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Shah, Karen

Ketchup Clothes: Explorations in Recycling

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KETCHUPCLOTHES



**DEDICATED TO:**  
ANIL,ELOISE, JOSHUA AND SNOOPY  
AND MY AMAZING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

PRINTED 2016  
BY KAREN SHAH  
K.L.SHAH@HUD.AC.UK  
07966587503

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# EXPLORATIONS IN RECYCLING

THIS BOOKLET DOCUMENTS GARMENTS MADE FROM FOUND AND DISCARDED MATERIALS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF KETCHUPCLOTHES FROM 2004 TO THE PRESENT DAY.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOME 350,000 TONNES OF CLOTHES ARE ASSIGNED TO LANDFILL EVERY YEAR FROM THE UK ALONE. THIS CATALOGUE OF IDEAS HOPES TO PROVIDE INSPIRATION INTO WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH TEXTILE AND CLOTHING WASTE.

IT BEGINS WITH APPROACHES TO DIFFERENT MATERIALS SUCH AS DENIM, LEATHER AND OLD T-SHIRTS AND PROGRESSES THROUGH A SERIES OF PHOTOSHOOTS THAT CONTEXTUALISE THE CLOTHES WITHIN A LOCAL, URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

IT CONCLUDES WITH CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS BY THE AUTHOR INTO PATTERN CUTTING AND MANUFACTURING PROCESS THAT HAVE RESONANCE FOR THE WIDER ADOPTION OF RECYCLING PRACTICES.

ALL GARMENTS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED BY THE AUTHOR ON INDUSTRIAL SEWING MACHINES. THESE INCLUDE A LOCKSTITCH, OVERLOCKER AND COVERSTITCH MACHINE.

KAREN SHAH 2016







# REWORKED DENIM

DENIM JEANS DECONSTRUCTED AND PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. UTILISING BOTH FLAT PATTERN CUTTING AND MOULAGING TECHNIQUES. EMBRACING WEAR AND TEAR AND REPOSITIONING DESIGN FEATURES.







PRODUCED AS PART OF THE GLOBAL  
DENIM PROJECT (WOODWARD, 2012)

MOULAGED WAISTCOAT MADE FROM THE WAIST BANDS AND POCKETS OF OLD JEANS.



AS A GLOBAL FABRIC 'DENIM' IS RECOGNISED AROUND THE WORLD. VALUED FOR ITS DURABILITY AND ASSOCIATION TO YOUTH AND LEISURE IT IS A STAPLE IN MANY A WARDROBE. IT HAS HAD A LASTING RELATIONSHIP WITH FASHION BUT AS STYLES FALL IN AND OUT OF FASHION IT IS COMMON TO SEE JEANS DISCARDED BEFORE THE END OF THE NATURAL LIFE OF THE FABRIC. OPPORTUNITIES EXIST TO CONVERT THESE OLD GARMENTS INTO NEW.

FITTED TAILORED JACKET MADE FROM JEAN LEGS.



PRODUCED AS PART OF THE GLOBAL DENIM PROJECT (WOODWARD, 2012)









'DENIM SWEATSHIRT' MADE FROM RECYCLED POLYESTER FABRIC AND OLD JEANS POCKETS









LOOSE CARDIGAN STYLE JACKET MADE FROM 100% RECYCLED JEANS











FITTED ASYMETRICAL JACKET MADE FROM OLD JEANS AND FOUND SHEEPSKIN











ZIP TOP MADE FROM OLD JEAN LEGS.









FITTED DRESS MADE FROM THE LEGS OF OLD JEANS.









PATTERN PIECES KEPT SMALL TO WORK AROUND DEFECTS AND CREATE A 'PATCHWORK' EFFECT. GARMENTS SHOWN MADE FROM COLLECTION OF OLD 'BLOUSON' STYLE LEATHER JACKETS AND COATS.



