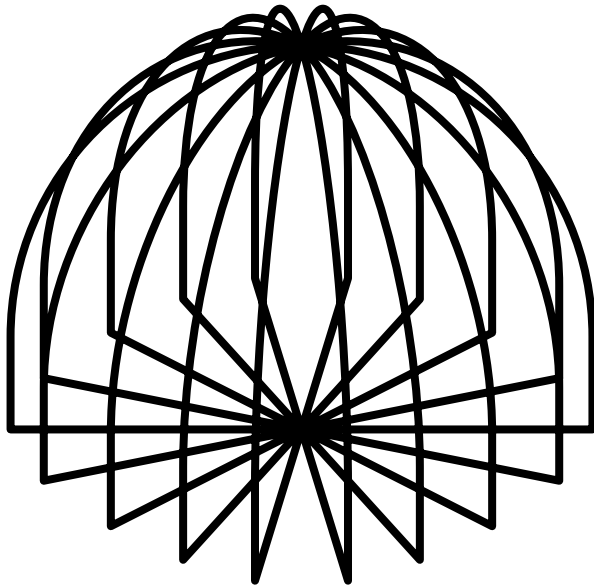


FASHION | SPACE | GALLERY



**SIMON COSTIN'S  
IMPOSSIBLE CATWALK SHOWS  
12.09. – 13.12.14**

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“What I want to present here are a series of suggestions as to how fashion presentations could be; an invitation to dream and speculate.

A collection shown as graffiti strewn across a deserted street; a collection displayed in a forest where guests are handed binoculars and invited to spot the models, perched like exotic birds among the branches; or a deserted nuclear power station, the interior encrusted with crystals with a collection that slowly decays.”

- SIMON COSTIN

**This exhibition features newly commissioned work by set designer Simon Costin that questions what catwalk shows could be if the possibilities were limitless.**

In a series of model sets, Costin has chosen real and imagined spaces to stage his fantastical and innovative presentation ideas: from a disused nuclear power station to a cardboard forest. Each fictitious show challenges current formalised ways of viewing garments; from searching for them

amongst the branches of a baroque forest, to seeing deconstructed parts of a garment through giant lenses.

Accompanying the model sets are Costin's sketches and notebooks, which give an insight into his own working process. To acknowledge and reveal the collaborative nature of set design for fashion shows, the exhibition will also show a moodboard by Gareth Pugh for whom Costin has worked as set designer for the last 8 years and behind-the-

scenes footage from Alexander McQueen's infamous Spring Summer 1998 show Untitled (formerly called The Golden Shower), for which Costin designed the set.

The exhibition not only presents Costin's unique creative vision but also reveals the impact set design has on a catwalk. By suggesting different ways of putting the designer's creative output back into focus, it highlights one of set design's most important roles.

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1



## FOREST

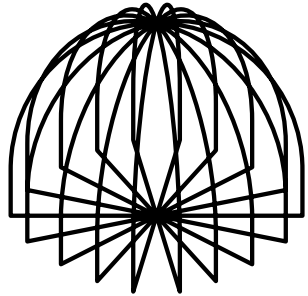
Inspired by the shapes of a baroque forest, this model depicts a fictional fashion show within a forest where models are placed within the trees.

The audience, equipped with binoculars, have to search for the looks in the trees, they are represented in the maquette - much like in a lookbook - by numbers.

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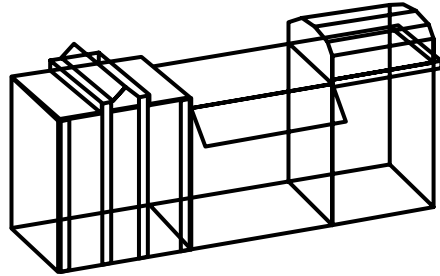


**DOME**

As the audience enter this dome-like structure they are met by 16 lifesize lenticular lenses in front of 16 deconstructed garments.

As they walk past they are forced to inspect different perspectives and details of the garment's cut and construction.

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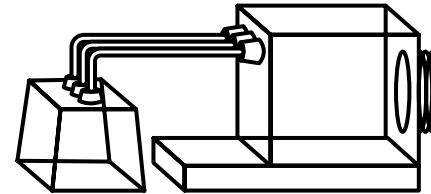


**STREET**

The garments are spraypainted on the façades of the buildings of an imaginary street.

