

MEEP.



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Rodriguez, Gabriela M. Courts. March 5, 2016.



Emma Ortiz.
Student at Parsons School
of Design. Editor of Meep
Magazine.

Top: Ortiz, Emma L. Twin Girls. April 13, 2016.
Bottom: Rodriguez, Gabriela M. Emma. April 13, 2016.

i stand for individuality...

as it works in ways unknown.
as it makes stop signs seem quite blue.
as it takes away confusion, and paints it across the sky.
as it has put up a wallpaper in my mind.
as it can make waffles into jackets and bathing suits.
as it has shown me that living in a bubble makes me
want to burst.

as i have once before felt my sense of individuality
wither away.

as it has shown me what it's like to stay afloat.
as it has taught me what it's like to lose my mind.
as i want to lay my thoughts on the floor and see them
rise.

as i want to see my thoughts touch the sky.

as i have experienced mine and i want to help others
experience theirs.

as i want to see myself make a difference.



Stringer, Stella A. Emma. April 21, 2016.

bring her back.



Source Unknown. Kate Moss. Google Images.

THIS AD IS ABOUT DRAW-STRING SHORTS.
DRAW ME UP. DRAW US UP.



Ortiz, Emma L. Girlies. March 23, 2016.



Ortiz, Emma L. Blondie. April 10, 2016.



Ortiz, Emma L. Blondie. April 10, 2016.

molly goldberg

It's not often that you see Mona Lisa Dr. Martens paired with a pink furry jacket and a light blue hair clip that looks like something out of a Disney movie. I would venture to say that Molly doesn't fit the typical and expected quote that is deemed "fashion sense", which is exactly why I chose her as my interview subject. Right off the bat I assumed that Molly was an Illustration major, because at least for me those are the students I see oozing with endless creativity and carrying themselves in the most interesting of outfits. I was surprised and not so surprised when she told me that was indeed, a fashion major. This made Molly twice more interesting, and literally the perfect interview subject.

I quite honestly find it boring to see a fashion major who dresses in all greyscale and only sports high-end designer wear. There's something more enticing to me to see someone who wears stuff out of the norm, something almost childlike. Molly reminds me almost perfectly of a cartoon character, or something out of a dollhouse. There is a vibe about her that makes her different. In the best way. She is one of those people who fully embodies herself, her fashion sense being a perfect reflection of who she is.



Ever since I chose Molly as my interview subject I decided to take a closer note of her in the class we have together, Space & Materiality. We sit on opposite sides of the room, and never shared a conversation until I approached her with enough courage to ask if she would so kindly be my interview subject. Her eyes lit up and she nervously and very excitedly said she would definitely do it. It is funny because right away I started to pick up on things about Molly that had completely gone unnoticed before. For example, in class, we are working on a mechanical hand project - where I, and the rest of the class, have been using wood to construct this hand. Molly, on the other hand, brought in a zombie hand which she completely manipulated in order for it to be a working our project.

Funny right? Who would've thought the girl in Mona Lisa Dr. Martens would do that? It doesn't end there though, instead of using rubber bands as the elastic mechanism that her hand project needed, Molly went a different spectrum. She used the furry covered wire that most kids use during arts and crafts instead.

These are just examples of how Molly's fashion sense is something much more than just fashion sense, but carries throughout her whole being. These are things unique to Molly, and these are things I noticed so distinct before I even really sat down with her to really talk and get to know her a bit better.

Molly and I met at the University Center on the 4th floor, she arrived there before I did. Coming out of the elevator, I spotted Molly almost instantly. For she, of course, was wearing the brightest of colors. Something so refreshing on such a gloomy day, and to my expectation, Molly said her favorite color was "yellow, its a very bright color", which matches perfectly with her very bright persona. As Molly and I continued our conversation, more things about her unraveled which were both surprise and an expectation. I say expectation because Molly is the type of person I expected her to be - someone oozing with vibrance, ready to delve into the world of fashion with almost a "box of magic markers in hand".

