



“SURREALIA”



“CONCEPT”

‘SURREALIA is Fantasy, Ephemerality, and Performance. Inspired by the Surrealist movement and the femme fatale archetype, the resulting collection is an imaginative, larger than life presentation that conflates traditional femininity with hallmarks of surrealism. Latex inflatables adorn the garments, reflecting notions of exaggeration and artificiality that are present in Surrealism. They draw attention and create a sense of theatricality. The silhouette of ‘SURREALIA’ is oversized, voluminous, and soft, made in a unique bonded thick scuba.

‘SURREALIA’ boasts a bright and bold colour palette of red, pink, teal and black scuba. Key elements include bright colours, volume and structure, trends evident in collection such as Comme des Garçons, Jacquemus, and Danielle Frankel Fall 2023 Ready-To-Wear.

Surrealism confronted viewers with an unsettling alternate reality using fantastical imagery that reached into the subconscious (Baxter-Wright 2012). “Surrealia” conveys hallmarks of the movement through the use of inflatable silhouettes. Man Ray’s ‘Tears’, a famous photograph of a woman’s eyes achingly looking upwards as glass-like beads fall from her eyes like teardrops, represents a metaphor for the artificiality of art. The oversized teardrops make the image come across as theatrical – an exaggeration of the woman’s distress (J. Paul Getty Museum 2007).

The inflatable bows and other adornments featured in the collections reflect this notion of exaggeration and artificiality. They draw attention and create a sense of fantasy and performance similar to the theatricality of Man Ray’s ‘Tears’.

Kristin Hunt says on The Femme Fatale, in How Film Noir Tried to Scare Women out of Working, “She’s always glamorous, hair immaculately curled, and lips with a perfect matte finish. You can tell she’s different because she’s usually wearing something dramatic, an accessory that would look slightly ridiculous on anyone else.” The inspiration of this common archetype comes across in the volume and eye catching colour of the coat. Additionally, while the bows themselves are signifiers of The Femme Fatale, the inflated technique adds a drama to each piece, something only a true Femme Fatale could pull off.

B o n d
w i t h
b l a c k
s c u b a
t o
c r e a t e
s t r u c t u r e



M a k e
s c u b a
c o v e r i n g s
f o r
i n f l a t a b l e
b o w s

s t r u c t u r e
i n
h e m
t o
c r e a t e
o v e r s i z e d
s i l h o u e t t e

