



CDA

Scholarship Program

OYA

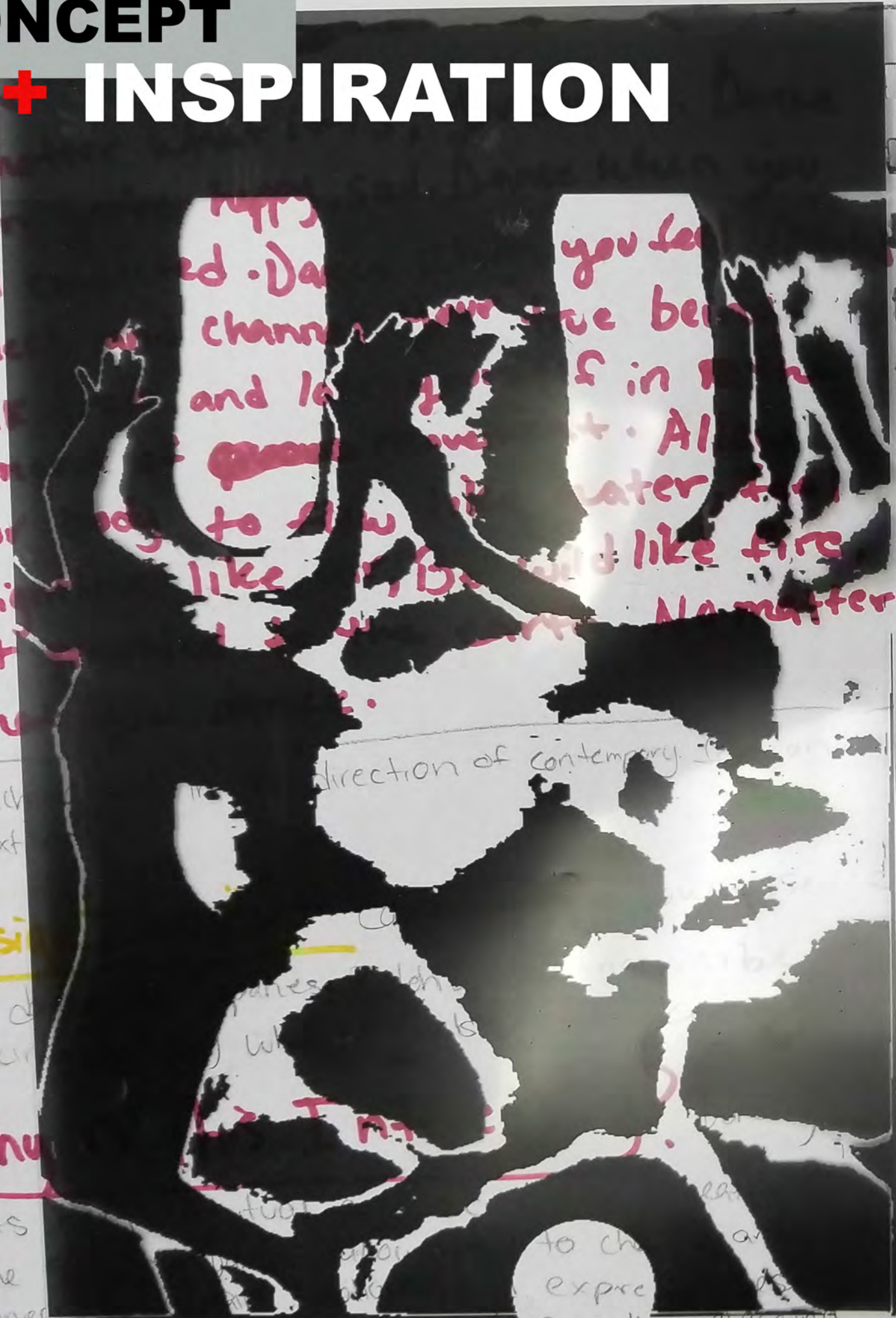
Textile Collection

Academy of Art University

DONOVAN SMITH

CONCEPT

+ INSPIRATION

