

ABSTRACT DEPLETED TERRAIN

BY OMER CARMELI





ABOUT

I'm 24 years old and a graduate of the Fashion Design Department at Shenkar. I spent my childhood in an unconventional environment — a zoo, where my mother worked as the head of the education department. This experience shaped my perspective on nature and led me to ask deep questions about the relationship between humans and the environment.

My design is characterized by clean lines, rich textures, and in-depth material exploration. I'm drawn to garments with silent strength — timeless pieces that carry emotional and environmental value. For me, sustainability is not only about materials, but an opportunity to create a genuine connection between people and the clothes they wear.

I see fashion as a language — a way to tell stories about nature, responsibility, and beauty born from thoughtful design.



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Where material ends, meaning begins.



"Abstract Depleted Terrain" is my graduation project, composed of a collection of five womenswear outfits developed as part of my studies at the Shenkar College of Engineering, Design and Art, in the Department of Fashion Design. The project explores the complex relationships between nature and industry, beauty and destruction, using landscapes as a visual platform for emotion and critique.

The inspiration emerged from the works of artist Edward Burtynsky, whose photography documents processes of mining, extraction, and the erosion of natural resources. His aerial images reveal scarred terrains and visuals that resemble abstract paintings – beautiful and violent at the same time. Through documenting environmental harm, they raise pressing questions about the cost of progress and humanity's responsibility toward the world it inhabits.

The collection also draws on the sculptural work of Richard Serra – massive, rusted steel structures that embody the physical and emotional force of industry within human spaces. Their presence – uncomfortable, heavy, and charged – inspired the shapes, textures, and material choices of the garments.



At the heart of the work was a desire to re-explore raw materials – among them, leather. As an animal-derived material, leather is deeply rooted in the tradition of fashion design, yet it also ignites critical discussions about ethics, sustainability, and resource use. In this project, real leather is used as part of a broader system of natural materials, chosen for its durability, quality, material potential, and a mindful approach to its use.

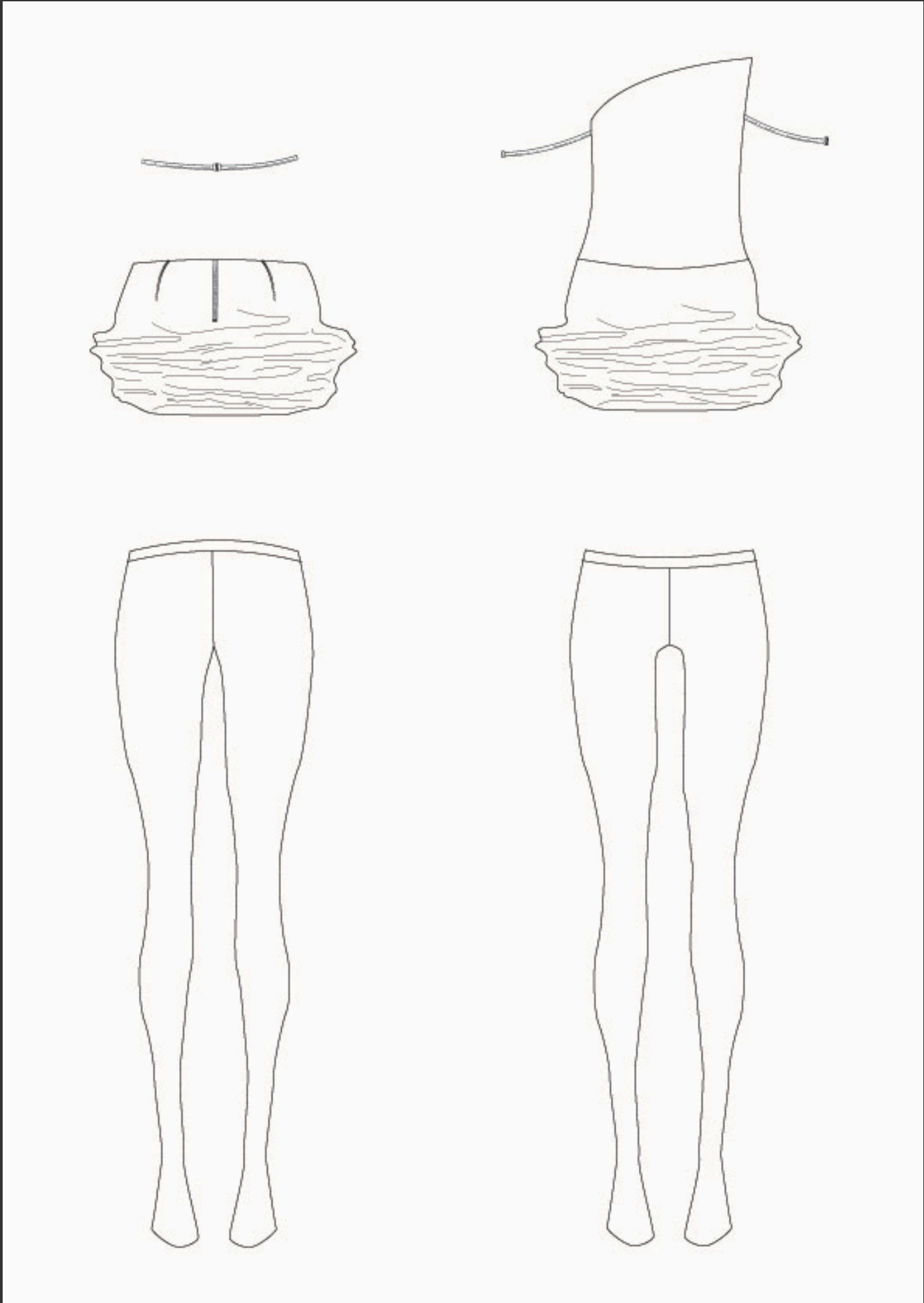
The leather underwent handcraft treatments that merged its natural rawness with an industrial aesthetic, evoking a rust-like texture.