The audience arrives as business continues as usual within this public space, where aside from the larger-than-life depictions of the looks, the models also wander amongst locals, commuters and the bemused invited audience.

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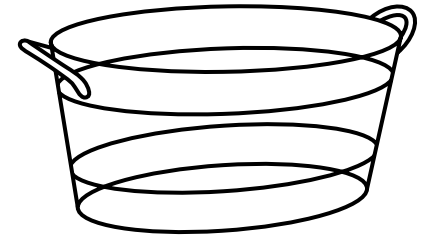


**NUCLEAR PLANT**

Invited to look into the space through glass, garments are displayed within an abandoned nuclear plant.

The space is fully covered with black crystalline after an accident. Models cannot be present as the site is contaminated and as the garments cannot be retrieved, they are left to slowly decay over time.

5  
-



**SANATORIUM**

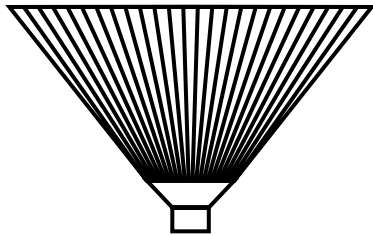
The audience enter a disused sanatorium and encounter a space filled with twenty-four old steel baths.

Each of the baths has a different garment suspended above on a hanger, which are lowered and withdrawn from the baths filled with dye, finalising the collection as the audience looks on.

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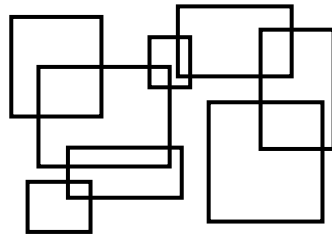


**PROJECTION**

Simon Costin, backstage video footage from Alexander McQueen's Untitled Spring/Summer 1998 show, September 1997

In this unseen footage of McQueen's controversial show formerly called 'Golden Shower', Costin filmed stylist Katy England walking through the set as it rains on her. The show was sponsored by American Express who forced McQueen to rename it, hence its official title 'Untitled'.

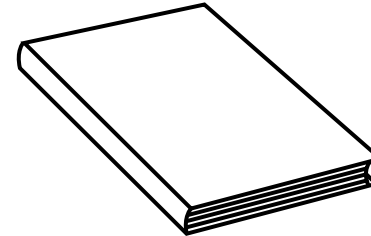
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**MOODBOARD**

Gareth Pugh, moodboard for Spring/Summer 2015 collection. Courtesy of Gareth Pugh

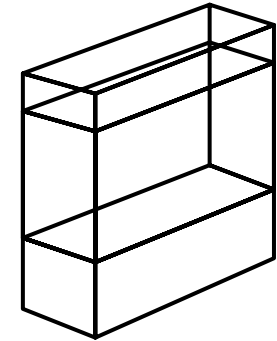
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**SKETCHBOOKS**

Simon Costin, sketchbooks. Courtesy of Simon Costin.

9  
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**DRAWINGS  
(VITRINE IN CORRIDOR)**

Simon Costin, Eclect Dissect for Alexander McQueen for Givenchy, photocopied collages, Autumn/Winter 1997-8


Costin created these collages for McQueen's second couture collection for Givenchy combining late Victorian costume, the inspiration for the collection with sixteenth-century anatomical plates depicting human bodies in skeletal and skinned form.


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The exhibition was commissioned  
and curated by Ligaya Salazar with  
Assistant Curator Polona Dolzan.

