

Interwoven Fables

By KIARA VALLINS-KOERTGE



Fairytales
Ideals
Romance
Authenticity
Knitwear
Comfort
Materiality
Embraced
Subversion
Narrative
Craft
Imperfection
Tactile
Connection
Feminist
Embodiment
Intimacy

Key Words.

How can the symbolic materiality of knitwear be used to subvert these narratives and express more authentic forms of human connection?

Unraveling the truth...

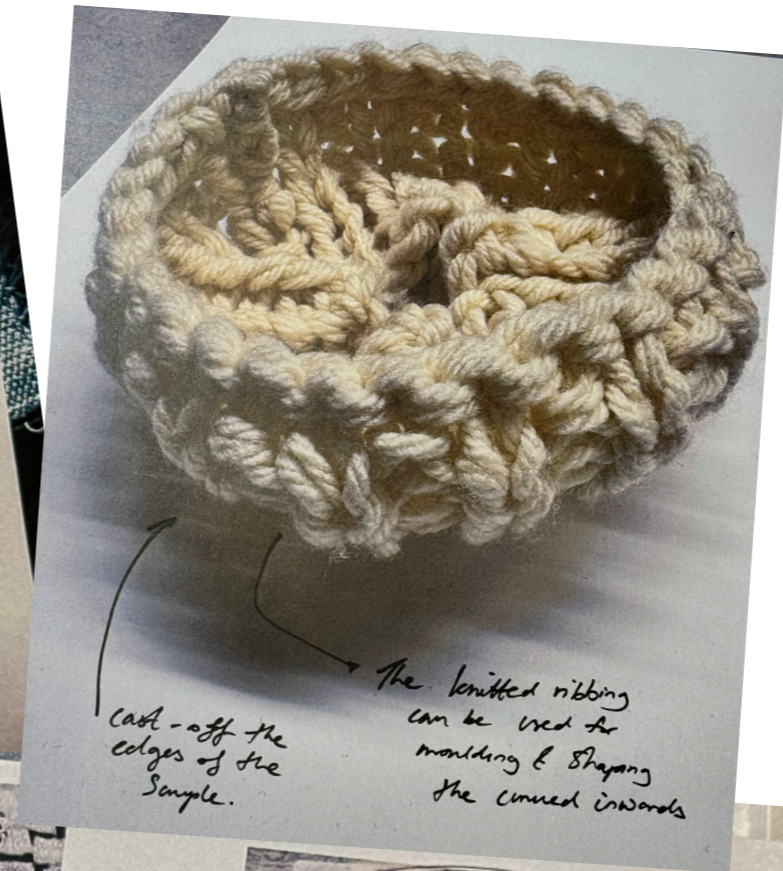
In what ways do traditional fairytales reinforce unrealistic cultural ideals about relationships?

Fisherman Knit Research.

Fisherman Sweaters grew in popularity from commercialisation in the 1940s.



Romanticising Nationalism = Fashionable across Northern Europe.



Cast-off the edges of the Sample.

The knitted ribbing can be used for moulding & shaping the curved inwards



Fisherman Sweaters:

↳ 1800's (late) stems from Irish fishing culture.

↳ Aran Islands → Ireland's West coast

↳ Wardrobe Staple for local fisherman



↳ Wives would knit for their husbands & Sons.

Use raw unwashed wool

(contains lanolin from animals which makes it waterproof)

↳ (Woolen) material ideal for work

Outline of Research & Concept

Challenging Fairytale Ideals by Subverting Romantic Myths through Knitwear and Folk Origins

Traditional fairytales have long perpetuated unrealistic ideals about love, gender roles, and relationships, promoting instantaneous, heteronormative romances and passive archetypes that obscure the complexities of real human connection. Through the symbolic materiality of knitwear, however, these narratives can be critically subverted: the labour, tactility, and imperfections inherent in hand-crafted garments offer a grounded, intimate metaphor for care, emotional labour, and evolving relationships. By combining traditional knitting techniques with contemporary forms and silhouettes, the collection not only honours the heritage and storytelling embedded in craft but also reclaims agency, fluidity, and authenticity in expressions of love, identity, and connection. Therefore, knitwear becomes a material counter-narrative, inviting wearers to experience and embody relationships as dynamic, imperfect, and deeply human, challenging the polished, idealized visions of romance long reinforced by fairy tales.