When asked about what she thinks of the fashion industry, she stated, "I feel like it has gotten too serious, I mean there's still art to it but there's a lot more focus on money, which makes it a bit more basic." This stroke my nerve of curiosity, what did Molly want to do in order to fix this? For starters, she'd love to work under Betsy Johnson, seeing as that is her favorite fashion designer. But more than that, she wants to build an empire, one with a lot of color and something that embodies her being. Molly is very petite, which has made her sway towards wanting to make clothes for the petite person, as she has always had a tough time finding clothes that fit her. Learning all these things about Molly was like connecting the pieces of a puzzle. Everything made sense - this Gemini from Long Island, with an ear shaped phone case, and flowered tights.



**TWO GIRLS.
ONE AD.**



Tam, Vivian. Playground Talk. May 2, 2016.

choker

Dog collar or choker? I remember that being one of the first things my now-boyfriendsaid to me when I started wearing a black elastic choker (sometimes referred to as a "tattoo choker"), about 2 summers ago. So make that 2014, a year that was definitely not the 90s. I reference the 90s because anyone would be ignorant to think that this idealistic and almost perfect fashion trend was something invented by Kylie Jenner, or that Topshop got this idea straight from the clouds. The choker crept back into the spotlight slowly, and then all at once. It walked with footsteps that were almost unnoticeable until it was almost as if overnight the choker had stampeded all over the country. The choker gives girls the feeling that they are instantly connected to the 90s, or that their entirely boring outfit has been cured because of their statement necklace. The choker offers a sense of community, and makes you feel somewhat famous, even if its just for one night.



I remember my first choker sitting, which probably wasn't the first attempt of bringing it back to style, or maybe it was. A lot of people have a hard time admitting that someone like Kylie Jenner could be so trendy or so cool, as to have brought back s the 90s choker, but I am firm believer that this was the case. Like all things Kylie Jenner, it was posted to Instagram. So here I sat, and I scrolled. I scrolled for what felt like miles, considering that Jenner posts at least 5 photos a day, so finding something from 2 years ago felt like an eternity. And I have found, what appears to be the first time Kylie Jenner posted wearing a choker, December 24, 2013. As time has shown, anything Kylie Jenner wears, the people go wild for. When she was wearing flannels and combat boots, thats all the girls in Miami were wearing (despite the fact that its an approximate 100 degrees all year round).



Chokers went from being “cool” to something you wore when you were trying too hard, and had begun to lose their authenticity. It took people like Gigi Hadid, Alexa Chung, Behati Prinsloo, and Kendall Jenner to bring back that choker elitiness, not too long ago. As for me, I have been following this choker trend since I first saw it spark on Kylie Jenner’s Instagram almost two years ago, but some might be seeing it take into affect now for the “first time”.

There are some things about them that we shall not forget though. First being, “choker’s aren’t new, as soon as women learned how to tie knots they were wrapping strips of leather, lace and satin around their necks” (“90s Chokers Are Back.”). In fact, there are many portraits of Marie Antoinette wearing her own fabulous choker, meaning that women in the 1700s made them trendy way before Kate Moss looked extra beautiful in this chainlink choker. Which eventually led a pre- meltdown Britney Spears to look as if nothing in her world would ever collapse, in her cute choker.