## REWORKED LEATHER







'BIKER' STYLE LEATHER JACKET MADE FROM '70'S' STYLE COAT





'BIKER' STYLE LEATHER JACKET MADE FROM 'BLOUSON STYLE JACKET









CLASSIC JEAN STYLE LEATHER TROUSERS MADE FROM FULL LENGTH COAT









OLD T-SHIRTS ARE CUT TO ELIMINATE STAINS AND WEAR AND TEAR. THE RESULTANT 'GOOD' FABRIC IS EDGED TOGETHER BY OVERLOCKING AND COVERSTITCHING SEAMS.

PATTERN PIECES ARE THEN CUT OUT FROM THE 'FLAT' FABRIC OR THE PIECES ARE PRESENTED TO A MANNEQUIN TO MOULAGE AROUND THE BODY.

INHERENT DESIGN FEATURES SUCH AS SLEEVES AND NECKLINES AND FASTENINGS ARE REINVENTED AS POCKETS, ARMHOLES AND SEAMING DESIGN.

## REWORKED T-SHIRTS







COWL NECK LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT DRESS MADE FROM OLD T-SHIRT AND SNOOD





BOAT NECK DRESS WITH BALLOON SLEEVES MADE FROM OLD T-SHIRTS







LONG SLEEVE TOP MADE FROM OLD T-SHIRTS







'HAREM' STYLE TROUSER MADE FROM OLD T-SHIRTS







LONG SLEEVED TOP MADE FROM OLD T-SHIRTS





# MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS



RECUT AND FITTED WOOL XL 'GOLF' JUMPER WITH FRENCH KNOT EMBROIDERY TO COVER UP HOLES







TWO SHIRT TOP WITH BALLOON SLEEVES AND SHIRRED NECK DETAILS







TULIP STYLE SKIRT MADE FROM OLD CURTAIN AND GLITTER TRIM







TULIP STYLE SKIRT MADE FROM DONATED FARBIC AND WAIST BAND FROM FOOTBALL SHORTS







FITTED JACKET MADE FROM CROCHET BLANKET



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DESIGN©KAREN SHAH







WAIST LENGTH BOX JACKET MADE FROM OLD CURTAIN









HALTER NECK DRESS WITH FRILL MADE FROM TABLE CLOTH









A LINE GATHERED SKIRT MADE FROM BROKEN UMBRELLA







TRANSFORMABLE TOP THAT TURNS INTO A DRESS AND TROUSERS MADE FROM REMNANT





SERIES OF IMAGES FROM PHOTO SHOOTS CONDUCTED OVER THE YEARS. COLLABORATIONS INCLUDE THOSE WITH ANTIFORM, FILTHY SQUIRREL AND LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS.