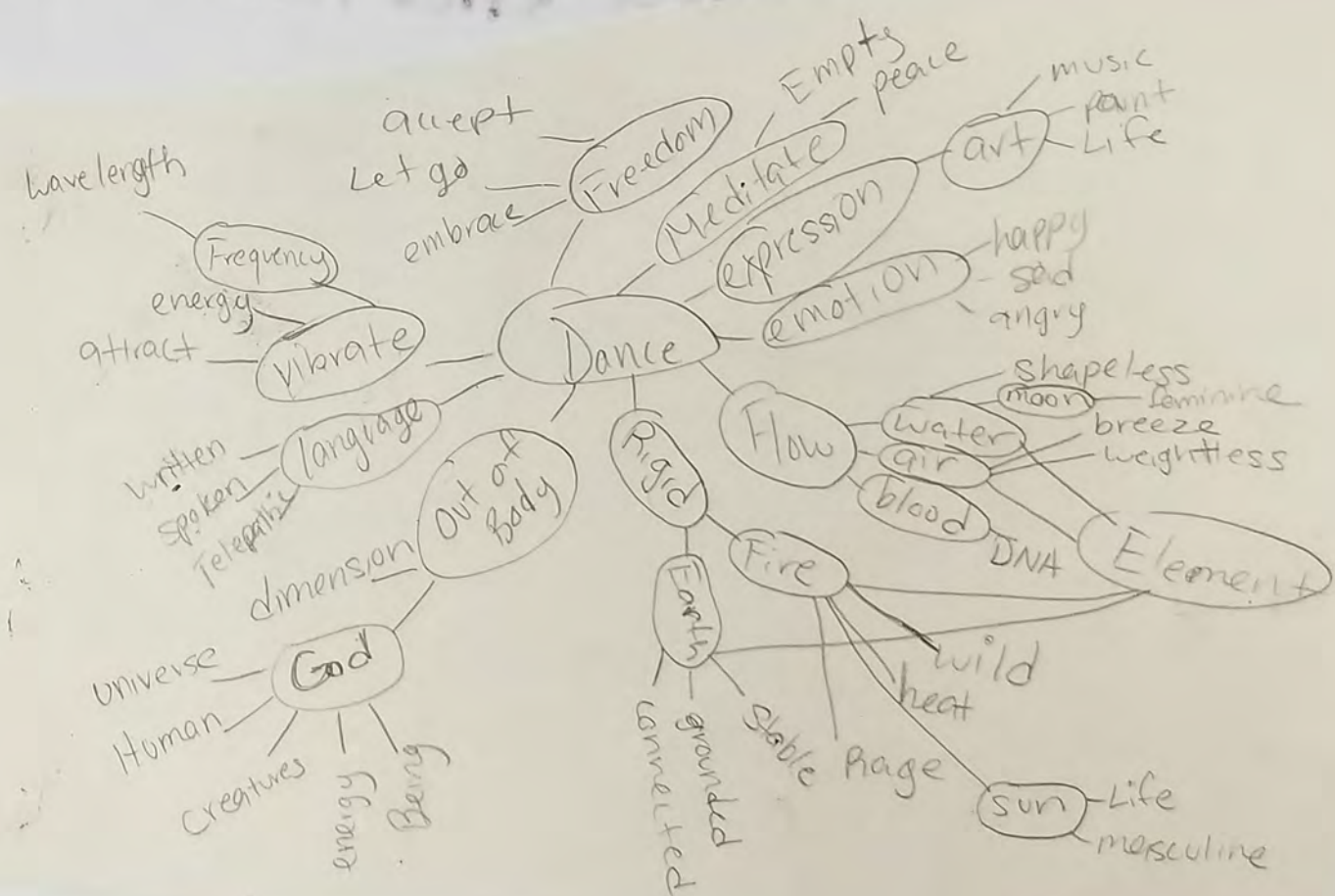


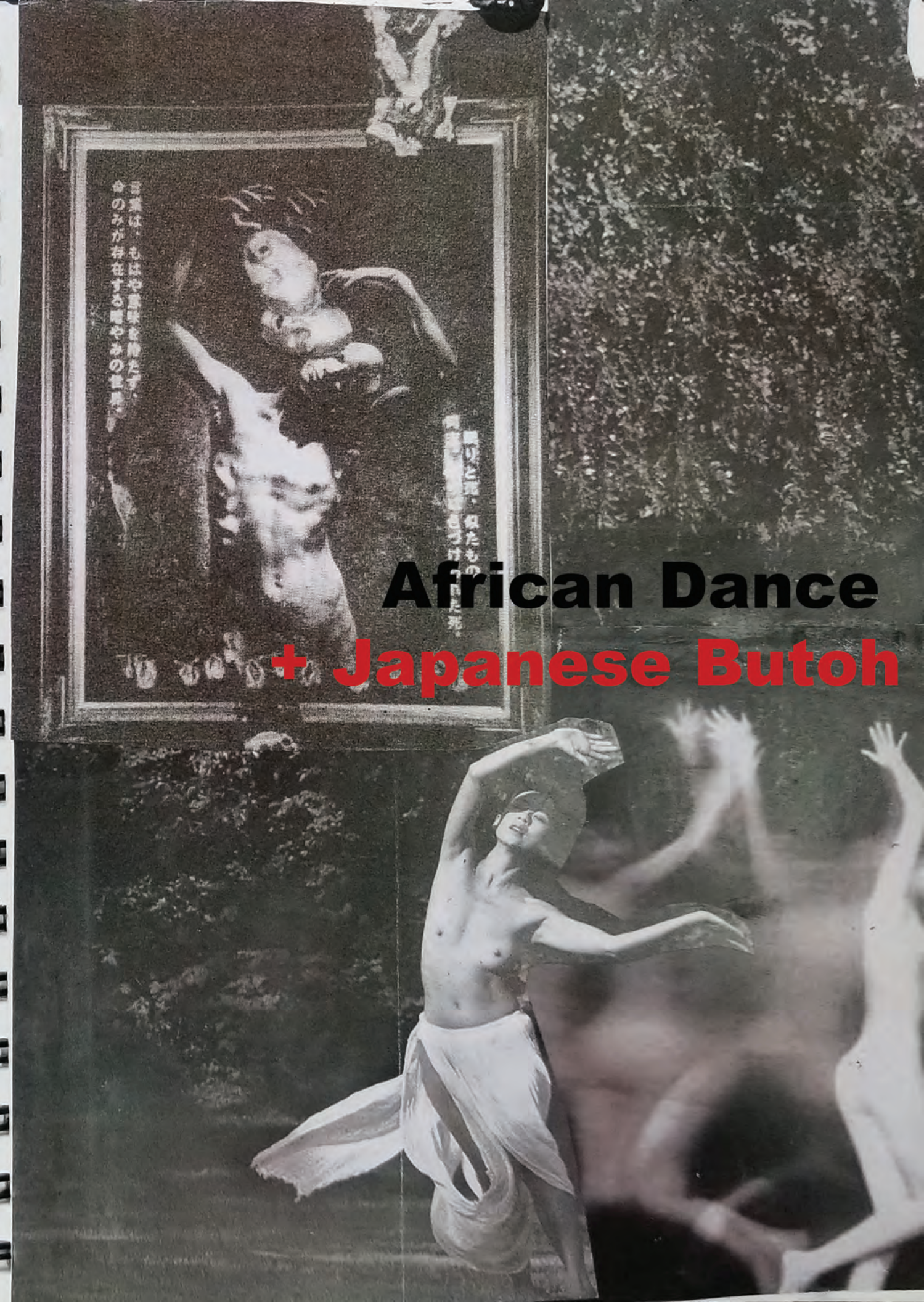
What is Dance? Dance is the melodic, Rhythmic movement of the body that is usually a reaction to sound.

