

The Seventh Day

Story background



Yu Hua, China's contemporary pioneering writer, a native of Haiyan County, Jiaxing City, Zhejiang Province, whose representative works include "Alive", "Xu San Guan Selling Blood", "Brothers", and "Wen Cheng"

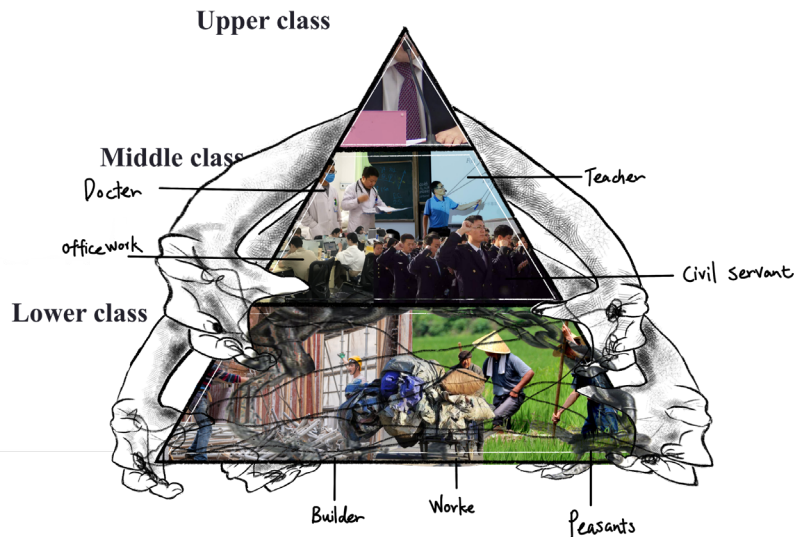


In the original novel, the deceased Yang Fei went to a funeral parlour and witnessed that people waiting to be cremated were also divided into different social class, just as they were when they were alive. Eventually, he voluntarily gave up the cremation due to the lack of a graveyard, and he began to reminisce and recount what he had witnessed in the seven days after his death. Yang Fei is actually telling the story from an observer's point of view, involving many phenomena that people had heard of, or even seen and experienced in their daily lives in that era in China, but which are easily forgotten after a helpless sigh: the priority of dignitaries, forced demolition, forced confessions, false reporting of the number of deaths in accidents, petitioning and counter-petitioning, hospitals calling dead babies as medical rubbish, a woman jumping off a building to commit suicide because of a Shanzhai mobile phone, and so on.

In my story, the concept that we want to tell more is -- we can't help it. The deceased Yang Fei, Yang Jinbiao, Mouse Girl, Li Qing, Li Yuezhen, restaurant owner and so on, all of them were forced to die because of various reasons they could not help themselves. Everyone fantasises about the world after death, and everyone's fantasies are different, and in the story, the place of the dead is exactly a fantasised and dreamlike world after death. There, everyone is equal, everyone lives a happy life and can control their own life.

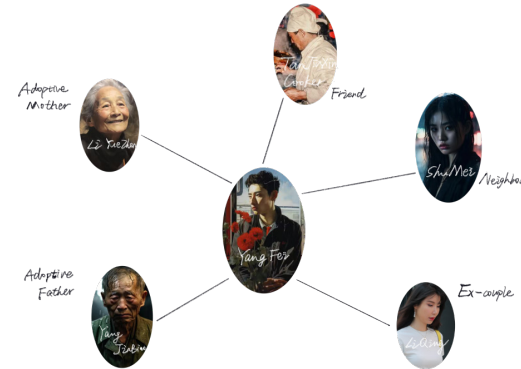


China's current interpretation of the destination of the soul is a blend of the Buddhist concept of the six paths of reincarnation and some folklore. Legend has it that after death the soul is escorted to hell by the Black and White Irregulars. In hell, the King of Hell will judge the souls. Immediately after that, those souls will cross the Naiho Bridge over the River of Forgetfulness. There are three levels of the bridge, and according to the judgement of the King of Hell, those souls will drink Meng Po soup and go to different bridges to start a new cycle of reincarnation.