Fabric Selection

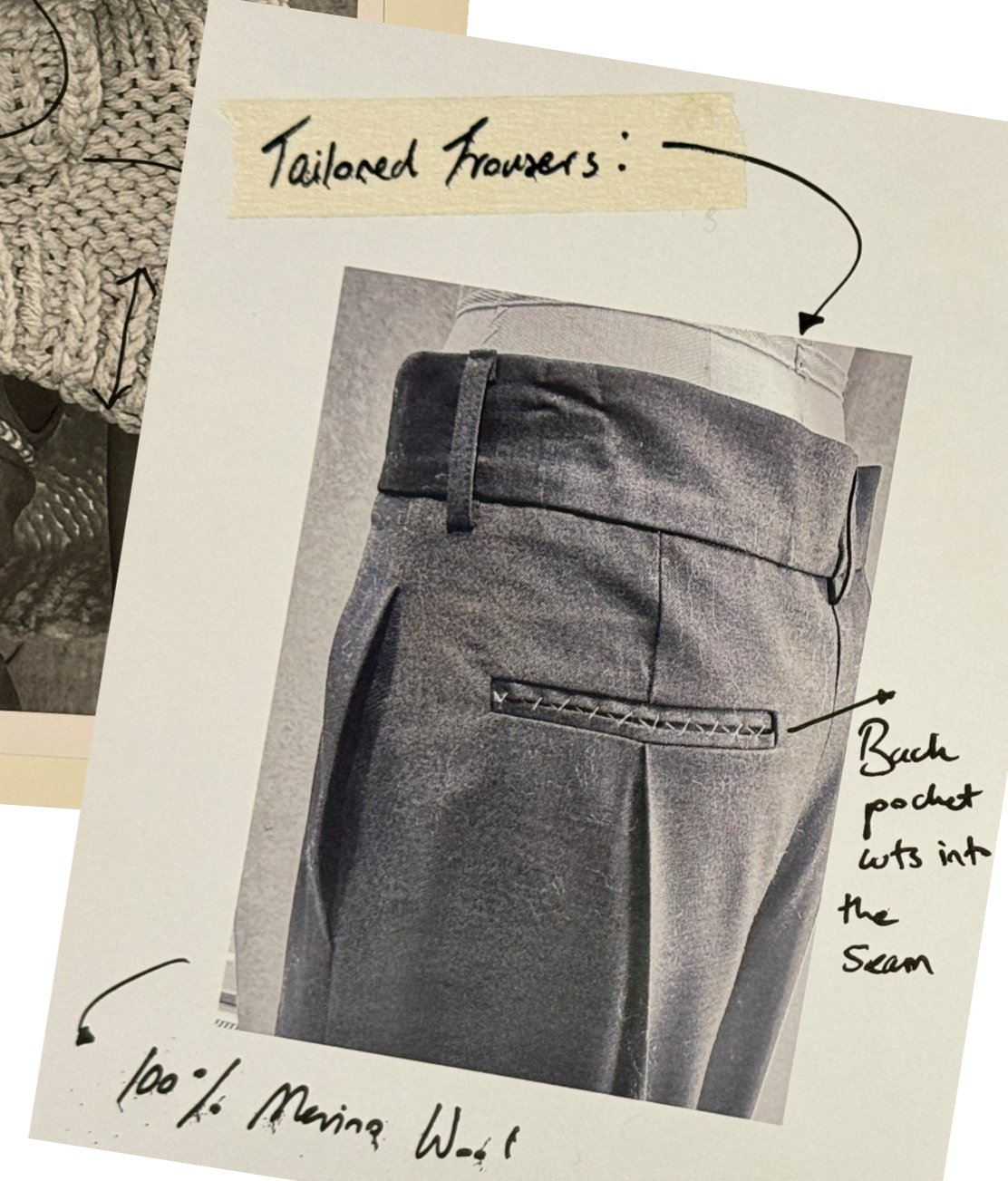