Sound (music) is a universal frequency. Sound is a vibration. when music hits our brains it send signals to the rest of our bodies. Thus dance

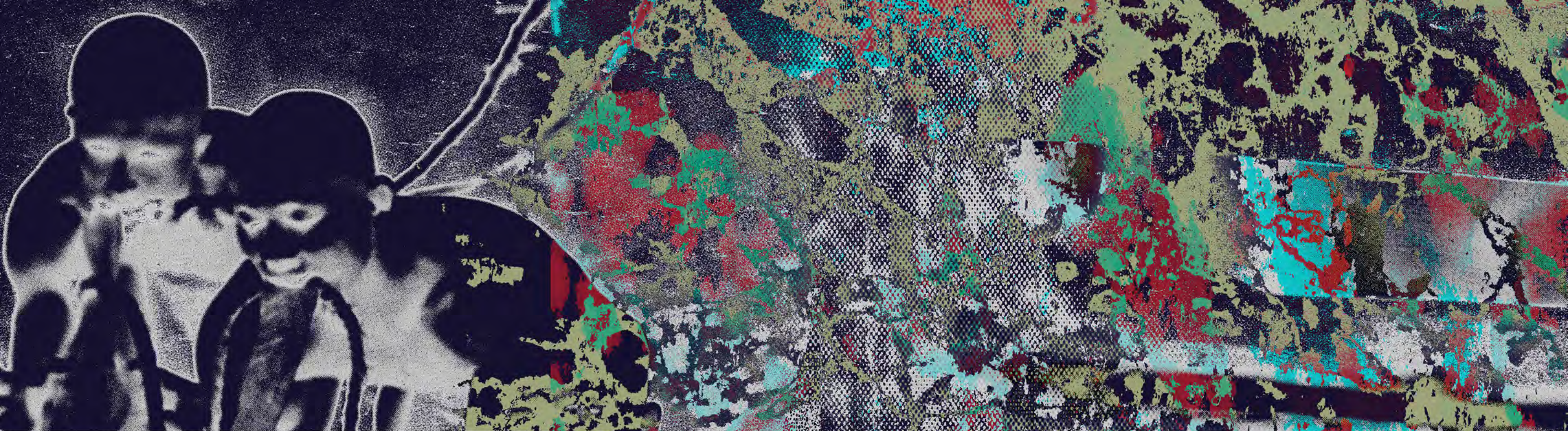
Dancing has the ability to connect us to divine super cosmic consciousness.

What does Dancing feel like?

