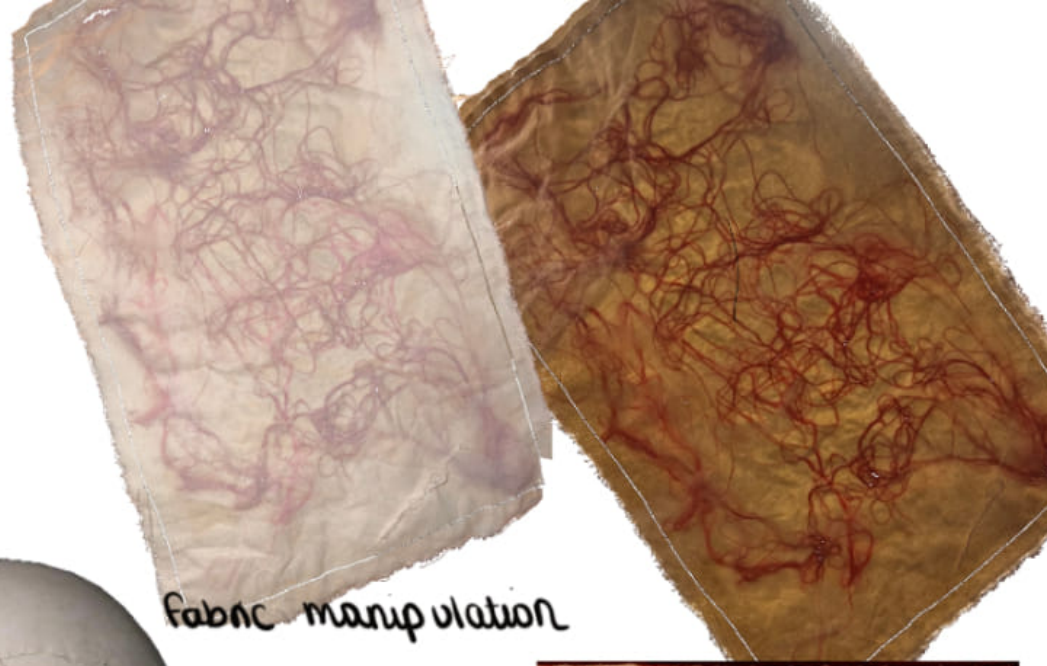
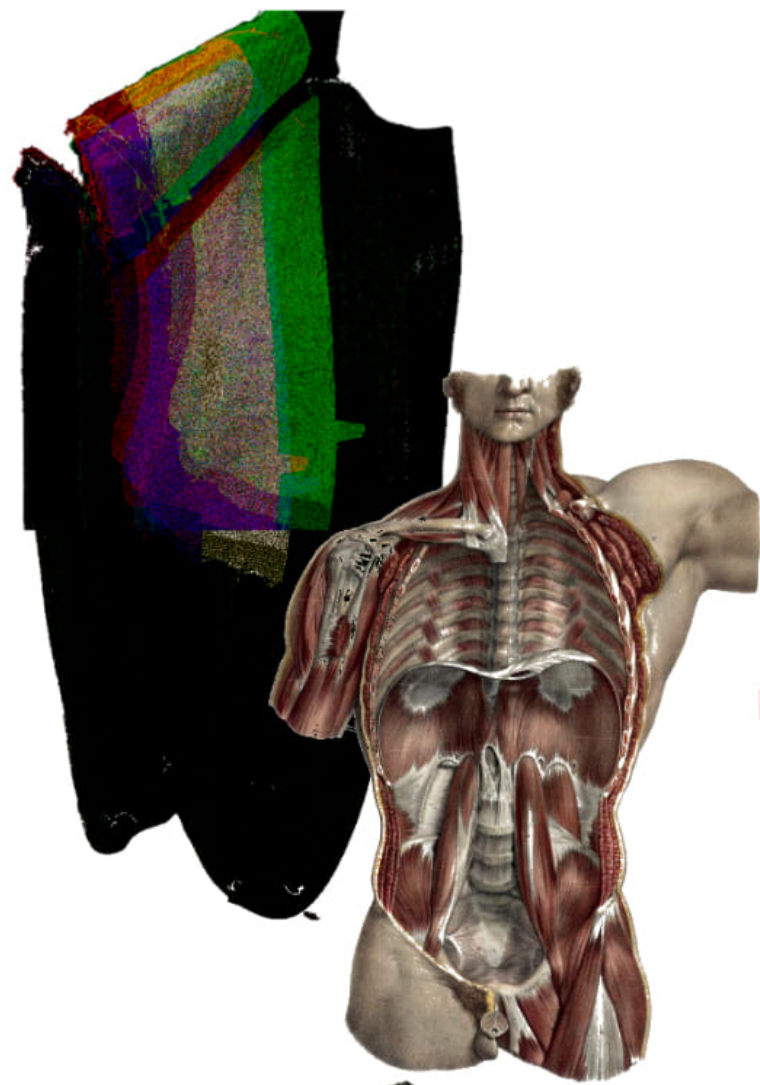
I became particularly interested in how the shroud, initially used as a protective layer, gradually interacts and merges with the body as it decomposes, eventually becoming part of its remains.

