JENNIFER DRANTTEL

palimpsest

p a l i m p s e s t :

noun pa • limp • sest \ˈpa-lm(p)-ˌsest

1. writing material (such as a parchment or tablet) used one or more times after earlier writing has been erased

2. something having usually diverse layers or aspects apparent beneath the surface

Latin *palimpsestus*, from Greek *palimpsēstos* scraped again, from *palin* + *psēn* to scrape clean

M F A T H E S I S L O O K B O O K 2 0 1 7

PALIMPSEST is a 6-look experimental fashion collection developed around unconventional textiles.

My work is inspired by traditions of healing, superstition and witchcraft, and their intersection with women's history: the ways women have used practices of folk medicine and conjure to gain a sense of power over oppressors, and the ways witch-hunts were used as a means of punishing and suppressing untraditional women. I create a visual lexicon of imagery, structures and components inspired by these traditions, and then create my own alchemy by trans forming textiles and materials into objects of fantasy, mystery, and elemental power.

I am interested in the processes of transmutation and change, and allow the unknown and the uncontrollable to determine my aesthetic and functional choices. Research and experimentation are important to my process as I delve into significant and symbolic materials and the natural world around me, and create fabrications that change over the passage of time: decay, grow, or preserve.

We *are* the myths. We are the Amazons, the Furies, the Witches. We have never not been here, this exact sliver of time, this precious place. There is something utterly familiar about us.

We have been ourselves before.

- Robin Morgan, 1968

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each look in the collection uses imagery, symbolism, and significant materials relating to one aspect of folk medicine or witchcraft. all of our desires, our supplications, can be traced back to these roots.

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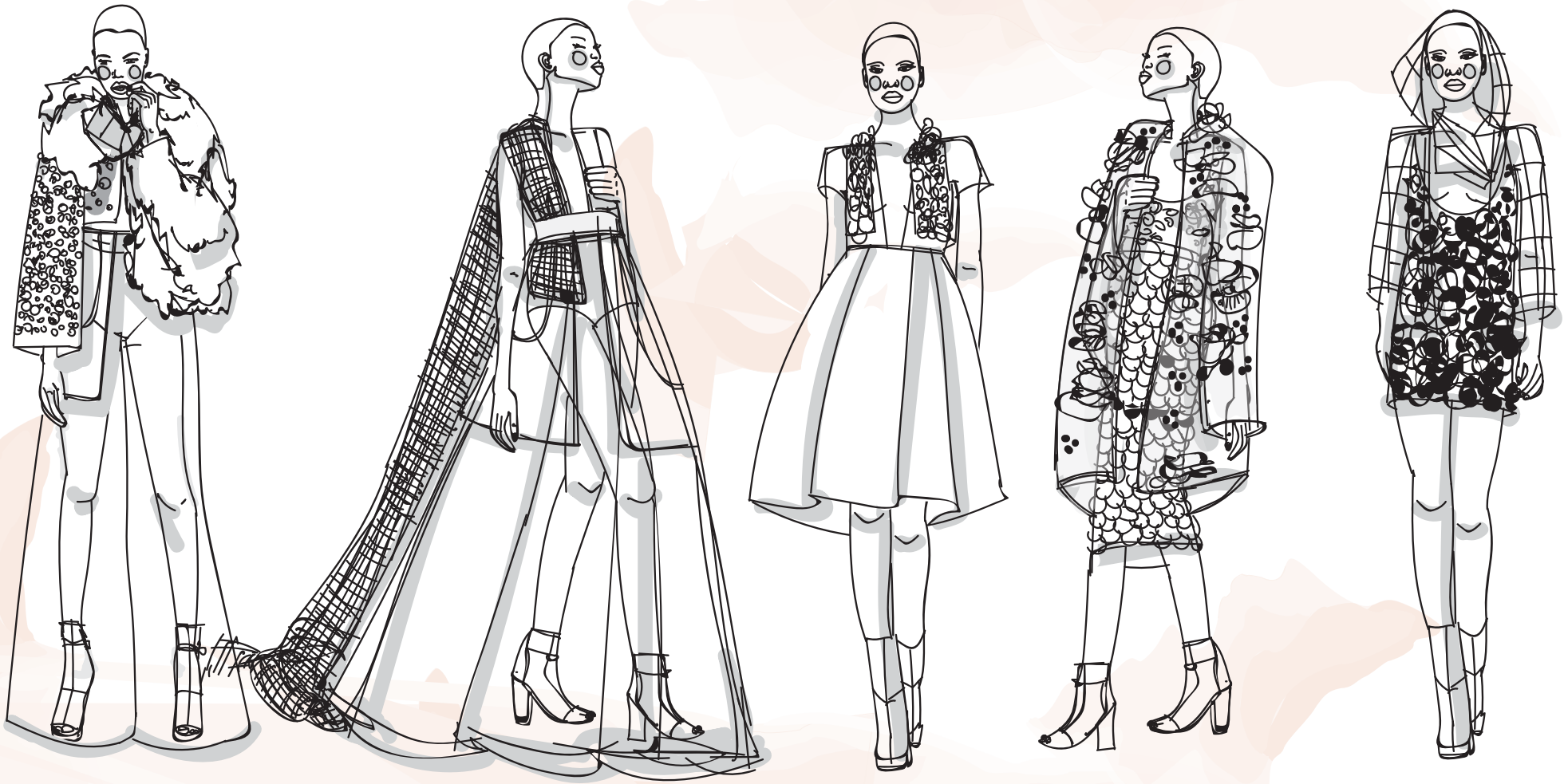