PROTOTYPES



LATEX INFLATABLES



CASING





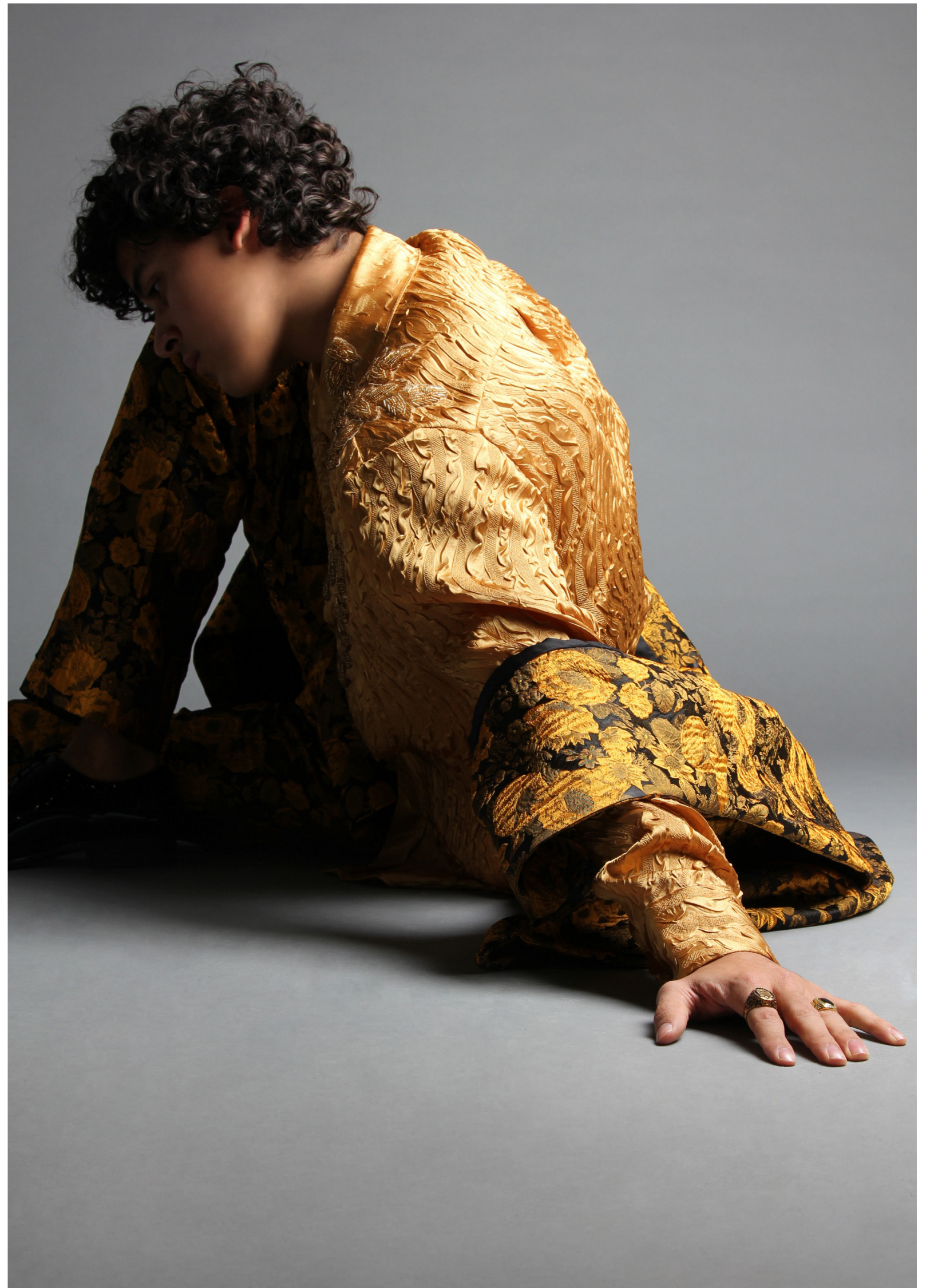




PAST WORK











RR

Raquel Rodriguez is a Melbourne based designer who creates extravagant and eye catching garments using a combination of innovative and traditional techniques. In her most recent collections she combines unlikely textiles and crafts to produce inflatable latex accessories that exaggerate and transform the silhouettes of her garments. The garments themselves take on silhouettes that are often oversized and voluminous. Raquel uses fashion influences from decades past combined with a penchant for anomaly, building an unlikely story around each piece. Each item is designed with the intention of creating beautiful, yet daring, items of clothing that encourage the wearer to feel confident, elegant and powerful.



[Link to website](#)



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Experience

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Experience

Whitestory | Junior Pattern Cutter | 07 2023 - Present

Hand cutting patterns in fabric for samples.
Cut a variety of clothing pieces including coats, blazers, dresses, pants, shirts etc.
Working either by myself or in a pair.
Reading instructions on spec sheets and pattern pieces.
Other tasks such as changing buttons on samples etc.
Cut on average 5 garments a day (generally a coat and/or blazer, plus shirts, pants and/or dresses)

Melbourne Fashion Week | Student Runway | 10 2023

Designed, patterned, toiled, and constructed three full bodies as a small collection for the runway.
Pitched to organisers.
Two mentor sessions.
Submitting supporting work such as personal statement, collection statement, professional portrait etc. for MFW website and promotional work.

Lilliana Cantone Seamstress | Work Experience | 2021

Learned new skills, including how to use an overlocker, how to best lay patterns to cut, how to use beaded fabrics, how to cover snap buttons etc.
Couture/custom style projects.
Hand sewing tasks such as covering snap buttons.
Worked up to cutting patterns and machine sewing/overlocking tasks.
Sat in on fittings with customers.

Education

Whitehouse Institute of Design | Feb 2021 - expected Dec 2023
Bachelor of Design (Fashion) | Grade Pending