This idea of fusion between the body and its surroundings became the foundation of my garment, expressed through tailoring, skull motifs, and shroud-inspired forms. Through Fusion, I explore the physical transformation of the body and the traces it leaves behind.

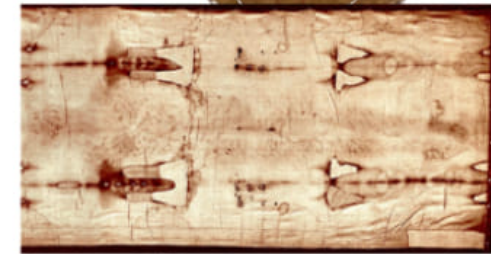


PROCESS





fabnc manipulation



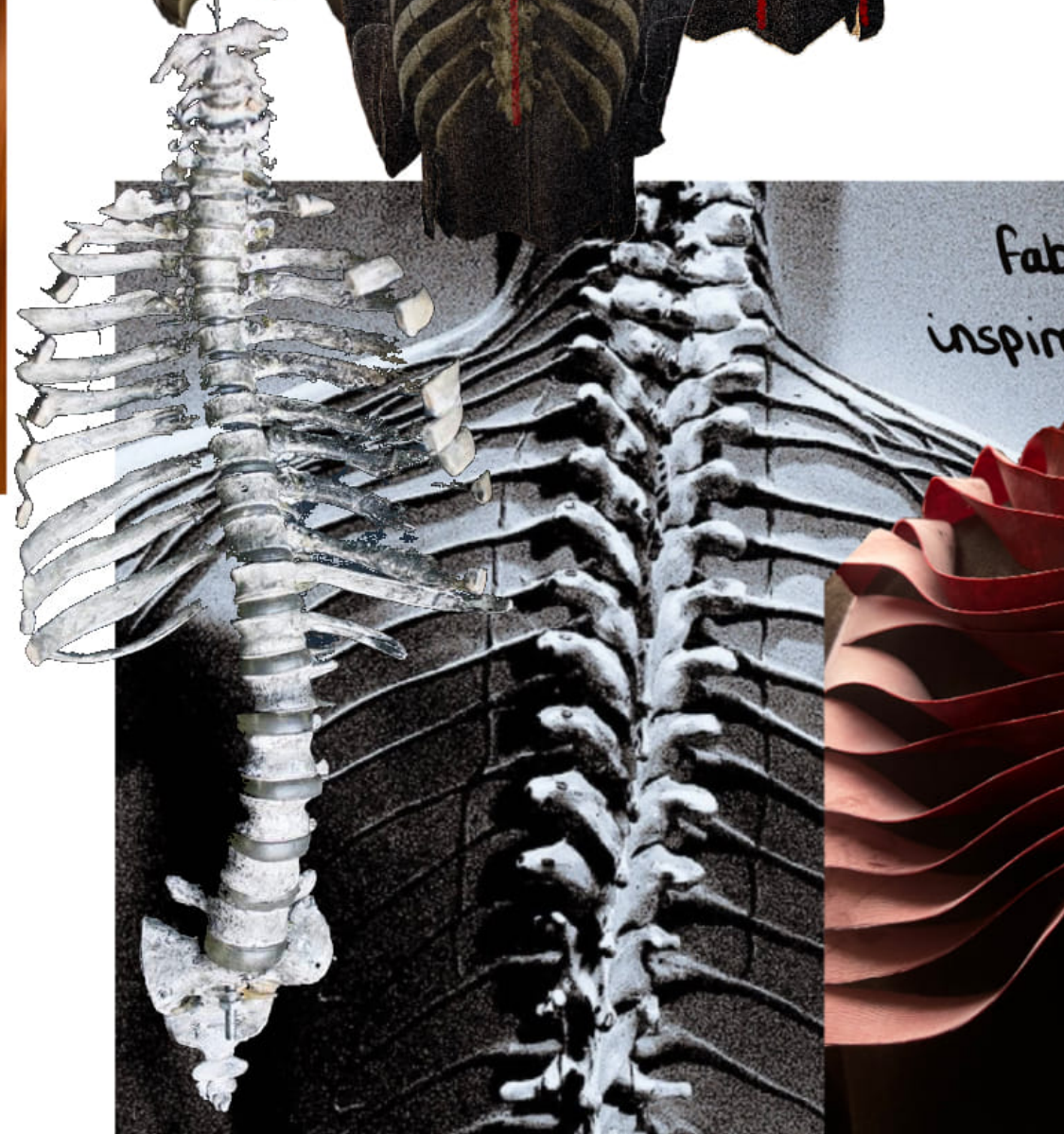
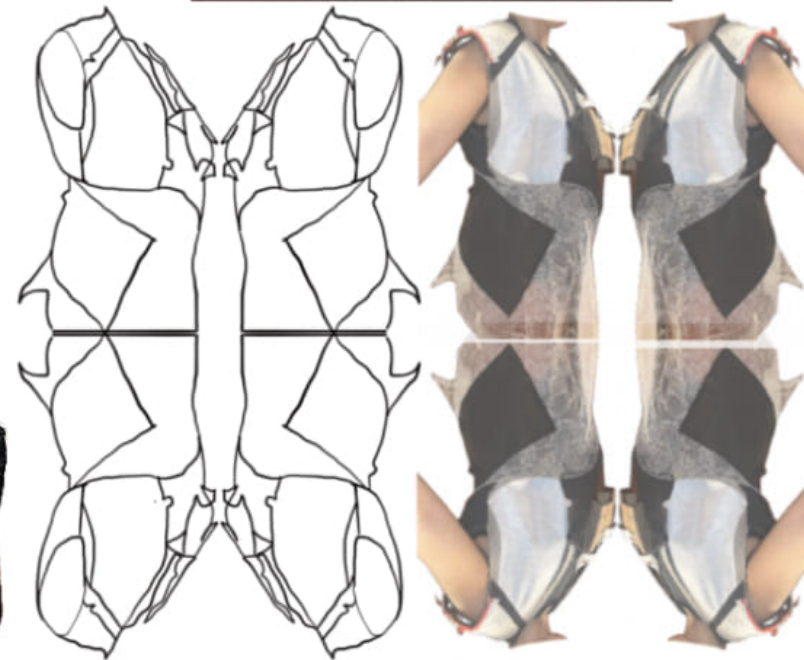
Base of the human skull.



mirror of
the reconstructed
jacket inspired
by "osteology".



exploring human
anatomy



fabnc manipulation
inspired by the ribs &
spine



uplicated & inverted
to recreate the prints
found on the shroud after
body has decomposed



LOOKBOOK

ARCHIVE 002