1

'protection'

Shed deer antler with Borax crystals and Icelandic earth pigments, Borax crystals on Icelandic sheepskin, UV-printed and laser-cut leather, silk organza printed in repeat with salt, laser-cut deer jawbone, printed picot overdyed with madder and tea.

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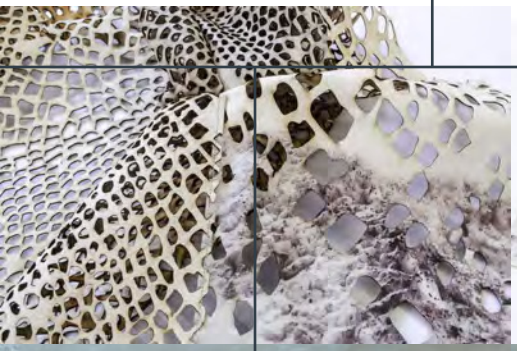
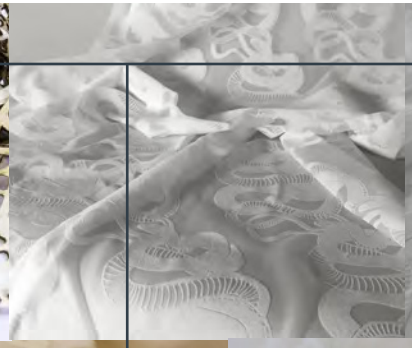
protection: TEXTILES