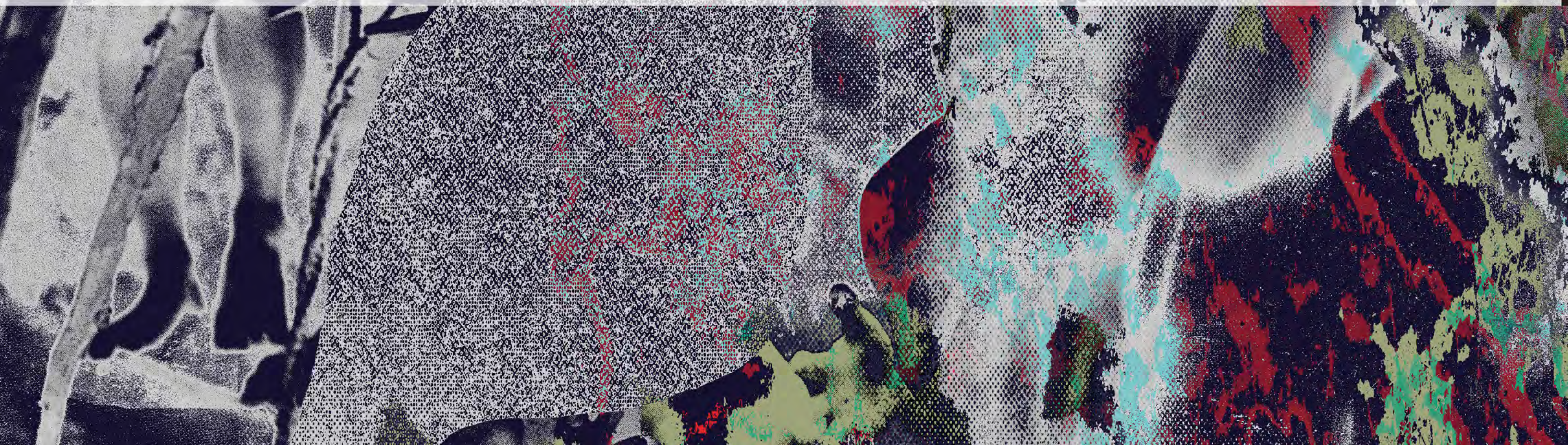




African Dance + Japanese Butoh



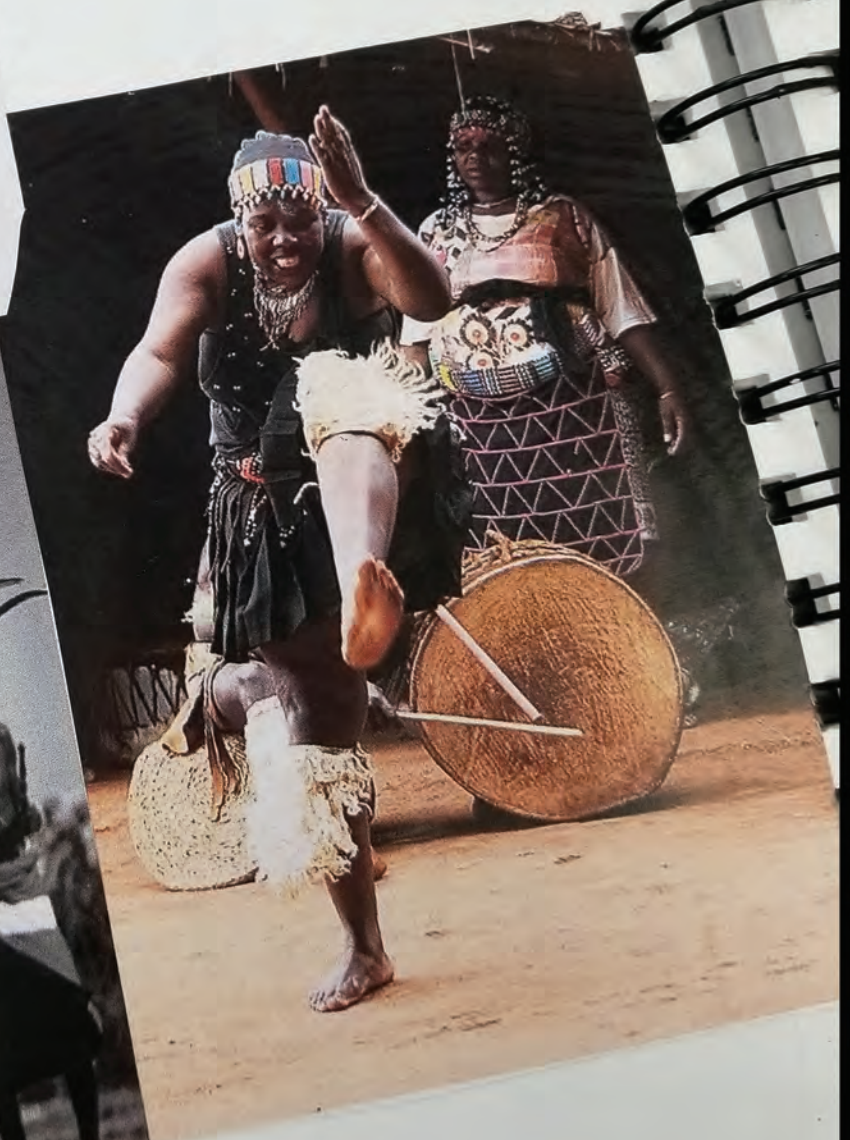
“Through this expression, we are able to connect and channel any emotion we may feel in the moment. It’s completely meditative, transcendental and abstract.”