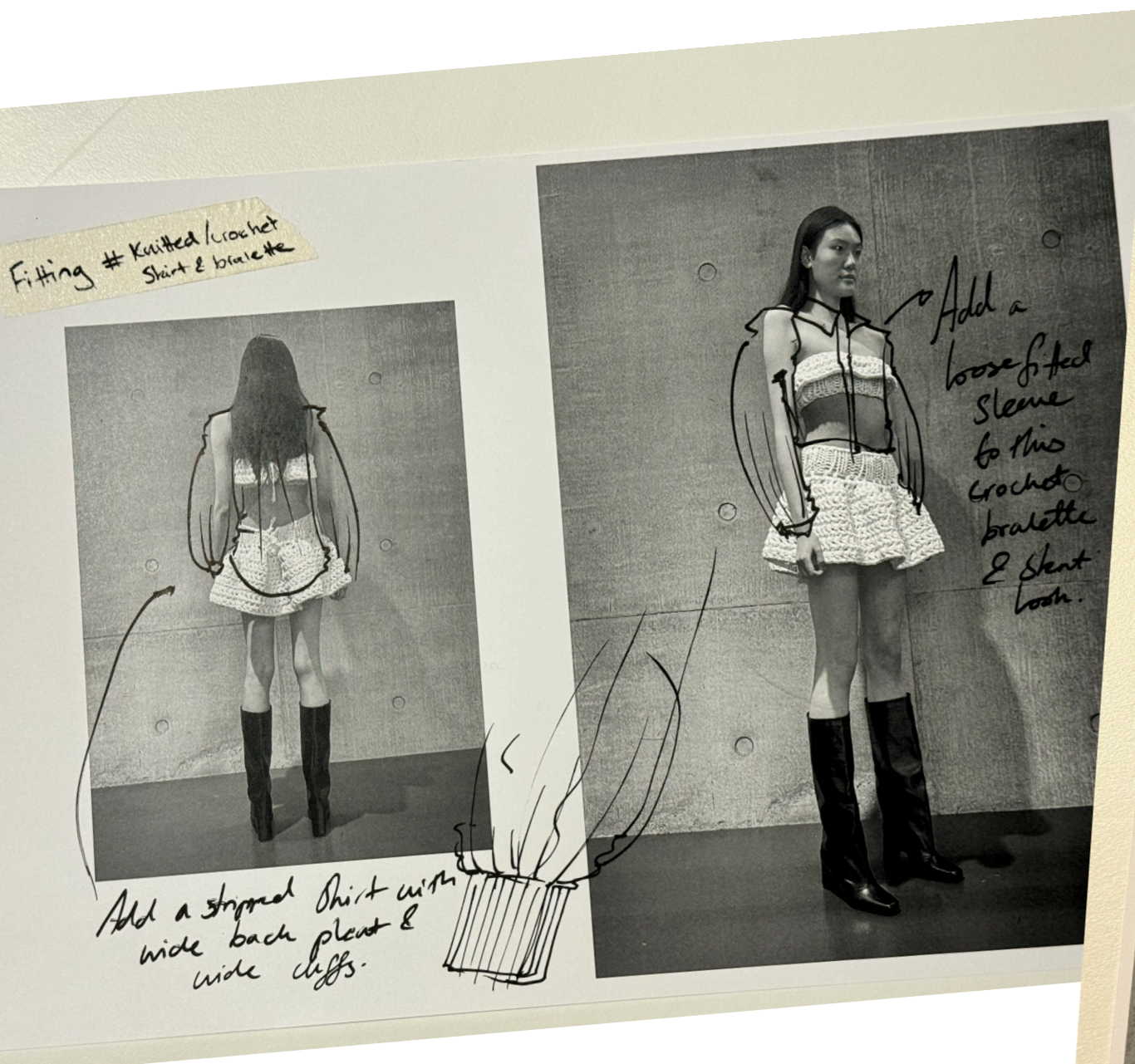
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