

Accordion Top

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Top made from accordion-like material featuring hand-painted details

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

Our initial workshops focused on providing a safe space for participants to share their narratives as migrant and refugee women. We drew primary inspiration from traditional garments coming from their different cultures. This piece takes inspiration from the dress as an object of concealment, reinterpreting that idea using non traditional materials

SUSTAINABILITY

Materials: Waste fabric repurposed waste from design commissions for private clients and film and TV productions.
Deadstock thread leftover from film and TV productions.

Eco-responsible Methods: The construction made use of low waste patterning techniques, using materials which would've otherwise been discarded as landfill waste, the project demonstrates a high-impact, low-carbon approach to garment engineering, making use of resources that are available to us to create new items



PARTICIPANTS



Sara Portelli

Sarah Portelli is a costumier and fashion designer based and from Malta. With experience working on both local and international film productions and local theatre, her focus lays primarily on sustainable design, promoting the use of salvaged materials as well as incorporating heritage craft techniques into her work. Is-Sinjurina has extensive knowledge of both historical and contemporary tailoring techniques, having studied History of Art and Fine Arts at the University of Malta, she went on to study garment construction and atelier design at Polimoda after being awarded a scholarship in 2020. After completing her studies, she has since developed a parallel career in costume for film and television, building a career on both local and international productions, becoming the youngest Maltese costume supervisor to date.



Users Participating in the project

Migrant and refugee women

Accordion Top
/ finished garment



Accordion Top

METHOD AND PROCESS

The top is made using machine pleated accordion fabric, designed to be malleable and size adjustable. The sleeves were painted by participants of the workshop, all painting individual panels that were then blended together therefore representing each individual who created it. Once these sleeve fabric was painted, the sleeves were assembled onto the base top, combining elements of craft and modern materials together in one garment through this process.

CULTURAL RELEVANCE

This top reinterprets the concept of clothing being used to conceal the body in a different way than is traditionally seen. It takes the same notion, usually interpreted through the use of loose, flowing fabrics and instead replaces them with rigid, more structured material of plissed polyester. The painting done by participants onto the sleeve panels also reflect the varying cultural backgrounds and personal aesthetics of our participants.

Accordion Top
/ design process