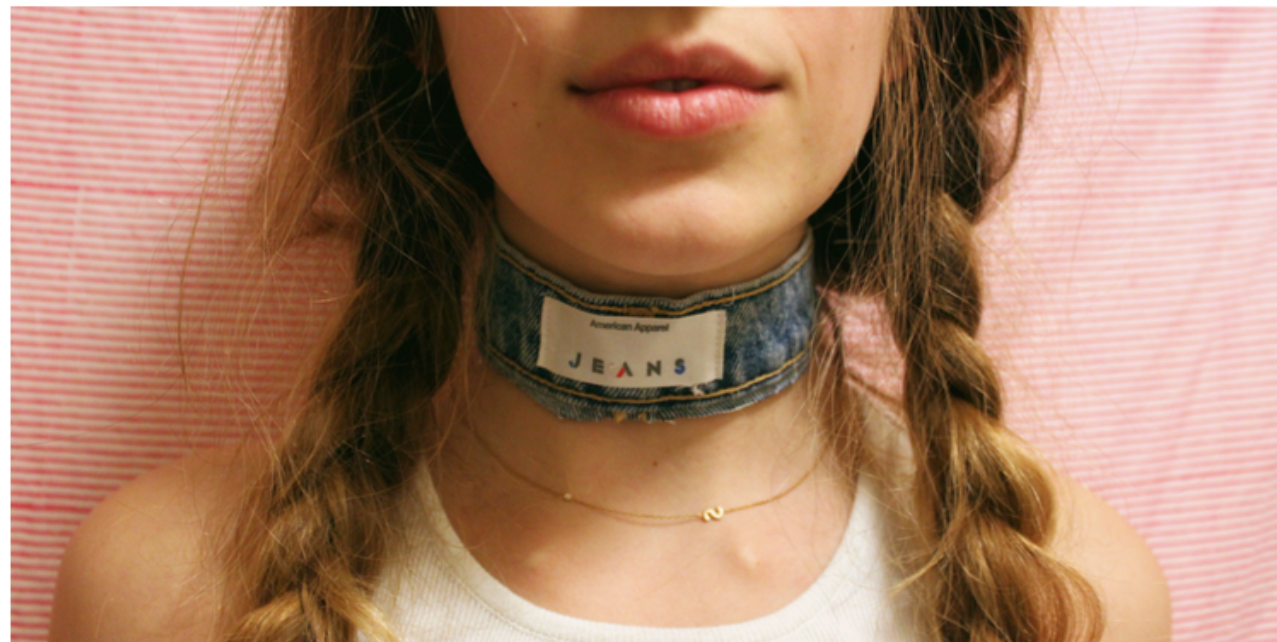
All of these women are people to be thankful for, as all of us in the 21st century are somewhat guilty of loving the choker and thinking that its a trend that maybe we had something to do with. Also, instead of going to buy one from Topshop, ask your mom for leftovers, I’m sure she has plenty.

Realistically speaking, she cannot be given full credit for bringing this back into trend, because perhaps she got this idea from a random woman in Southern California who refuses to believe that the 90s are over. But for archives sake, Jenner gets most of the credit.

Being the type of person who loves to be at the front of every fashion trend, this obviously made me want a choker.

Although, according to my Instagram, I was about six months behind Kylie Jenner for this one. I remember thinking something along the lines of, my mom wore chokers when she was younger, so she'll definitely buy me one. Which was true, my mom was really excited about the fact that chokers were coming back into style. At the beginning I sported them everywhere: to church, to lunch, to school, and the list goes on. I remember a lot of girls telling me stuff like "I love your choker, I wish I could pull that off!", and I thought what's so hard about pulling this off? It's just a necklace. It made me realize, that at least at the beginning of the trend reincarnating, this black band that I had around my neck held some sort of power. It was like I was part of the elite club of nothing. Like all good things, that faded.