## FASHION SHOOTS AND SHOWS



DESIGN©KAREN SHAH

FLAMENCO DRESS MADE FROM REMNANT AND FRILLS MADE FROM FABRIC SCRAPS



DESIGN©KAREN SHAH

T-SHAPED LOOSE DRESSES MADE FROM OLD SARIS AND T-SHIRT SCRAPS





LEATHER BIKER JACKET WITH KNITTED RIBBONED T-SHIRT DRESS



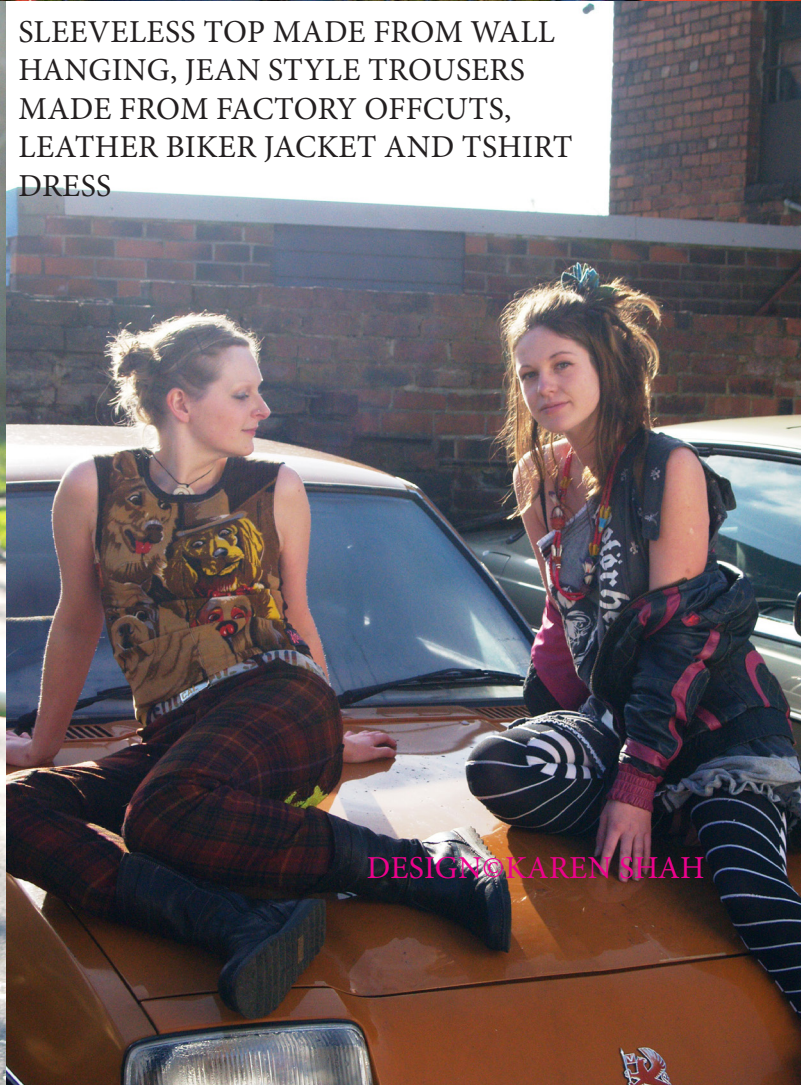
DESIGN: KAREN SHAH



BALLON SHAPE DRESS FROM DONATED FABRIC AND LONG DRESS MADE FROM DUVET COVER



SLEEVELESS TOP MADE FROM WALL HANGING, JEAN STYLE TROUSERS MADE FROM FACTORY OFFCUTS, LEATHER BIKER JACKET AND TSHIRT DRESS



DESIGN: KAREN SHAH



RECUT T-SHIRT DRESS'

PHOTOSHOOT IN LOCAL PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA.  
MODELS:SOPHIE WHEATLEY AND MIRANDA LAWTON . PHOTOGRAPHER: GEMMA BARNES