The featured outfit addresses the theme of waste accumulation – compressed, valueless materials returned to nature. These are products that are repeatedly compacted into cubes to try cope with the endless volumes of waste we discard back into the environment. That same environment, already deeply harmed by relentless resource extraction, continues to suffer. The garment's structure conveys weight, erosion, and ultimately compression – representing what will take years to disappear, a kind of "residue" discarded into the wounded landscape.

The project aims to create thoughtful, high-quality fashion that remains connected to the world from which it emerges – offering a sense of luxury not through abundance, but through intent. A collection that confronts questions of ethics, aesthetics, responsibility, and mindful resource use – especially leather, an ancient yet vital material that offers a path toward renewed connection between humans, material, and nature.



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SKETCHES

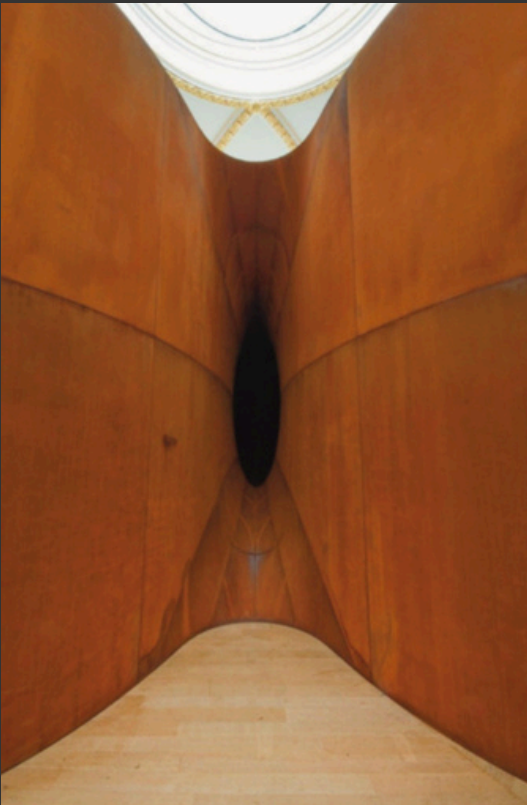
FINAL COLLECTION SKETCHES





INDUSTRIAL SKIN

Massive, rusted steel forms that impose their weight on the viewer, evoking a sense of discomfort, dominance, and industrial power within human space.



RICHARD SERRA



Collage of some
of my first drafts.

INSPIRATION FOR THE LOOK

Waste compression is the moment when overconsumption takes shape — a heavy mass of valueless materials, pressed into a sealed cube and sent back into nature.