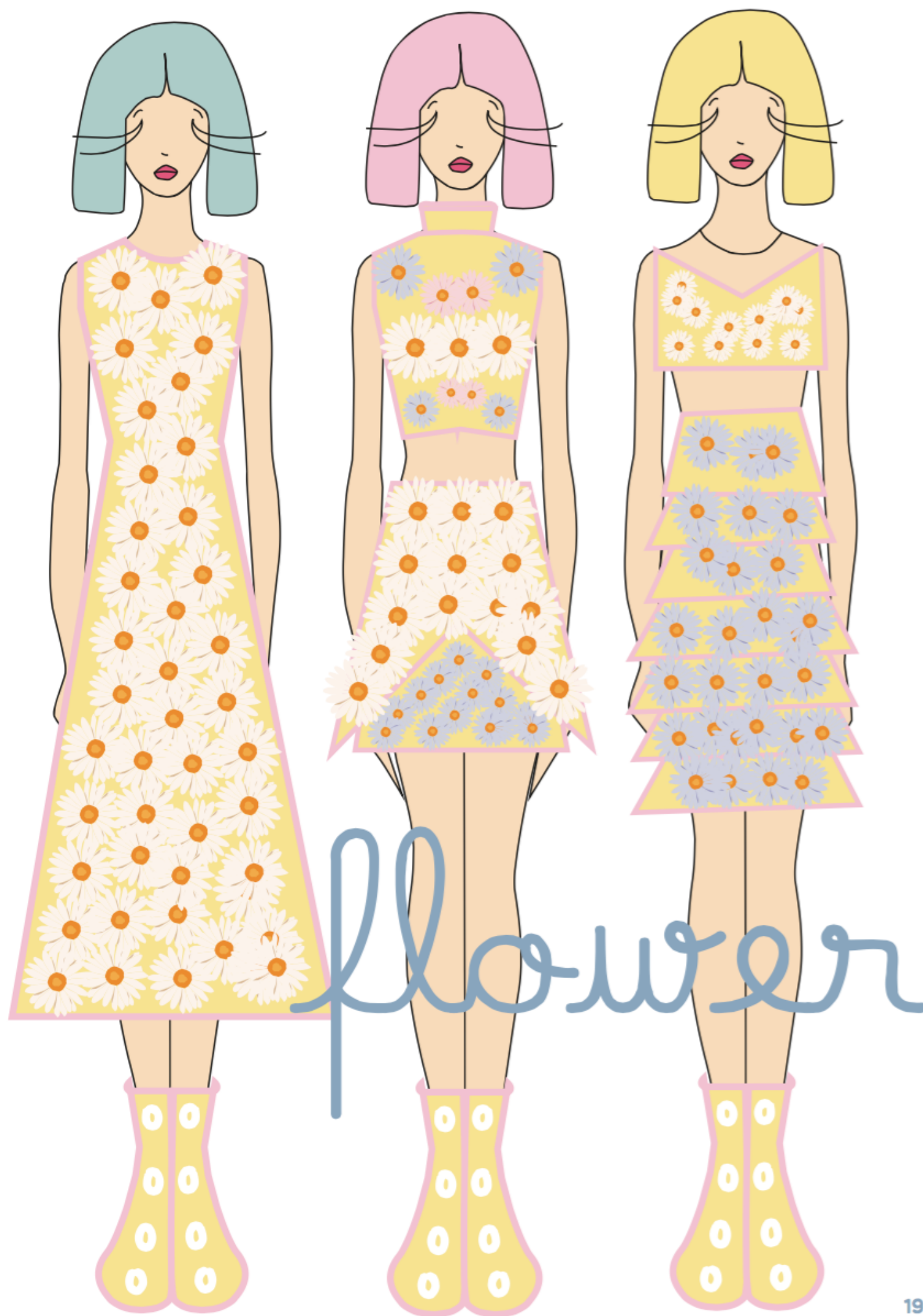
It wasn't long before the "basic-ness" or everything came into play, and chokers became over stereotyped and slightly ruined. Over the course of 2014 and 2015, chokers became the very frenzy of Tumblr and the biggest item of an "aesthetic" that wasn't some sort of white sneaker or succulent.