RECUT WOOL JUMPERS AND LEGGINGS MADE FROM OLD T-SHIRTS



DESIGN©KAREN SHAH





HALTER NECK DRESS AMDE FROM TABLECLOTH, RECUT TSHIRT TOPS AND TULIP SKIRT





DESIGN©KAREN SHAH

CORSET AND SKIRT MADE FROM  
CURTAINS AND SCRAPS OF  
STRETCH FABRIC



CROPPED JACKET MADE FROM TROUSERS



DESIGN©KAREN SHAH

TOP MADE  
FROM  
SKIRT

TRANSFORMABLE TROUSERS





PHOTOSHOOT WITH FILTHY SQUIRREL IN DISUSED GLASS FACTORY IN LOCAL AREA OF LEEDS 6.  
PHOTOGRAPHER: NICKY RAI





DESIGN©KAREN SHAH



HOODED JACKET MADE FROM OLD SLEEPING BAG





ORGANIC COTTON  
HALTER NECK DRESS



RECUT TSHIRT LOOSE  
FITTING TOP



DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM THE URBAN LANDSCAPE





KNITTED TSHIRTS  
HALTER NECK TOP

PHOTOSHOOT IN STUDIO, ALLOTMENT AND SURROUNDING AREA  
PHOTOGRAPHER: KAREN SHAH



CROCHET SKIRT

CIRCULAR TABLE CLOTH SKIRT



DESIGNER LAREN SHAH

BOX JACKET AND BIKER JACKET MADE FROM OLD  
LEATHER JACKETS







DESIGN©KAREN SHAH

FITTED DENIM TOP , RECUT TSHIRT TOPS, ADJUSTABLE SKIRTS, MINI SKIRT FROM WALL-HANGING, NON WOVEN JEAN STYLE TROUSERS







KNITTED TSHIRT TOP





COLLECTION PRESENTED AT ALTERNATIVE FASHION WEEK, LONDON, 2007

PHOTOGRAPHER; KAREN SHAH

DESIGN©KAREN SHAH

DESIGN©KAREN SHAH







RECUT TSHIRT DRESS







COLLECTION PRESENTED AT ALTERNATIVE FASHION WEEK, LONDON, 2008  
 PHOTOGRAPHS; KAREN SHAH





DESIGNS©KAREN SHAH



ASYMETRICAL JACKET FROM FACTORY  
OFFCUT, CURTAIN TROUSERS



TULIP SKIRT AND CROPPED TAILORED JACKET



DESIGN©KAREN SHAH



T-SHAPED SARI DRESS



HOODED JACKET FROM A SKIRT AND  
MIN SKIRT FROM TSHIRT

PRESENTATION OF COLLECTION AS PART OF GREENFEST, HUDDERSFIELD UNIVERSITY,  
PICTURE HOUSE, HEBDEN BRIDGE PHOTOGRAPHER: KAREN SHAH

DESIGN©KAREN SHAH



ZIP FRONT HOODED JACKET MADE FROM DUVET COVER





RECUT TSHIRT DRESS







FASHION SHOW IN COLLABORATION WITH LIPA (LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE OF PERFORMING ARTS)  
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL PHOTOGRAPHER: KAREN SHAH AND BLACKS PHOTOGRAPHY







# CUTTING AND MANUFACTURE

CUTTING AND MANUFACTURE TECHNIQUES RELATING TO THE UTILISATION OF WASTE MATERIALS CAN PRESENT VARIOUS CHALLENGES NAMELY THE QUALITY OF THE FABRIC, THE DEGREE OF WEAR AND TEAR AND INREGULARITIES IN THE AVAILABILITY AND QUANTITY OF WORKABLE MATERIAL. AS A RESULT GARMENTS ARE OFTEN CHARACTERISED BY THEIR INDIVIDUALITY NATURE AND ARE VALUED FOR THEIR CREATIVE APPROACHES TO PATTERN CUTTING AND MANUFACTURE - UTILISING DETAILS THAT STILL HAVE LIFE IN THEM AND DISCARDING THAT WHICH IS WORN OR DIRTY.

DRAWING ON TECHNIQUES DEVELOPED OVER THE COURSE OF VARIOUS FASHION COLLECTIONS THIS SECTION HIGHLIGHTS METHODS OF CUTTING AND MANUFACTURE THAT HAVE BEEN UTILISED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GARMENTS AS WELL AS OFFERING UP POTENTIAL APPROACHES THAT MAY BE ABLE TO BE UPSCALED. THE AIM OF THIS IS TO GENERATE DEBATE INTO THE FEASIBILITY, DESIREABLILITY AND IMPERATIVE FOR RECYCLING TECHNIQUES TO BECOME MORE EMBEDDED INTO BOTH TRADITIONAL AND MASS PRODUCTION FASHION SYSTEMS.





RUBBISH LEFT ON THE STREETS OF LEEDS 6, UK AFTER THE STUDENTS EXIT THE AREA AT THE END OF THEIR STUDIES - KNOWN LOCALLY AS *HYDE PARK CHRISTMAS* FOR THE RICH PICKINGS IT OFFERS FOR 'TATTERS'.







## RAW MATERIALS

RAW MATERIALS USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF THE GARMENTS PRESENTED IN THIS CATALOGUE HAVE COME FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES. THESE HAVE INCLUDED THE AUTHORS OWN WARDROBE, ITEMS SOURCED FROM SECOND-HAND SHOPS, GARMENTS FOUND ON THE STREETS AND DONATIONS OF UNWANTED CLOTHES.

ITEMS SOURCED ARE EVALUATED FOR THE POTENTIAL THEY HOLD IN TERMS OF HAVING ENOUGH FABRIC OF A SUITABLE QUALITY, AESTHETIC APPEAL AND ANY DESIRED DESIGN DETAILS THEY MAY CONTAIN. THEY ARE THEN USED AS A WHOLE GARMENT IN ITSELF OR ELSE MIXED WITH ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CREATE A COMPLETE 'NEW' GARMENT.