For a full schedule of the accompanying  
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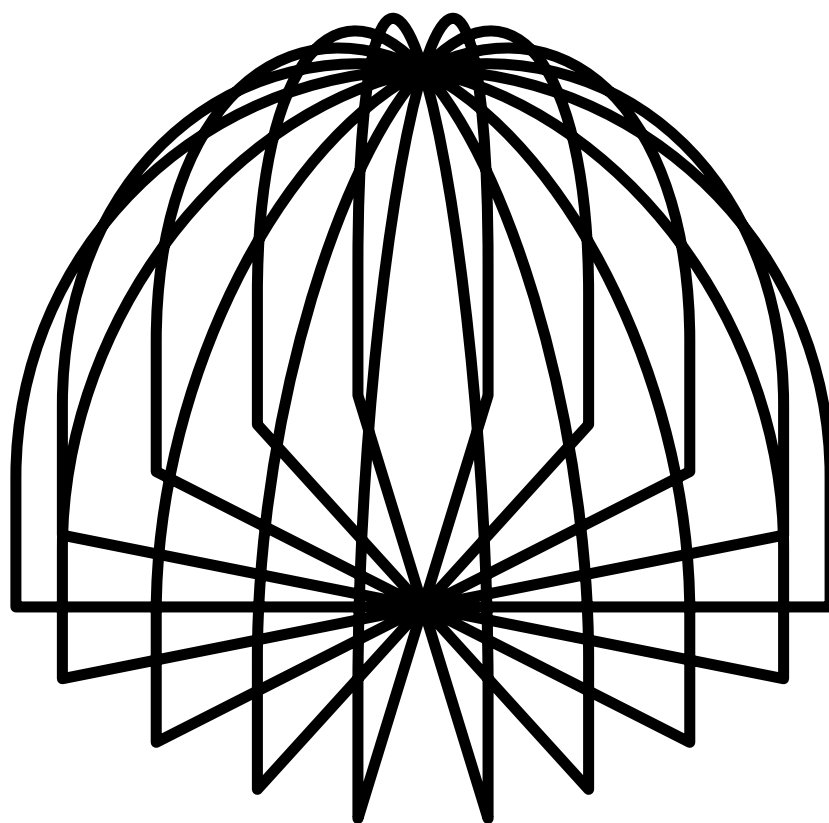
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#ImpossibleCatwalks

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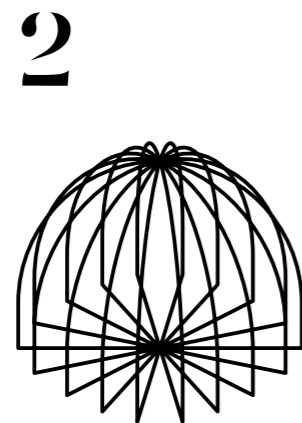
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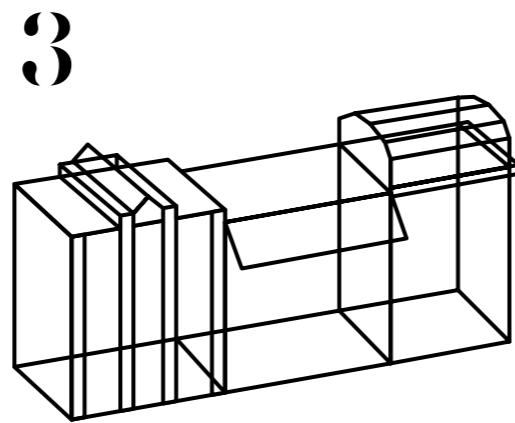
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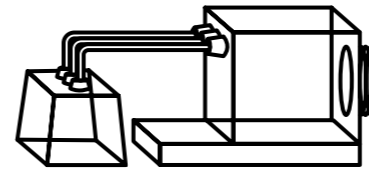


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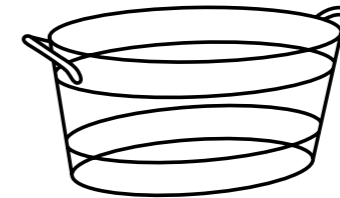
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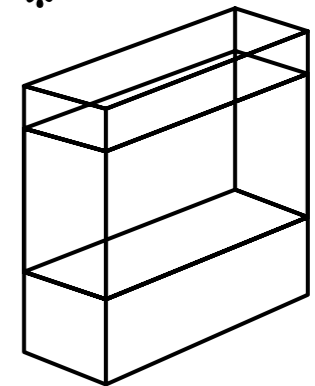
8

{8 moodboard}

Gareth Pugh, moodboard for Spring/Summer 2015 collection. Courtesy of Gareth Pugh

...ipsum lorem... add a sentence here.....

\*



{drawings} Vitrine in corridor

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