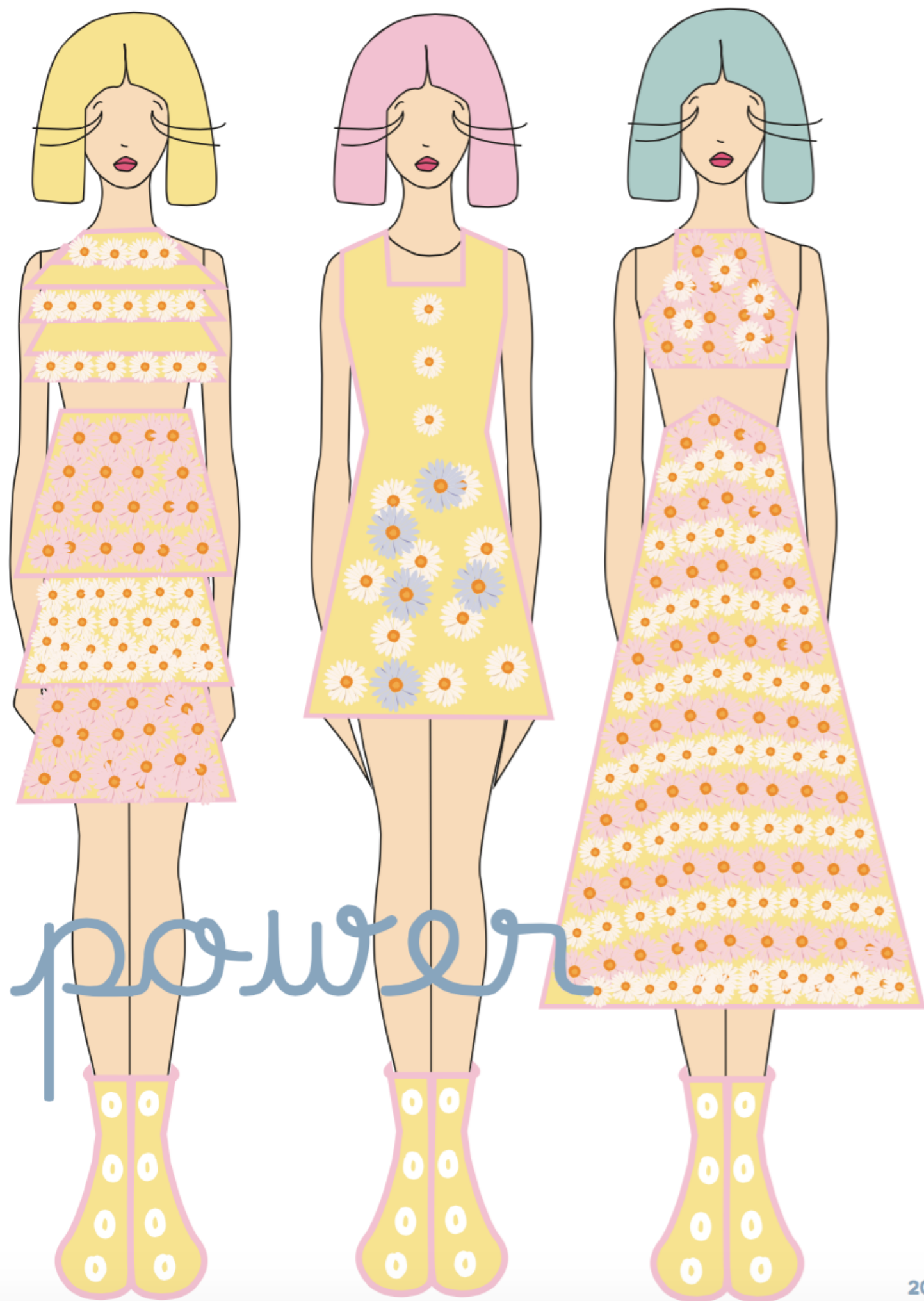


Ortiz, Emma L. Choker Girl. February 17, 2016.



Ortiz, Emma L. Flower Choker. April 5, 2016.





which color are you?



This paper looks primarily at the idea of the soul and how it works in today's fashion industry. It is a compilation of mostly primary sources, including religious documents, and published articles. This paper is successful in finding and explaining first the vague concept of the soul and using that research when connecting the soul to artistic practices, which in turn relates to fashion design.

The soul is something that people almost immediately associate with religion. You know, with the whole concept of the soul leaving our body once you pass away, and it living on. Although some people believe this, and some people do not, my paper goes far beyond that. I believe that the soul is something that goes further than anything religion based, and it is simply human based. All of us have a soul, it is part of our being. It gives us passion, life, and drive. It encompasses our being and gives us not only motivation, but individuality. Although all people have a soul, my paper focuses in on artists specifically, because that is my niche. The soul is a vital part of being a human, and it is a major aspect of our individuality, which makes it the sole purpose of intent when it comes to the creative and art making process found within fashion design.



Stringer, Stella A. Soul Wall. February 17, 2016.

soul |sōl|

noun

1 the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being or animal, regarded as immortal.

- a person's moral or emotional nature or sense of identity: in the depths of her soul, she knew he would betray her.
- emotional or intellectual energy or intensity, especially as revealed in a work of art or an artistic performance: their interpretation lacked soul.

2 the essence or embodiment of a specified quality: he was the soul of discretion | brevity is the soul of wit.