DUE TO THE DESIRE TO EXPLORE METHODS THAT HAVE RESONNANCE TO MASS PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES MANY GARMENTS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED FROM INDUSTRY STANDARD PATTERN 'BLOCKS' AND USED TO CREATE 'CLASSIC' STYLES DIRECTED AT A FASHION CONSCIOUS CONSUMER.











CUTTING OUT 3D DETAILS

MAKING 'FLAT' BY OVERLOCKING TOGETHER







COVERSTITCHING SEAMS (REVERSE)







POSITIONING CLOTH TO PATTERN







T-SHIRTS FOUND IN STREET







CHECKING FOR STAINS



MAKING FABRIC 'SKIN' OUT OF FOUR COTTON JERSEY T-SHIRTS



EVALUATING QUALITY







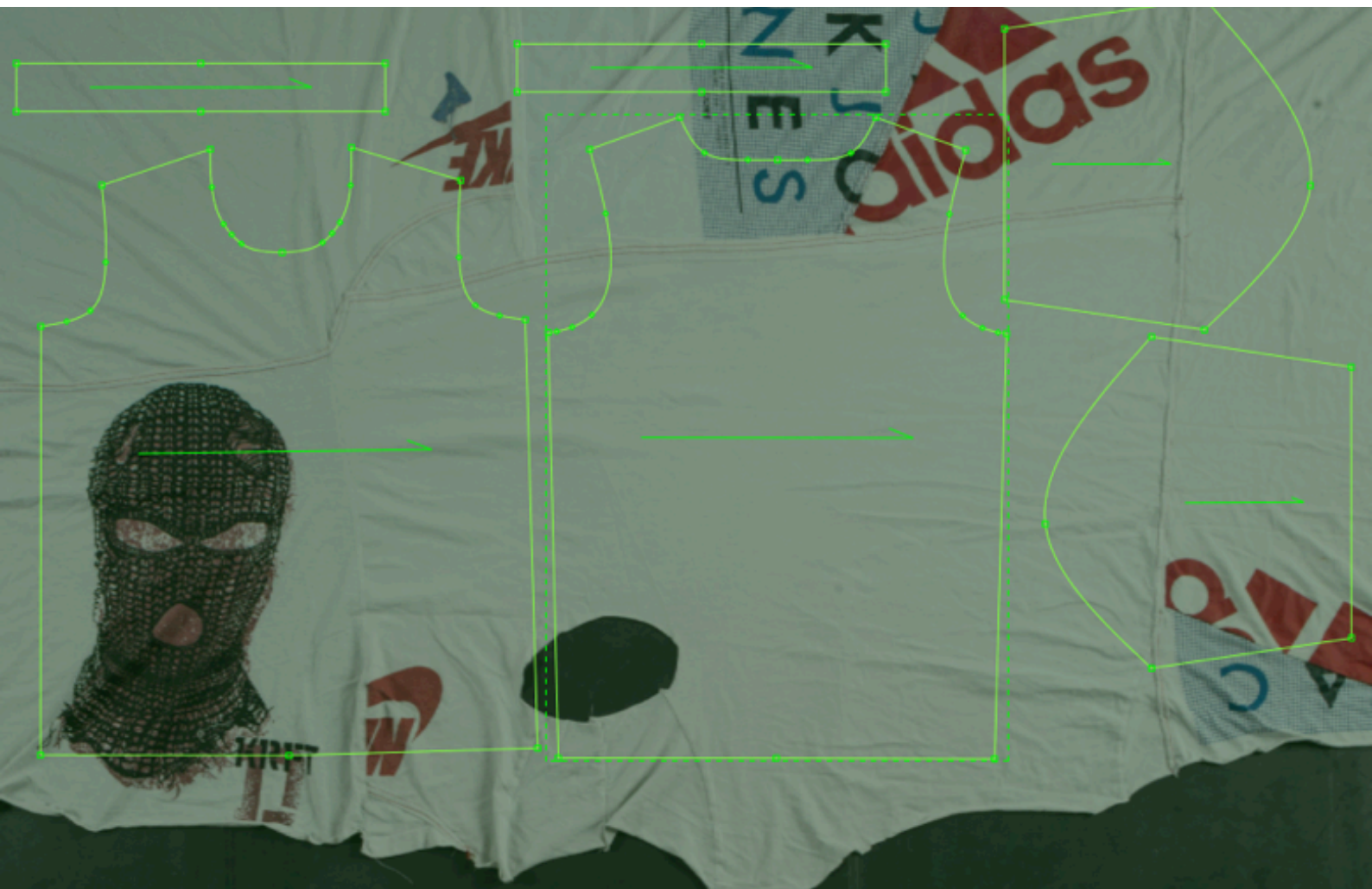






PHOTO: SIMON WELDON, 2016

FABRIC 'SKIN' (ABOVE) PHOTOGRAPHED FOR USE WITH COMPUTER PATTERN MAKING SOFTWARE WITH SUPERIMPOSED PATTERN PIECES FOR A SIMPLE T-SHIRT (BELOW). (SHAH & WARD, 2016)







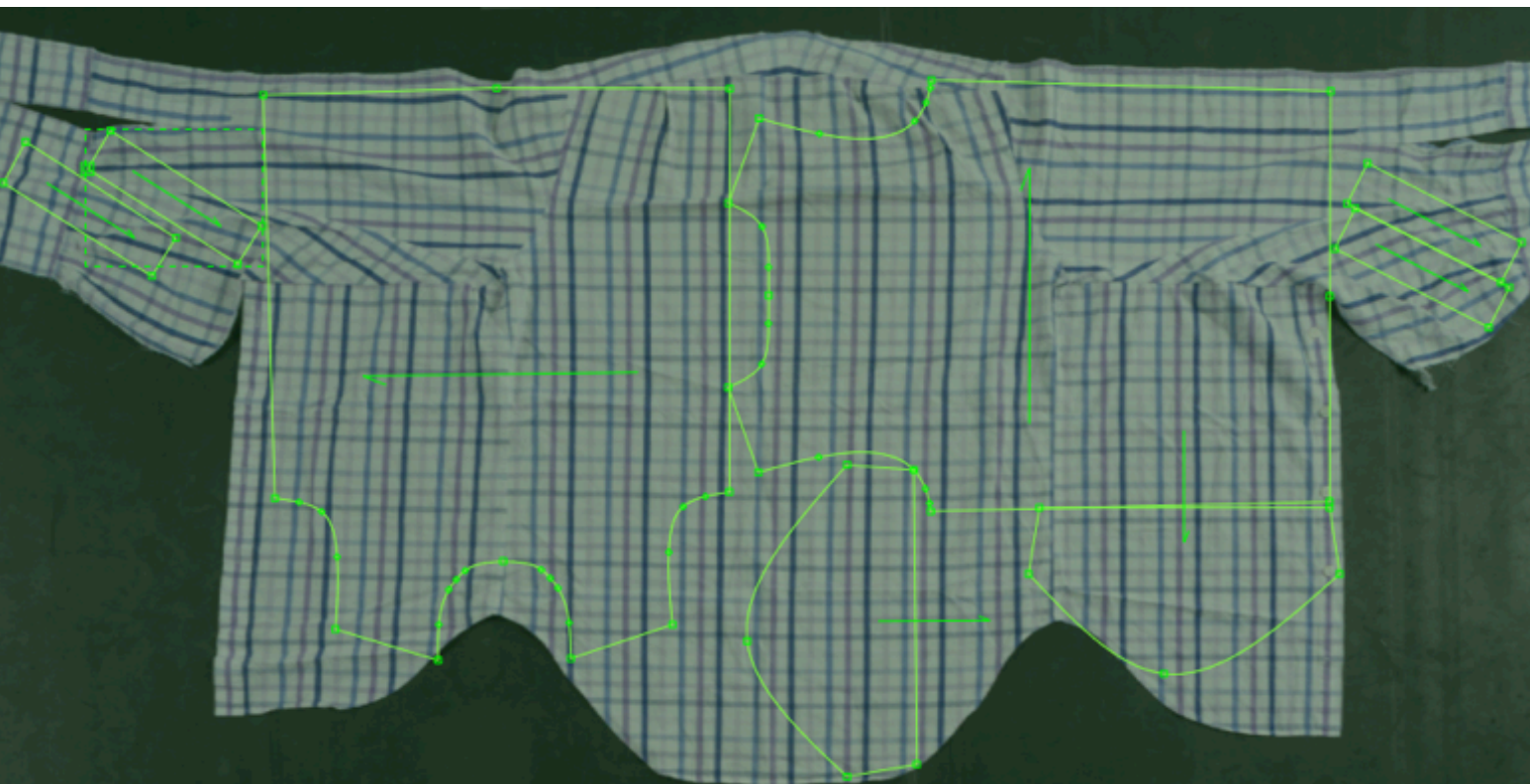
COMPUTER SIMULATION OF RESULTANT T-SHIRT DETAILING SEAMLINES AND PRINT.