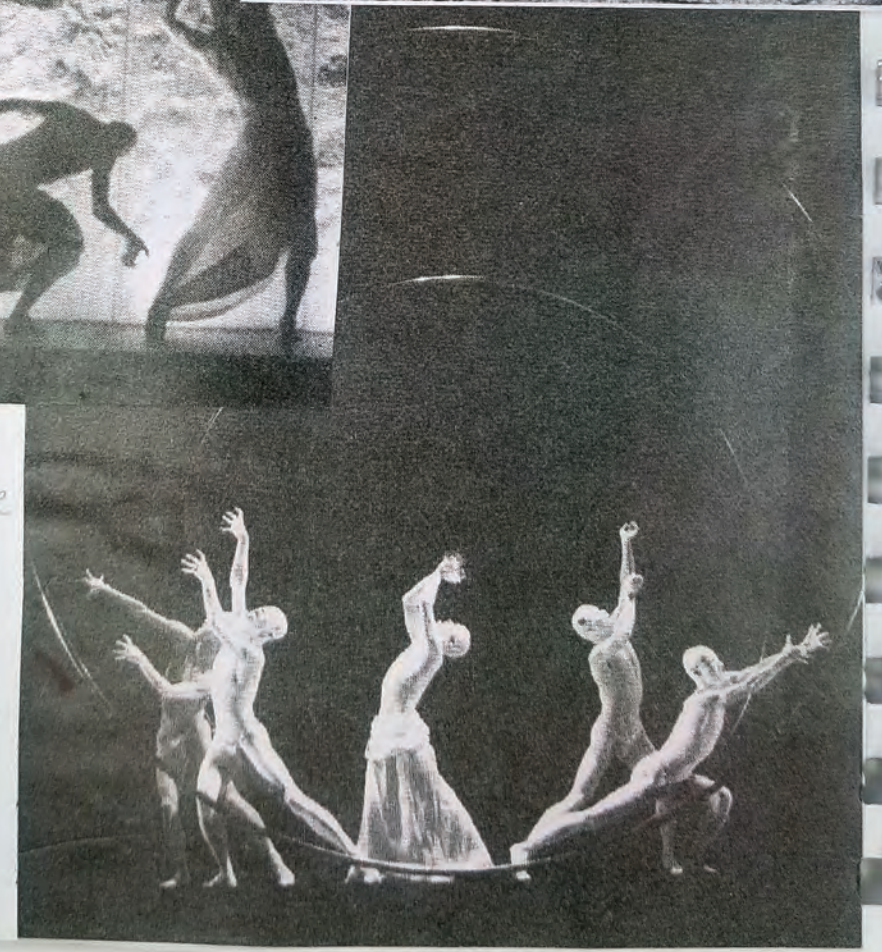
Movement

Because Drums are considered the heartbeat, movement tends to be more grounded to the earth. Powerful, strong, controlled, exaggerated.

- Stomping Feet
(Earth)



Dancers usually are bare skinned with white paint covering their bodies head to toe. Sometimes wearing masks or draped clothing.



Shadows dancing in flickering light
guiding souls into the night
Heeding the call of twilight hours
basking in their unearthly powers
Eyes watching in hidden silence
quiet witness to this ethereal dance
Gleaming bright with sheer elation
hearts quivering in anticipation
Silhouettes cavorting in wicked delight
aware of eyes watching in the night
Enchanted spirits come out to play
never seeing the light of day
Night shadows casting on distant light
silently vanishing from our sight



shadow dance

by Ruby Cunningham



Oya is a deity of the winds, lightning, death and rebirth. Oya originates from the lands of the Yoruba tribe in west Africa. She represents the force of necessary change in nature and life. Oya is the storm who channels her expression from within. In Africa, tribes gather in sacred ceremonies to play music, chant and dance in communication with Oya. To receive guidance and attain clarity. African music is powered by the drums and the drums are considered the “heartbeat of rhythm”. I always connect this statement to the big bang theory, how there is this explosion in the universe that expanded outwards which created life. This perfectly represents the movement in African dance as explosive, strong and grounded to the earth.

In the 1960s, Japan introduced an abstract performance movement called “Butoh”. This is later to be joined with an uprising in fashion and other art forms as a result of World War II.” Butoh”, which means “Dance of darkness”, channels the same energies of Oya which grants a way for performers to connect to the “shadow-self”. The dark side of our very being. Performers usually are bare-skinned with white paint covering their bodies, sometimes wearing masks and draped clothing. They move rigid and slow to portray an eerie, dark, seductive and grotesque essence.

Since this collection is centered around the emotional dance, My main goal is to capture it’s raw essence. More so what dancing feels like and translating that to what the feeling looks like. This expression known as dance is very spiritual and scientific beneath the surface. Dancing in its scientific form, is melodic, rhythmic movement of the body as a reaction to sound. Sound (music) is a frequency which vibrates on a certain level. In its most simplest form, Dance is expression. Through this expression, we are able to connect and channel any emotion we may feel in that moment. It’s completely meditative, transcendental and abstract.

