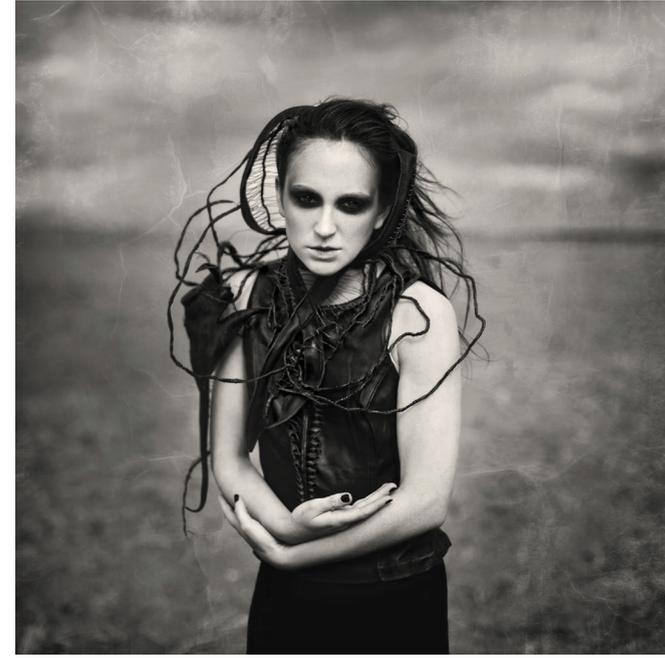


CEXN
CLOTHING ART
2013



photography: L: Julien Silences R: D.P.Danner

photography: Claudia Wycisk

about us

CEXN is a label that reaches beyond fashion and into costuming art. Though even if there is any sense in sticking to those definitions, there are so many ways in which their work can be described as unconventional.

Their costume pieces are extraordinary and hardly suitable for every-day life. Outstandingly eccentric or cool and classy, caught in aesthetics that always combine beauty with some kind of disruption.

When organic netting, almost with a life of its own, faces raw, menacing forms, it is the intervention into the physicality of the human body that creates this very special emotional impact. The works are not built, but grown, moulded and tamed. They are not fitted, but an extension of the actual body. However inventive, these things always have an authentic feeling, like an unexpectedly beautiful yet indescribable side of the personality of its wearer finding a visual expression in this way.

CEXN creates body images that always live at the border to their opposite and are therefore hard to define.

Bestowing to that is also the choice of working materials: apart from heavy leather, moulded into organic shapes, you will find wire and cable in part-filigree, part-rough structures. Furthermore you will also find feathers, pearls, metalwork, rough burlap and delicate wool; and, next to these unusual materials, high-quality tailoring.

So costumes and outfits, headpieces, collars and masks, belts, skirts, bags and a wide variety of other accessories are lovingly handcrafted. These are one-of-a-kind-pieces, each one with its own exceptional character.

It happens that customers request reproductions with customized design, sizes and colours. These are individual commissions and never identical to the original. Also, due to the increasingly asked question of what to wear with CEXN's eccentric pieces, a small variety of supplementary clothes are also offered, which are both comfortable and versatile. These are released in limited collections.

CEXN does not have the general masses as their target audience. Their customers are mostly unique, independent, aesthetics-focused and creative people. Several musicians and other stage personalities have been equipped by CEXN, such as the bands IAMX, Behemoth, Grave Digger and Omnia; comedian and musician Jack Woodhead and the magician duo Ehrlich brothers. Other regular requests come from photographers and filmmakers for artistic collaborations. For these purposes, the costume pieces are available for rental.

collection 2013



Asking themselves, "What would a great personality wear, if there were no societal conventions to restrict them?"; CEXN finds a hint in an historical paradigm. Its stylistic devices are taken, re-shaped, cut free from their preconceptions and made into something entirely new.

The decadence of a pompous era and the representation of sovereignty are referenced in alliance with their function of support and plating. This makes the fragility and the protection requirement obvious, and points out how clothing can become a prosthesis to stabilise self-perception.

This deep bond of body and identity lead to the worn becoming an extension of the body. The floral shapes spring out in a headstrong way with inexorable ethnic power, but from shapes known to be man-made. Fine wireworks imitate baroque lace, cable and chopped leather become armour plating, a kingly crown receives an insectoid smack.

CEXN's designs become a means of painting: filigreed lines, as if drawn with ink and feather; face planes and the arrangement on the body set optical weighting; reduced colours with some isolated exceptions make an actual object the composition of the image.

With all the impact of the dominant means of design, CEXN creates, beside the eccentric one-of-a-kind-pieces, a complimentary fashion line of plain elegance.

The collection "Suertes" distances itself from the idiosyncratic structures of the costume pieces. Made of broadcloth, the skirts and jackets play with geometrical shapes and have clearly defined lines and courses that make the wearer appear calm, self-confident and grounded.

"Für Elise" is a reference to historical underwear. Focusing on the intimate feeling of fabric that is united with the skin, delicate cotton, hardly more than a veil, is used to make playful underdresses, bodices and wide dancing skirts. Shirts made of high-quality kid-mohair- and silk-wool, remind one of a spider's web.



left:
collection 2013 (summary):

VEINS.AND.LEAVES
DIGNITY.IN.BLACK
CHANDRA
RED.PEARL.WIRE.MASK
PHYSALIS.NECKPIECE
FLORA
SIREN.CORSET
SIREN.COLLAR.I
SURYA
SIREN.COLLAR.II



right:
SUERTES
FÜR ELISE (summary)



background

CEXN was brought to life in 2009 by Bartholomäus Wischnewski, after he finished his studies. Before this, he was exercised in the craft of costume making and discovered leather as his favourite material.

In 2011 CEXN became a duo: Dana Mikelson, dipl.- designer, has always declared her costumes as fine art and has tried out all the narrative and staging potential it holds in photography and film.

Since then, they work together very closely.

In their studios in Mainz and Berlin they work partially independent and partially intertwined and coordinated.

On one hand, it is their craftsmanship that completes the pieces, as Dana's delicate wirework adds a subtle note to Bartholomäus' leather constructions.

On the other, it is the shared understanding of aesthetics, artistic value and the power of depiction, as well as the immeasurable respect for each other that makes them share all decisions on representative, economic and artistic issues.

They put a great weight on embodiment in media and therefore take great measures to assure the quality and artistic expression. Usually they develop a staging concept with a photographer – who is always request to bring in his own personal touch just as the model is challenged to wear the pieces with their personality.

In the end, it is not all about the costume piece, but about creating images using your own rules of reality and in doing so turning the body into a playground, and making visible on the outside a mirror of its inner life.

artists



Tomasz, Orion' Wróblewski // BEHEMOTH
photography: Sylwia Makris



THE BEAUTIFUL DISEASE
photography: Angst-im-Wald



OMNIA
photography: Eline



JACK WOODHEAD
photography: Claudio Michel



our services

design and manufacture of costumes and fashion

one-of-a-kind-pieces and limited series
customization
designs for stage, photography and film

photoshootings

production
art direction
set design
styling

contact

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