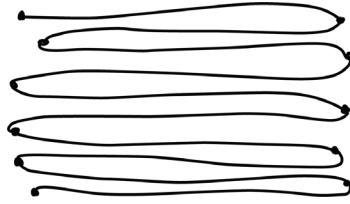


RENÉ SCHEIBENBAUER



PHASE II - EMPATHY, RECONNECTION, PLAY

The starting point for this collection was a workshop. And a sunset.

For Empathy, Reconnection, Play, presented last summer as a graduate show from Central Saint Martins, designer René Scheibenbauer invited his friends and contemporaries to come together, swap items from their wardrobes, and think about the way they interact with items. In these art-therapy workshops, the blindfolded participants considered their physical and emotional sensations through clothing. The process raised questions about why people wear these certain clothes and how they experience wearing them in public spaces in the process.

Phase II - Empathy, Reconnection, Play develops this idea further. René re-invited the participants of his first community group, as well as welcoming some new people in. Each were asked to bring clothes which make them feel, on the one hand, comfortable with themselves and grounded, and on the other hand attractive and confident in being seen. The workshop considered why the different garments made them feel this way. Crucially it helped answer questions around clothing as a tool of communication, how it relates to sexual attraction and whether it creates visibility and invisibility.

Phase I explored the body in an abstract, emotional way - the clothes had no correct way of being worn and became fully interactive. Phase II is far more concrete. The abstract space has been given a physical shell, which is informed by the wearer's identity. As the community brings together people working within different fields; fine arts, performance, dance, design, they relate differently to the choice of clothes. Different garments make different people feel comfortable and anchored.

The resulting collection brings together a mixture of workwear, tailored details, smart evening clothing elements, and emancipate the wearer from dress-codes.

A collaboration with the choreographer Bakani Pick-Up has allowed a space for improvisation, working with movements and gestures that encourage self-care and connection-building within the community. The choreography grew in parallel with the collection's design development, where components like hidden zips and elastic cords guides the movement of the wearer. These elements creates a natural but performative motion when opening and closing each item.

The research and choreography workshop's guideline and focus is inspired by sunsets, a perennial source of optimism for all of us. Experiencing the awe of a sunset has a very therapeutic quality to it, it almost gives us an emotional reminder of being part of something much greater than what's being experienced individually. Feeling small, and connected, can have a very humbling sense resulting with a desire to connect with others. This is the ethos of the brand. The aesthetic of

Phase II - Empathy, Reconnection, Play, aligns with the energy of a sunset.

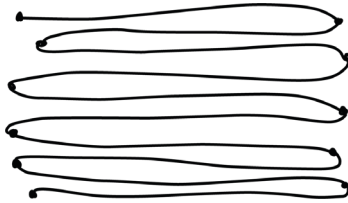
It all began with a workshop, a sunset, and a gong bath.

Instagram: @renescheibenbauer

Website: www.renescheibenbauer.net

Contact: info@renescheibenbauer.net

RENÉ SCHEIBENBAUER



PHASE II - EMPATHY, RECONNECTION, PLAY

CHOREOGRAPHY

Bakani Pick Up and René Scheibenbauer

COLLABORATORS / PERFORMERS

Annabelle Mödlinger - Esther Wunmi - India de Vere - Jen O'Farrell
Kendra Chiagoro-Noel - Lydia Walker - Ryan Skelton

MUSIC

Sarah Waite and Jonny Penn (SÉING) - Sophia Lucie

HAIR & MAKE-UP

Brooke Price & Team / London School of Media Make Up

WORDS

Ryan White

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

Alena Höldrich - Amanda Champion (MOO) - Annie Mackinnon - Anthea Hamilton
Danny Kozyrev - Ella Boucht - Emily Rose - Eva Neuburger - Felix Werbowy
Jessica Ann Richardson (Marchioness) - Jawara Alleyne
Josh Harrison (Dot2Dot) - Maria Píaa Masiga - Matthew Attard Navarro (AN-CC)
Matilda Söderberg - Namita Herzl - Ryan White - Sonia Alves