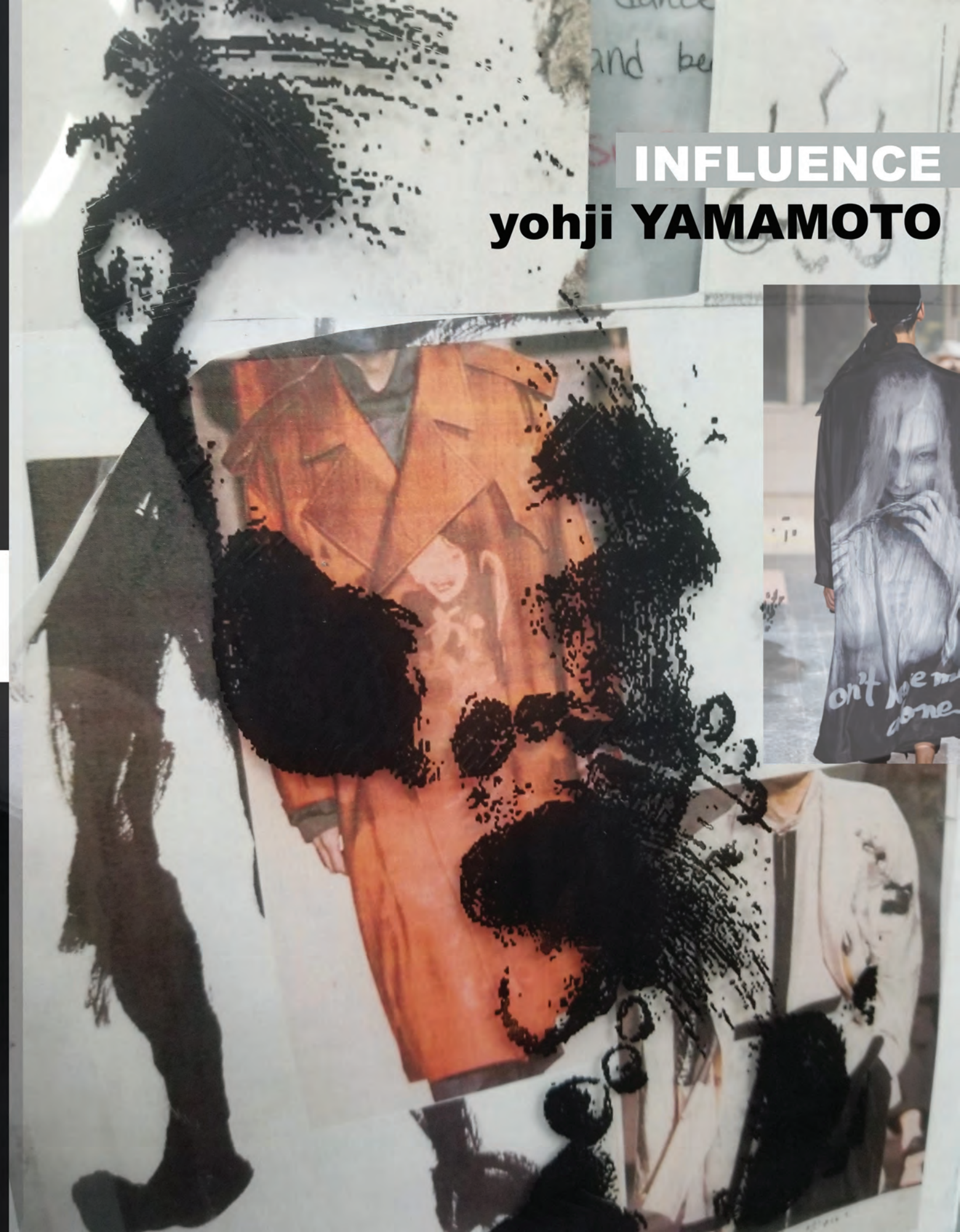
My collection is a combination of lines, textures, and photographs that carry a heavy weight of emotion along with it. The bold lines deliver the strength and power within African music and dance. The overlaying textures represents the depth one has to oneself. The fact that we have many layers to ourselves. The textures also catch a glimpse of what the feelings of dance look like on an energetic level. My colors expressed as its mood. Strong and in harmony as well as fragile and sporadic. The use of a translucent paper-like fabric stands for our struggles as people to be translucent and vulnerable.

Embarking on this collection has allowed me to embrace and reveal a part of myself that has been suppressed for some time now. Through dancing and the inner standing of it, I have been able to understand myself. A poem written by Ninka says, “Dance, my mentor, my father, my priest, my tool, my love, my home”. Where I find myself without judgement so pure. An open soul, transcending illusion, freedom and beauty. Unbound by space and time. A silent call gently touching, reaching, inviting others to join, the fullness of life.

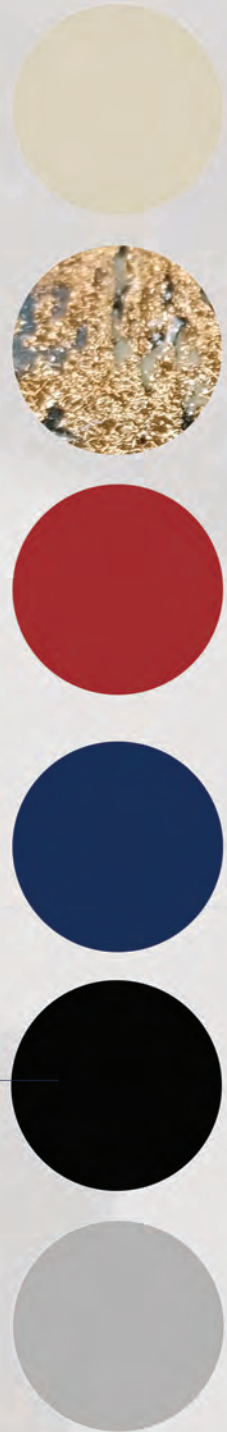
INFLUENCE

yohji YAMAMOTO

Yohji Yamamoto is known for being highly conceptual.
His approach and presentation towards collections tells stories.
Yamamoto's textiles are remarkably expressive and experimental,
and constantly overstepping boundaries while keeping his aesthetics he has built over the years.