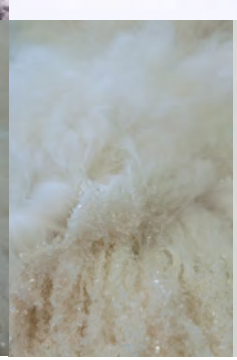
leather UV printed with photograph

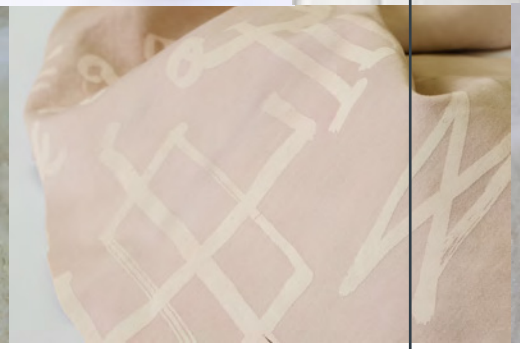
leather laser-cut in snakeskin pattern

silk organza silkscreened in repeat with salt









Icelandic sheepskin grown with Borax crystals

picot silkscreened and overdyed with Madder and tea

laser-engraved bone

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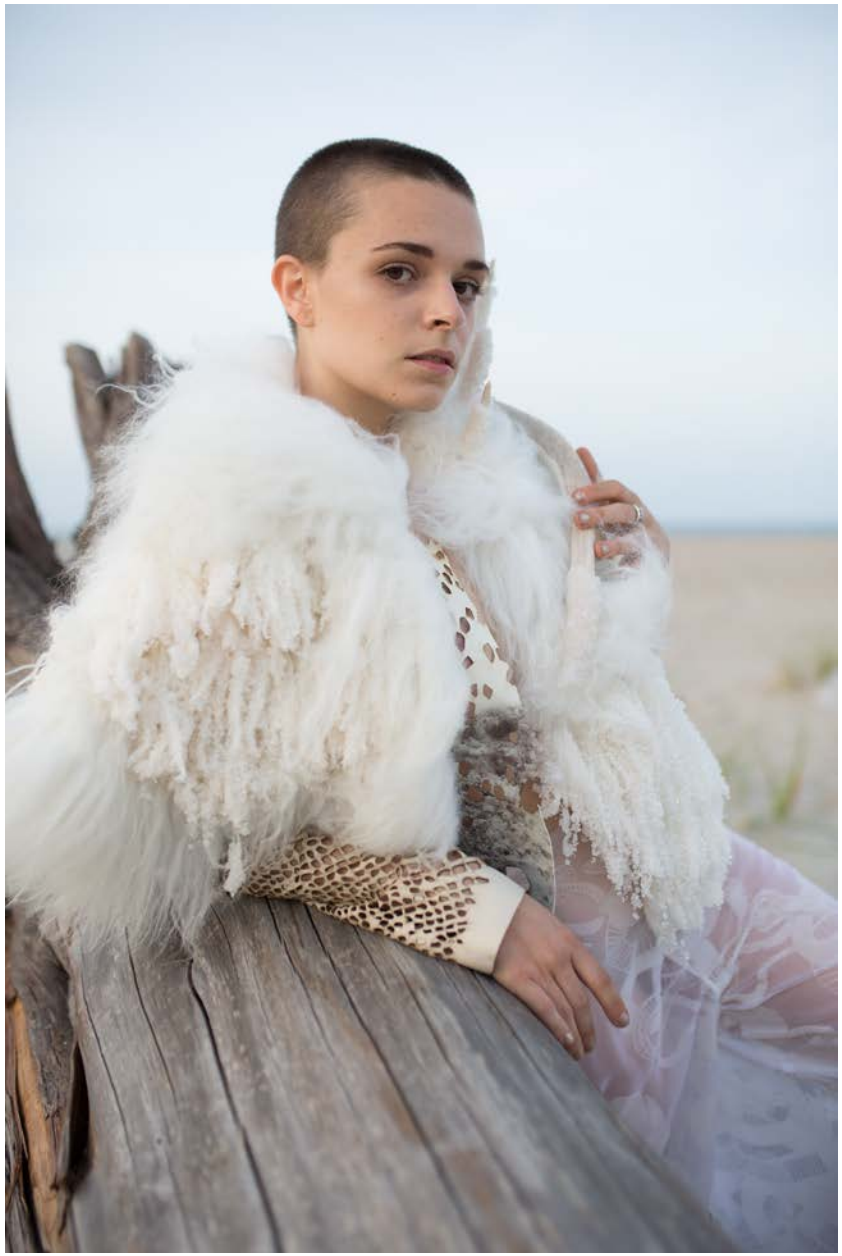

2

'attraction'

Machine-knit Icelandic wool rusted with antique tools, sustainably sourced fish leather, leather silkscreened with heat-activated puff additive, silk organza printed in repeat with iron filings and rusted, silk organza placement-printed with magnetite, glass beads and magnetic embellishments, raw lodestones.