- an individual person: I'll never tell a soul.
- a person regarded with affection or pity: she's a nice old soul.

To give you background on the word soul is likely to be the most vital part of this research paper. No matter which way you look at it, the soul is mainly a religion based understanding. It is looked upon by many different religions, Catholic, Christian, and Jewish to name a few. The soul is also

Studied by philosophers aplenty, and both theologists and philosophers alike have composed a basic understanding of the soul. That is, that 'the [soul is the] immaterial aspect or essence of a human being, that which confers individuality and humanity, often considered to be synonymous with the mind or the self". One of the most commonly known things about the soul is through theology, insisting that it is the, "part of the individual which partakes of divinity and often is considered to survive the death of the body". In early Earth years, people believed that all things had a soul. Like that chair you're sitting on, or the pen in your hand, which when studying the soul doesn't seem like too much of a stretch.



Different cultures have different views on the soul, and different eras have either heightened the importance of the soul or lessened it. Although the Egyptians may have believed that the soul was a dual soul, and the Hebrews did not separate the soul from the body, there is a common ground within their beliefs. "Many cultures have recognized some incorporeal principle of human life or existence corresponding to the soul, and many have attributed souls to all living things."As Aristotle stated, the soul is alive. It lives and it breathes, and it takes on the form of what it inhabits, giving it pureness.

Within my research I figured that I would find an article for the nonbelievers. Although the soul is important for several reasons, including the fact that it drives us, it has also been proven to be an actual asset of our human body. So bottom line, the soul is real. It is living, and it is in you. A doctor in the early 1900s had the same vital interest in the soul that I lay before you today, and tested it for its truth. "In 1907, Dr. Duncan MacDougall was clearly intrigued by the soul and took his research to the next level". He did this by weighing the mass of the soul, using very ill patients. For this experimentation, he used the theory of the soul where it is living within your body and that once you die, it leaves your body and exceeds onto eternal life. This is a belief founded within the Roman Catholic Church. Dr. MacDougall, looked closely at the patients as they were withering away, "he recorded each of the patients time of death, how long they had been on the bed, and also how their weight had changed in the moment they had died". Through each of his patients, he found to be true that the soul weighed 21 grams.

Now that the definition and general understanding of the soul has been discussed, let's get to the juicy part! Answering the big question, what does the soul have to do with fashion design? Well, primarily the soul drives passion.

passion | ˈpɑːʃən |

noun

1 strong and barely controllable emotion: a man of impetuous passion.

- a state or outburst of strong emotion: oratory in which he gradually works himself up into a passion.
- intense sexual love: their all-consuming passion for each other | she nurses a passion for Thomas.
- an intense desire or enthusiasm for something: the English have a passion for gardens.
- a thing arousing enthusiasm: modern furniture is a particular passion of Bill's.

Scientists and ordinary people alike love to state that the body is made up of 70% water, which by all means is true. But, what people forget to state is how much of the body is made up of passion. Passion, as stated above, is a strong emotion, something giving you the existential energy to make, do, or act upon something. To be a fashion designer is not just a fun hobby, but something that comes from within.

Passion is primarily driven by the soul, “is not just the engine of life; it also embodies the why of a thing's existence, it's meaning and purpose”. Each person that walks this earth has a different soul, driving them to bring about different passions. That is why this planet is made up of such unique and individualized people, because each of their souls is different. Different how? It's simple, yet complicated. I like to look at souls differentiation by color. For example, my roommate creates art that oozes in hand embroidery and rose colored wire. On the other hand, I create art that is coated in pastels and doodles. Clearly, both of us have an internal passion and drive to create art (if not we would not be here at this school), yet we go about it much differently. When I asked her what color she would associate her soul to be, she said probably olive or dark purple. Oddly enough, this had been my assumption since the first day of school. Now, when I am asked about the color of my soul, I respond with periwinkle.



Ortiz, Emma L. Soul Background. March 25 2016.

Now, you're probably wondering what my roommate and I have to do with the fact that fashion design is driven by soul. This comparison can be easily connected to both modern day designers and those of the past.