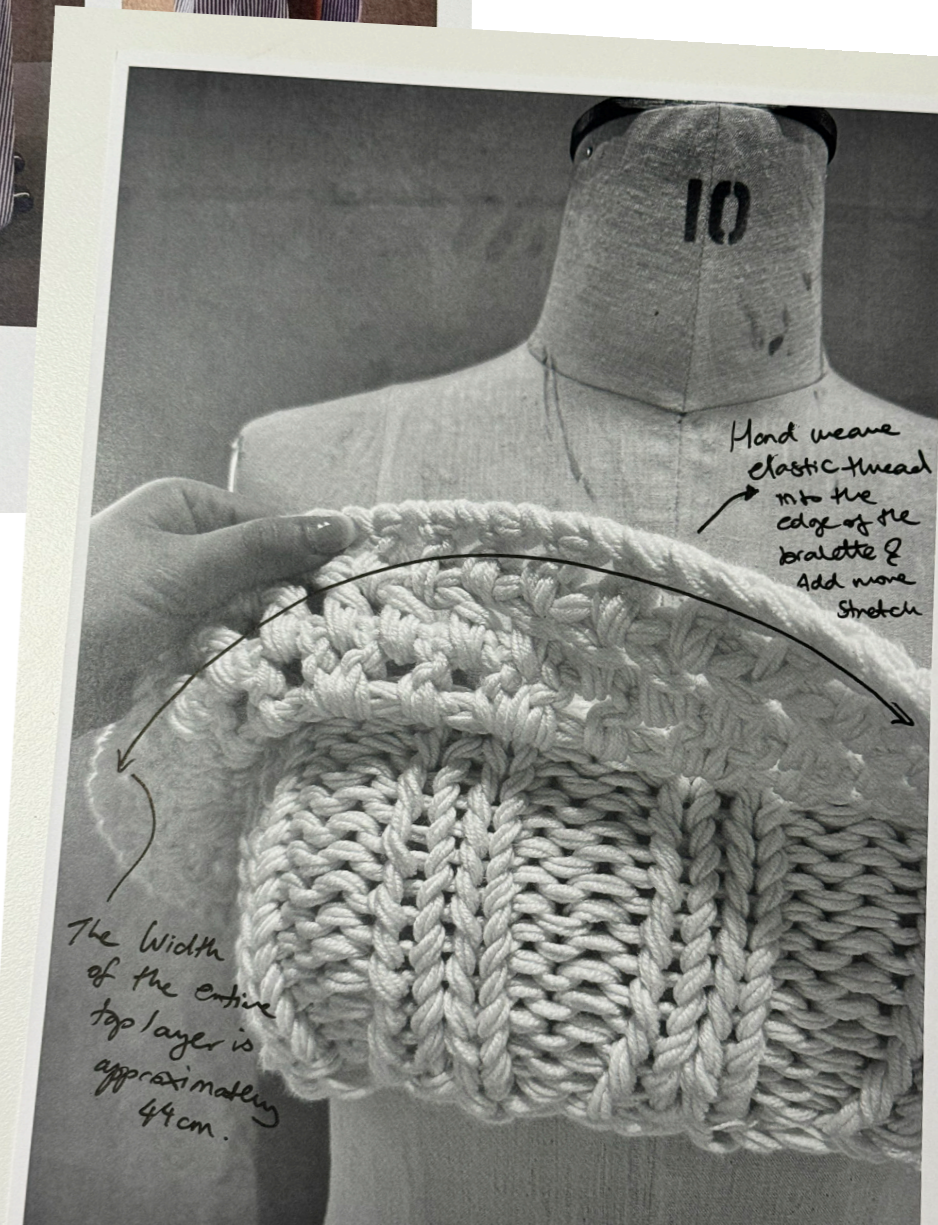
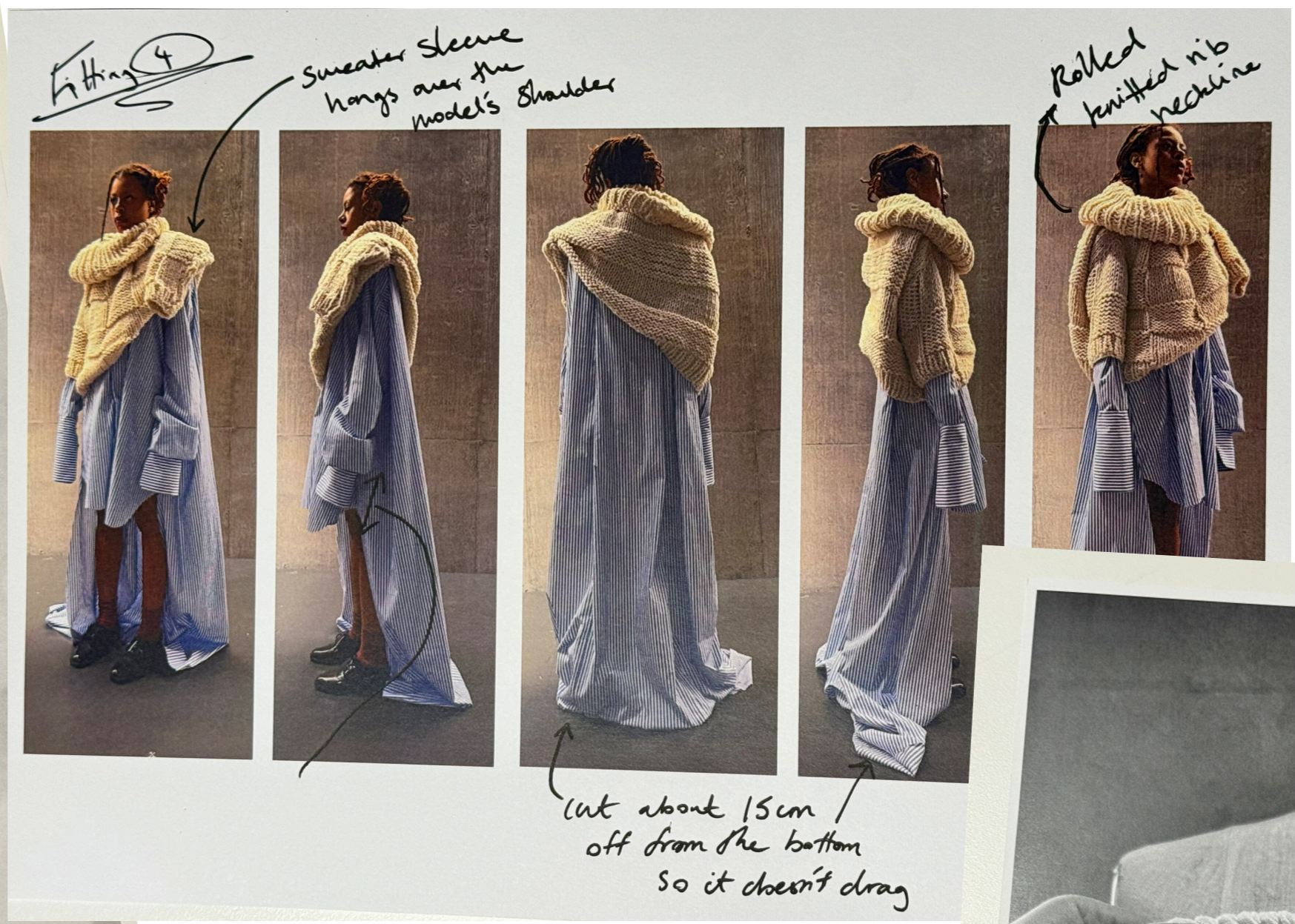