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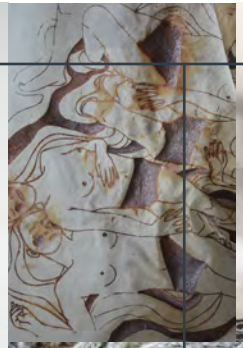
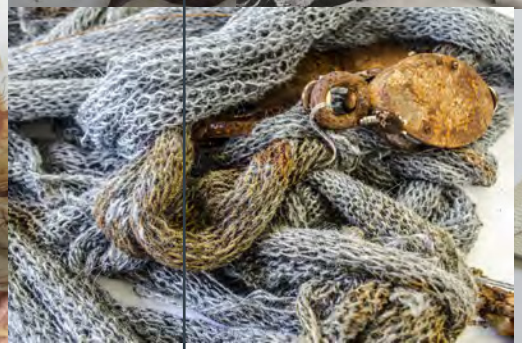
attraction: TEXTILES

silk organza silkscreened with iron filings

silk organza and iron, rusted





silk organza silkscreened with magnetite

vintage tools and metal scraps used for rust-dyeing

machine-knit Icelandic wool

leather silkscreened with puff additive

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3

'fertility'

Ghost-stained silkscreen mesh with engineered print in clear foil, Borax crystals on goose feathers, acrylic sequins, silk organza printed in repeat with magical staves, jacquard-woven cotton in repeat.

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fertility: TEXTILES

silkscreened silk organza

goose feathers with Borax crystals

ghost-stained silkscreen printed with clear foil

design in repeat for jacquard loom

jacquard-woven cotton

acrylic scraps as sequins

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4

'victory'

Preserved moths and butterflies in silk organza, placement print on crepe with heat-activated puff additive, hand-drawn script laser-cut in tracing paper, silk dupioni and chiffon, ghost-stained silkscreen mesh.

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victory: TEXTILES

preserved butterflies and moths

quilted silk organza with butterflies

laser-cut hand drawn silk script

placement print in puff additive on silk crepe

quilted silk organza

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5

'rebirth'

Laser-perforated silk organza with growing White Oyster and Phoenix Oyster mushrooms, glass beads, silk organza repeat-printed with high concentration of heat-activated puff additive, silk organza with layered cut leather paillettes.

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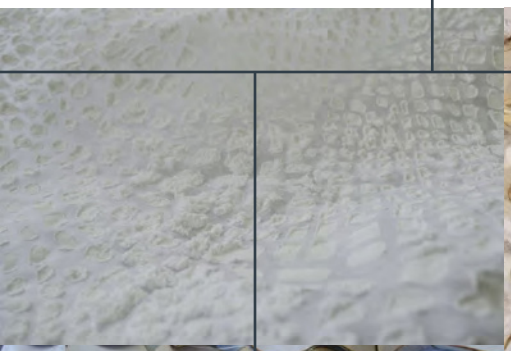
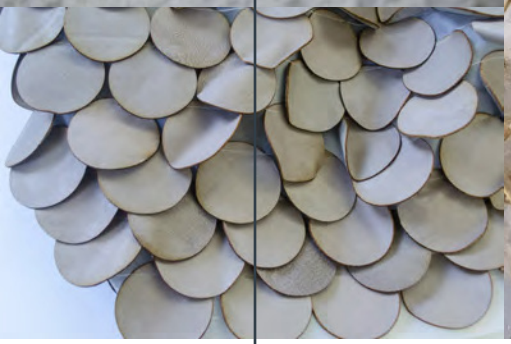
rebirth: TEXTILES

silk organza printed with puff additive

method for growing live mushrooms through silk

perforated silk organza





laser-cut leather palliettes sewn on silk organza

Oyster mushrooms grown into the silk fibers

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6

'foresight'

Laser-engraved trimmed sheepskin, laser-cut repeat print in silk habotai, rope from a container ship unraveled and woven with hair extensions, wig hair, and hair trimmings from my son, driftwood from Husavík, Iceland, doe and domestic goose skulls grown with Borax crystals.