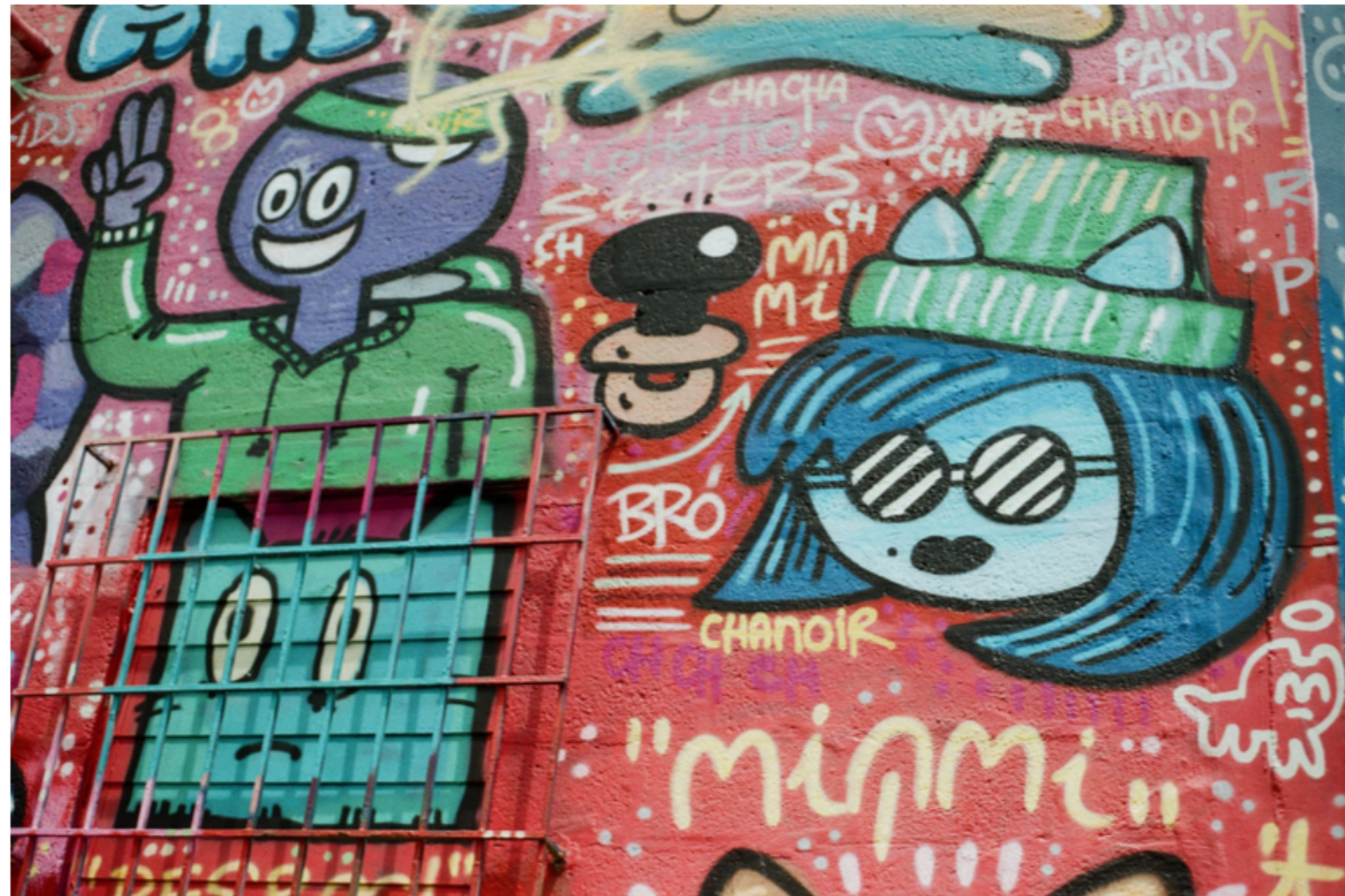
Now, you're probably wondering what my roommate and I have to do with the fact that fashion design is driven by soul. This comparison can be easily connected to both modern day designers and those of the past. Although sometimes people forget to realize that fashion designers are of the most creative people, it is undeniably true. A lot of times fashion is reduced to articles of clothing and trends, but there is much more that goes into it. In my opinion, it is the ultimate creative process. Some artists make art to be displayed on walls or in books, but fashion designers make art that is exposed on the skin. The human is the ultimate canvas. It is the ultimate creative process. Some people might say that the creative process is something coincidental and you are gifted with it simply if you are just gifted with it. But for those with an understanding of the soul, we can realize that the creative process goes far beyond that.