The soft tones of ivory and silk-blended wool, paired with creamy hues, establish a warm and understated foundation that exudes quiet luxury. When combined with the crisp contrast of traditional striped cotton poplin shirts in light blue, navy, and white, the result is a what I consider to be a perfectly balanced color palette that merges softness with structure. The neutral warmth of the creams and ivories gently offsets the cool, classic lines of the striped shirting, creating visual harmony. This blend evokes a timeless elegance, subdued yet refined palette, where every element complements rather than competes, achieving a sophisticated balance between relaxed texture and tailored precision.

Design Development

Challenging Fairytale Ideals by Subverting Romantic Myths through Knitwear and Folk Origins





Lineup Development

Challenging Fairytale Ideals by Subverting Romantic Myths through Knitwear and Each Look Incorporates Crochet & Knit Samples





The KVK's Interwoven Fables collection showcases the flared knitted and crocheted skirt is made with an open, airy crochet stitch, that offers a sturdy structure that adds to the relaxed silhouette.



The KVK's Interwoven Fables collection highlights the reinterpreted traditional silhouette of a striped shirt dress by transforming it into a loose-fit layering piece, while maintaining the essence of its classic structure while dramatically extending its proportions. The premium striped cotton poplin shirt contains exaggerated plackets, cuffs, voluminous sleeves, wide back pleat and semi-straight pointed collar.





The KVK's Interwoven Fables collection depicts a pair of dark navy merino wool trousers challenges the heteronormative and patriarchal ideals of femininity perpetuated through traditional fairytales. By embracing tailored silhouettes and traditionally masculine archetypes, the trousers reclaim authority and autonomy for the female body, rejecting the expectation of softness and submission.