COLOR STORY



COLOR / FABRIC + test





My collection is a combination of bold line, textures and photographs that carry a heavy weight of emotion along with it.





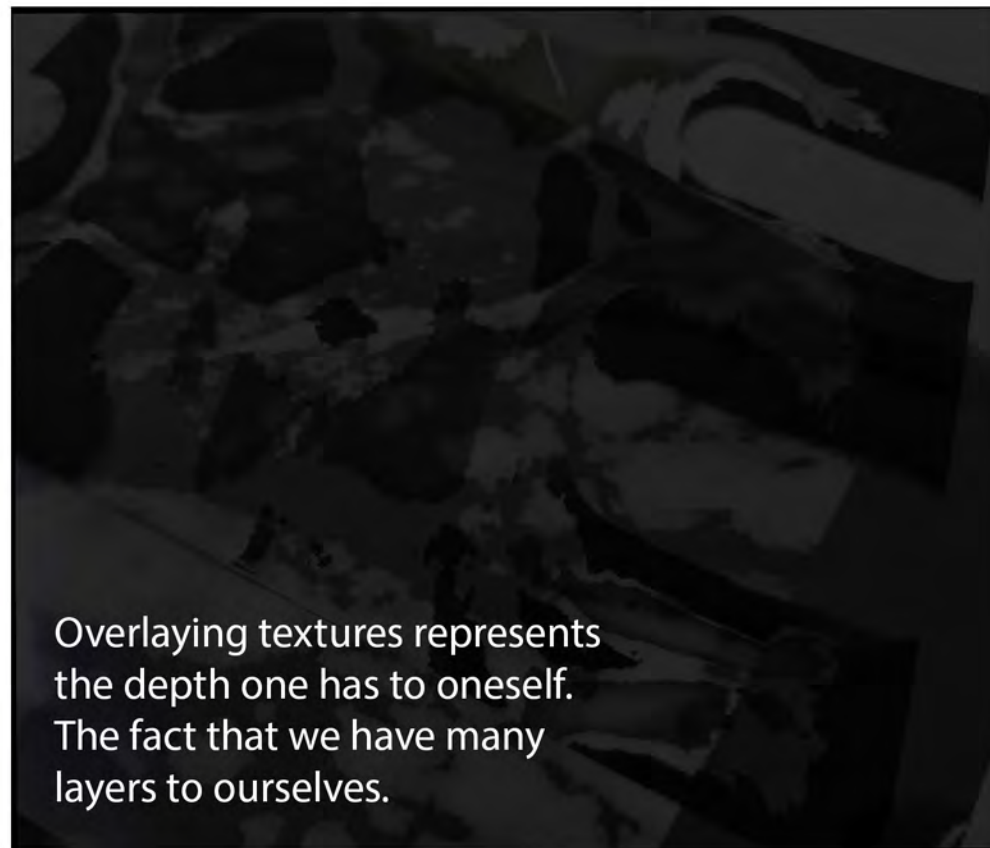




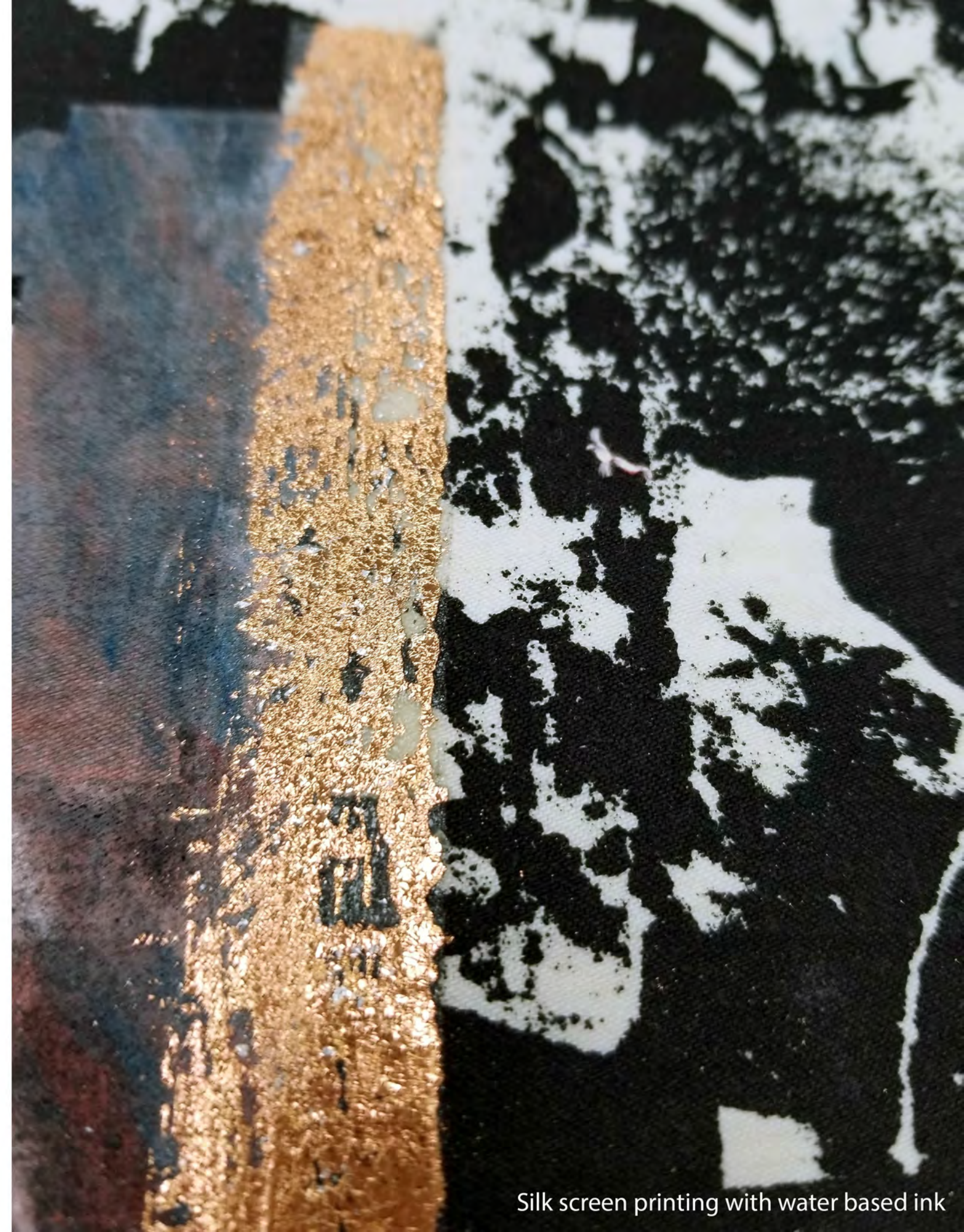


TEXTILE DESIGNS





Overlaying textures represents
the depth one has to oneself.
The fact that we have many
layers to ourselves.



Silk screen printing with water based ink