The soul is one of the most prominent components in creativity, if not the most prominent. It feeds into the awakening of the soul and allows us to put our creativity forth and with the fullest potential. The soul and the creative process have way more to do with each other than people like to give it credit for, "it's as if creativity feeds the soul". They work hand in hand, because without the soul, creativity lays flat. A lot of people may find fault or conflict in this theory, but there is an 99% percent chance that people like those are ones who are not driven towards creativity. If I were to remove the soul from the equation, "my fellow creative minds probably know what I mean, and we feel like something's missing".

So I have taken my theory and put it into the fashion world. I have studied different designers and different creative processes. Each designer I have studied has been highly different, yet each designer admitted to the same thing. Fashion design is much more to them than a career or a hobby, it is a lifestyle. They do not wake up each day and decide to make garments and spend their hours dedicated to creating looks, but they are called to do so. There is something greater than them that has placed this passion in them. Sound familiar? This is not a coincidence, it is their soul at work.

Each designer is different. Let's take a look at Alexander McQueen, someone whose style and brand has been very distinct and cohesive throughout his reign. Think skulls, red tones, greyscale, and elegance and you're automatically thinking about Alexander McQueen right? Most people would agree.



Ortiz, Emma L. Soul Background 2. March 25 2016.

If McQueen had a soul that was coated in neon spandex and white crop tops, his brand would look like nothing like it does right now. It is important to realize that his soul is the driving purpose behind his work and his practice. "Just like the 'soul' of a musical composition is the composer's vision that energizes and gives life to the notes played in a musical composition—the actual notes are like the body expressing the vision and feeling of the soul within them".

Now on the other scale, imagine designers Meadham Kirchhoff. This label is run by Edward Meadham and Benjamin Kirchhoff, two distinct and individual men working towards one goal. If anyone knows anything about this brand, it is anything but boring. Their line has been successful (until recently as it has closed), in creating a feeling of being an individualized, exuberant being.

Their collection is oozing in bright color, nylons, enormous ruffles, and just about anything else you can think of. Noticeably the total opposite of someone like Alexander McQueen. In a case like Meadham Kirchhoff, both these men have distinct souls, similar enough to be able to work together in order to create their line. When asked to describe the souls of both Meadham and Kirchhoff, although I can not speak for them, I would assume that is something similar to their line. Bright colors, mixed with neons, laced in white, and looking like a cupcake.

Choosing this topic was anything that constitutes the word vague. Connecting the soul to fashion design? Talk about a personal belief. Yet, for me it is much more than that. I thrive off the idea of being able to know the depth of someone's soul. If it were up to me my profession would be sitting at runway shows, standing next in line to interview the designer. My biggest question being, what color is your soul? In my dreams some of them laugh, followed by what kind of question is that? And in other dreams, the designer would answer normally, with pink or blue or cheetah print. Although I am a religious person, the soul is my second religion. Believing and understanding its depths and how it works within people to bring out their lights. Now whether their light be red or an opaque green is something that is beyond me and will always be beyond me. It is not something that Alexander McQueen chose, and it is not something that up and coming designers today chose either. It is something that is grown within us and given nutrients through the power of the soul. It's power of creativity, and its power of life.

so, which color are you?



Photography:

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Ortiz, Emma L. Choker Girl. February 17, 2016.

Source Unknown. Gigi Hadid Choker. Google Images.

Source Unknown. Marie Antoinette. Google Images.

Source Unknown. Kendall Jenner Choker. Google Images.

Source Unknown. Alexa Chung Choker. Google Images.

Source Unknown. Britney Spears Choker. Google Images.

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Illustrations:

Ortiz, Emma L. 2016.