PHOTO: SIMON WELDON, 2016

SHIRT MADE FLAT (ABOVE) WITH PATTERN PIECES SUPERIMPOSED (BELOW) (SHAH & WARD, 2016)







COMPUTER SIMULATION OF RESULTANT TOP (WARD, 2016)





**FOR FURTHER INFO:**

**CONTACT :**

DR KAREN SHAH  
UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD  
*K.L.SHAH@HUD.AC.UK*  
*KETCHUPCLOTHES@YAHOO.CO.UK*

07966587503

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IT IS HOPED THAT THIS BOOKLET HAS PROVIDED IDEAS INTO THE VARIOUS DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO WASTE GARMENTS AND CLOTH TO RUN THEM BACK INTO WEARABLE AND DESIRED ITEMS.

THE WORLD IS GETTING FULL OF WASTE AND IF WE ARE NOT TO DROWN IN ALL OF THIS RUBBISH THEN WE NEED TO START DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO CONSUME AS MUCH AS WE DO WITHOUT COMING UP WITH FEASIBLE AND VIABLE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR WASTE. OF COURSE THE LOGICAL THING WOULD BE TO STOP CONSUMING MORE BUT IN THE INTERIM WE NEED TO FIND ALTERNATIVES FOR OUR WASTE CLOTHING.

IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE INDUSTRY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AND TURN THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF THE FASHION SYSTEM INTO POSITIVES.

GREAT CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION CAN BE ACHIEVED AND TECHNIQUES CAN BE APPLIED TO ALL LEVELS OF PRODUCTION SO IT IS TIME TO TURN THE DREAM INTO A REALITY.

JUNE 2016

**A NOTE ON COPYRIGHT:**

THE INTENTION IS THAT IDEAS AND DESIGNS PRESENTED IN THIS BOOKLET BE ADOPTED INTO WIDER PRODUCTION METHODS AS A WAY OF TACKLING WASTE. COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO USE ANY OF THIS CONTENT ARE ASKED TO CONTACT ME FOR FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE. KAREN SHAH, 2016





A CATALOGUE OF IDEAS FOR RECYCLING CLOTHES .

THINGS TO DO WITH ITEMS SUCH AS JEANS,  
T-SHIRTS, HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS ETC

A VISUAL JOURNEY OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR UNWANTED  
GARMENTS AND HOW TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THEM.

AN EXPLORATION OF PRODUCTION METHODS AND  
PATTERN CUTTING TECHNIQUES.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR MASS PRODUCTION OF  
WASTE AND ITS ADOPTION INTO THE  
WIDER FASHION SYSTEM

CONCEIVED, PRODUCED, MADE  
DESIGNED, CRAFTED AND COMPILED

BY  
KAREN SHAH 2016

PATCHWORK DENIM CLOTH MADE FROM THE LEGS OF JEANS  
PHOTO: SIMON WELDON, 2016