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INSPIRATION



TOILE CONSTRUCTION

Inner layer



Working on the dress



PART OF THE PROCESS

Hand-dyed leather inspired by
rust's organic textures.







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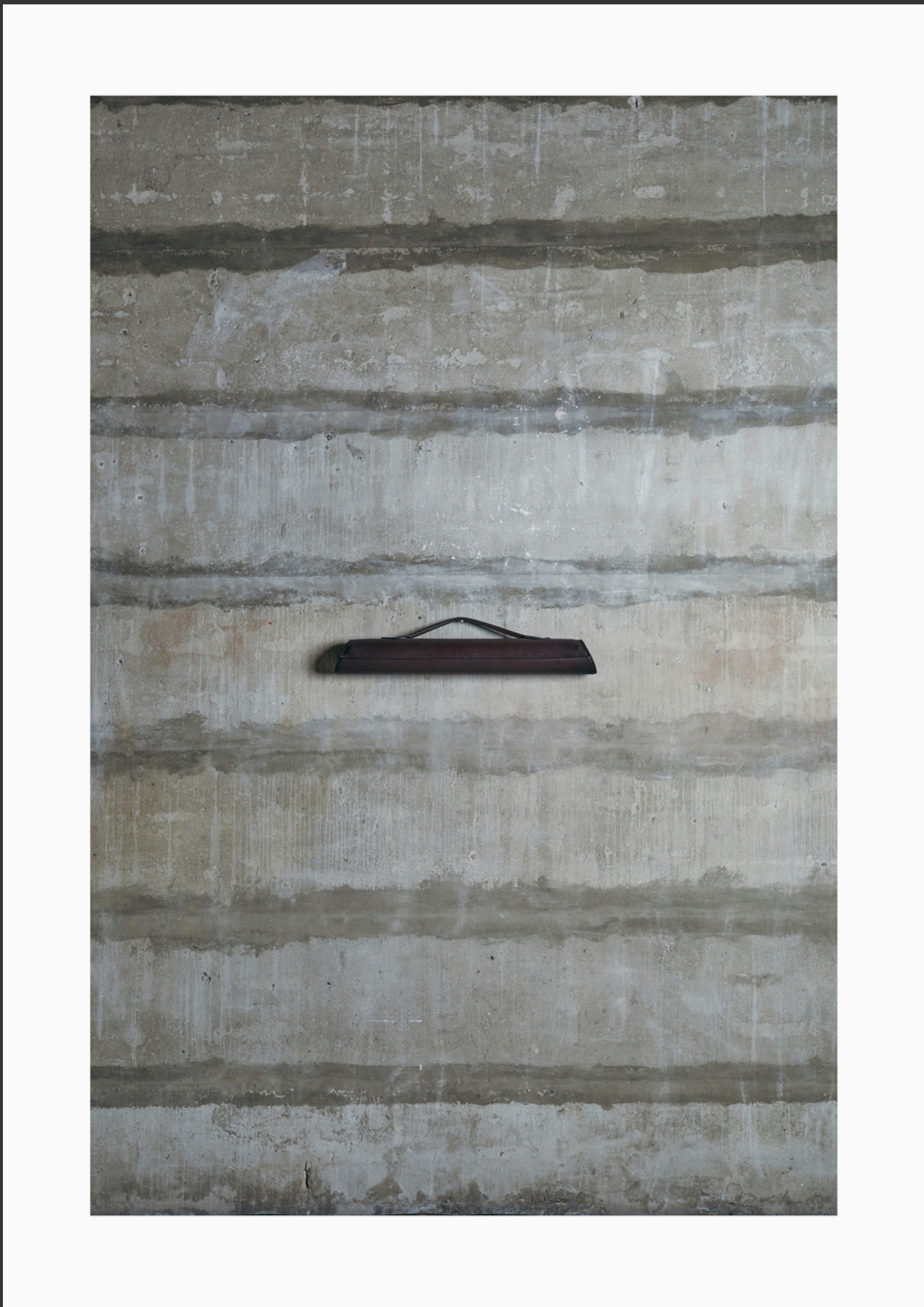


PHOTOSHOOT





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BAG INSPIRATION

THE PIPE BAG



END

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