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foresight: TEXTILES AND MATERIALS

detail of "bodice" with skull and wig hair

laser-rastered trimmed sheepskin

200 pounds of rope from container ship

Borax crystals grown on doe skull

Borax crystals tinted with Madder root

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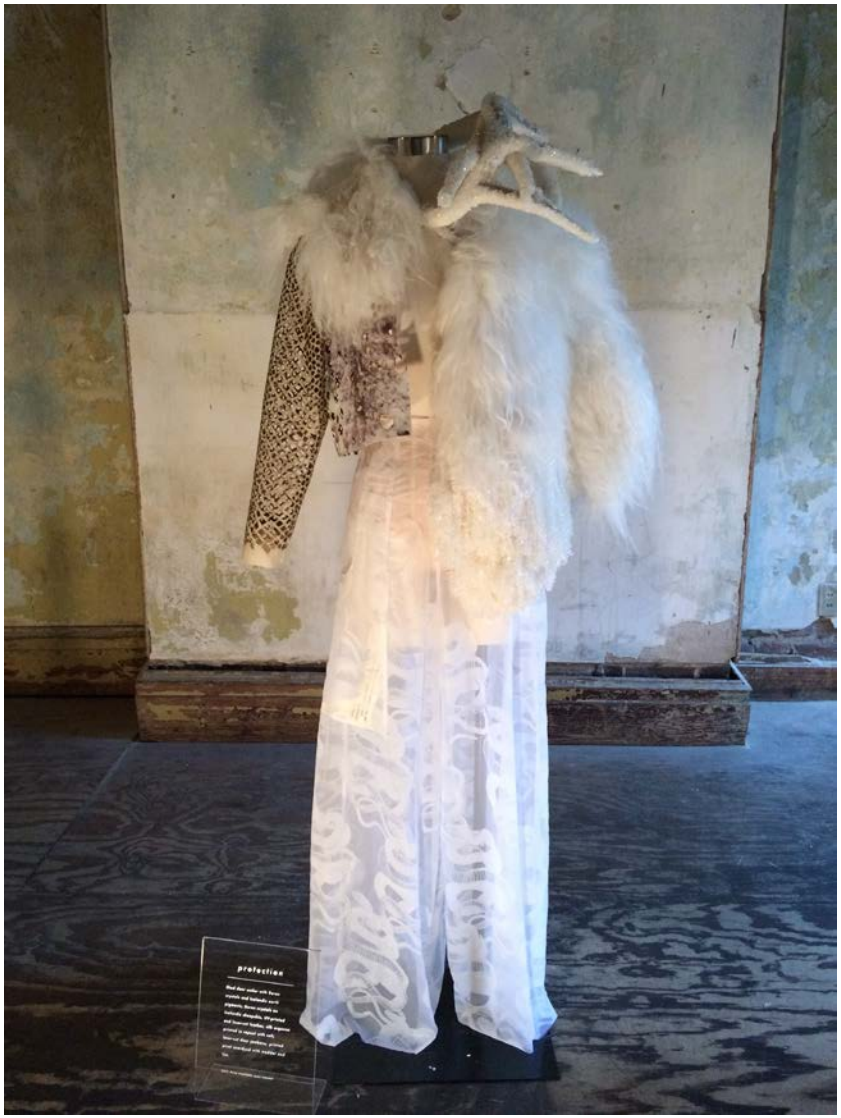

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