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Mining Couture: A Manifesto for Common Wear

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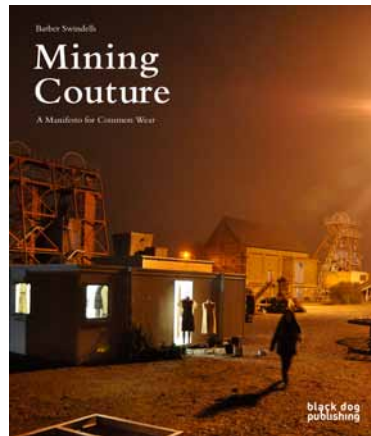
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MINING COUTURE

A MANIFESTO FOR COMMON WEAR

EDITORS: BARBER SWINDELLS



SEPTEMBER 2012
Paperback • ISBN 978 1 907317 92 7
RRP £16.95 / \$24.95
27 x 23 cm / 00 x 00 in
100 colour and b/w ills • 128 pages

Mining Couture emerges from Barber Swindells' commission at the Leicester County Council Snibston Discovery Museum, UK, as part of the *Transform* regeneration programme. Gaining their creative inspiration from the Snibston site and collection, Barber Swindells explored the relationship between coal mining history and fashion. This book delves into the notion of "common wear", records diverse narratives of fashion and labour, and focuses on the social context where the seemingly unrelated realms of mining and of fashion converge.

This volume is intended as an integral element of Barber Swindells' exploration of the theme of "common wear". It illustrates and extends the work developed through their commission rather than document it rigidly—its aim is to present an open-ended process. A visual dialogue is developed between mining and fashion through the juxtaposition of evocative photography, inviting the reader to take an active part in making links and shifting boundaries between these two realms.

Texts include an interview with 1972 National Coal Queen Margaret Dominiak and contributions from textile artists and curators, exploring diverse themes: from the responsibility of making art in a social context, to the legacy of coal mining in contemporary fashion trends, through to crossovers between mining and fashion lexicons. Looking back at twentieth century Russian Constructivist and Italian Futurist anti-fashion designs, such as the TuTa, or "Universal Overall", Barber Swindells develop their own work-wear and this book is a journal/sketchbook/manifesto of their ongoing process.

Dr Steve Swindells is a Reader in Creative Practice and Claire Barber a Lecturer in Textile Crafts at the University of Huddersfield. They have been working together on site-conditional and artist-in-residence projects as Barber Swindells since 2010.