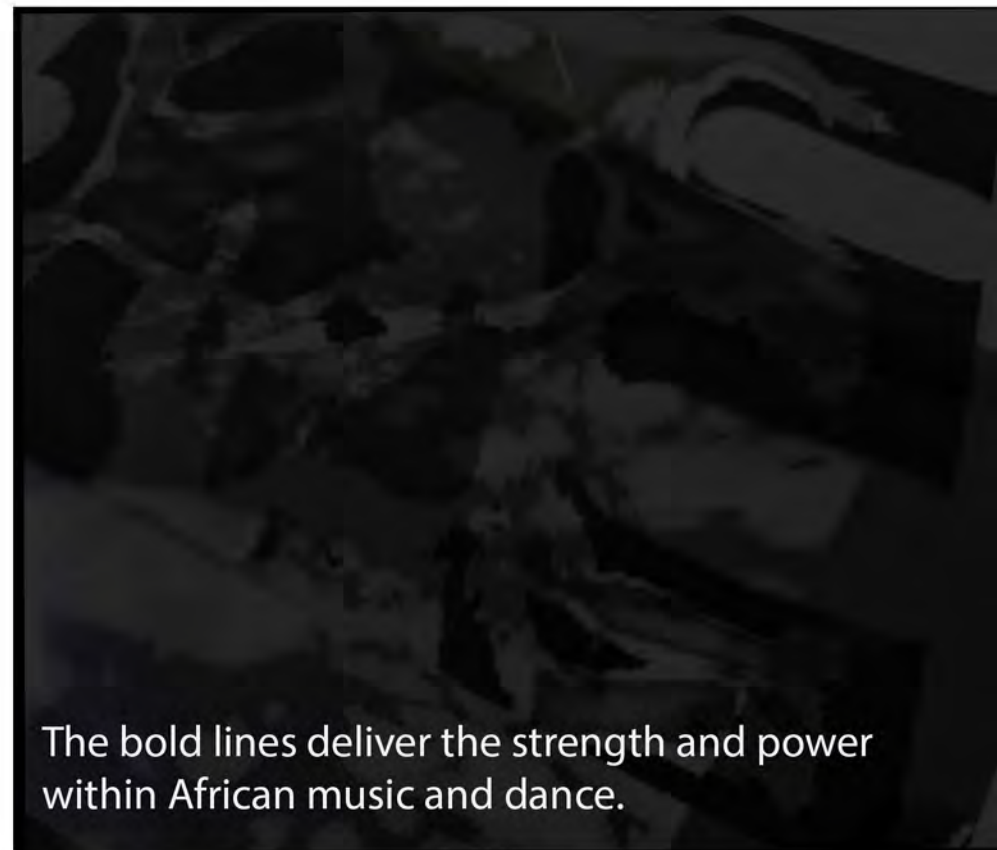
Silkscreen printing with water based ink, discharge printing on various fabric



Silkscreen printing with water based ink on Jacquard fabric



Silk screen printing with water based ink



The bold lines deliver the strength and power within African music and dance.



Silk screen printing with water based ink

TEXTILE COLLECTION





DONOVAN SMITH

Textile Designer