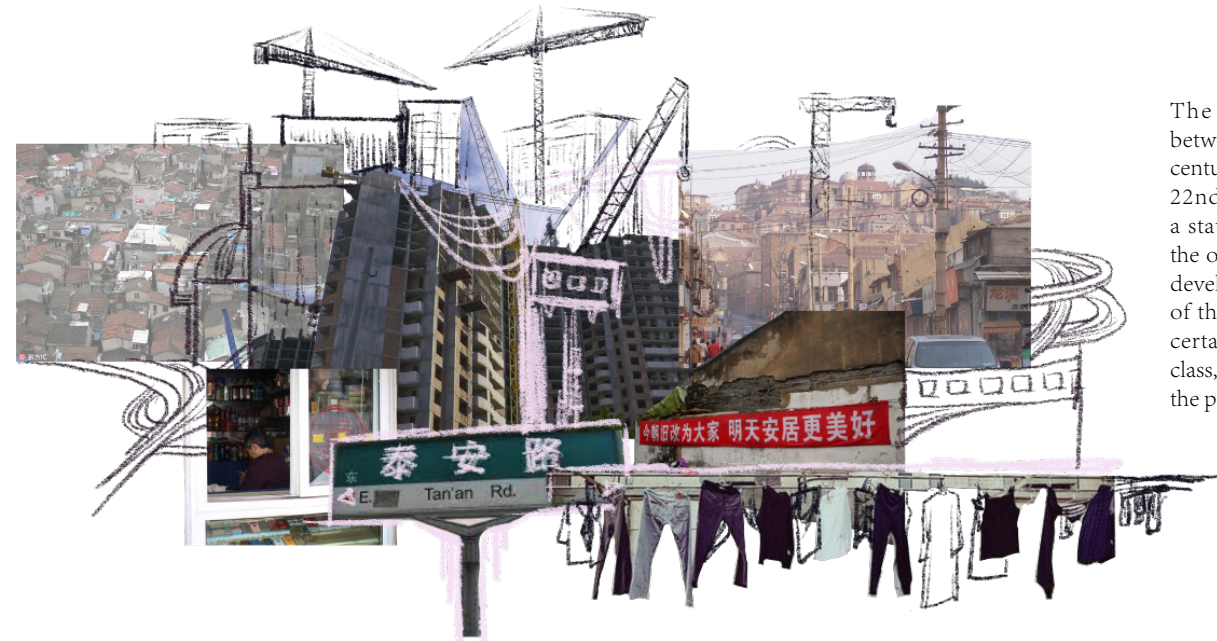


Social class in the story

Character breakdown

[illegible]

Environment background



The period is set in Shanghai between the late 1990s of the 21st century and the early decade of the 22nd century, when China is in a state of development, fusion of the old and the new, and when the development of the economy and of the country's power has led to certain contradictions in society: class, the gap between the rich and the poor, and so on.

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Timeline

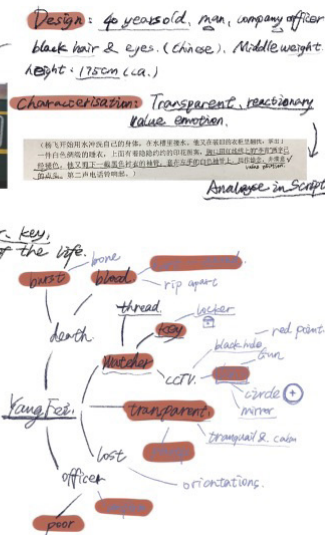




Feelings

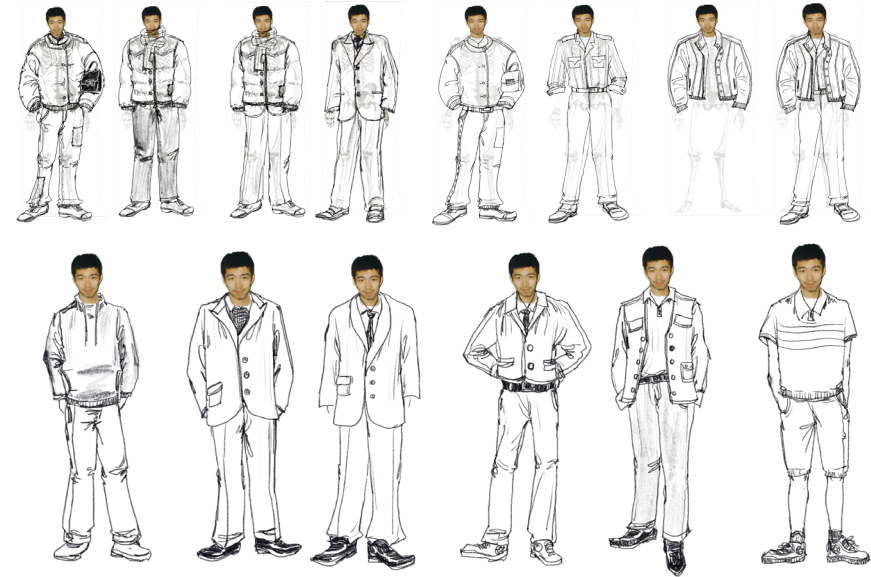
The events of the birth of the main character, Yang Fei, foreshadow his fate. Yang Fei was born to his birth mother while she was using the toilet on the train, and fell through the round hole in the toilet and onto the double track. This process involves the breaking of the umbilical cord with the birth mother, which "breaks the bond between me and my birth mother". The place where Yang Fei descends is "between the two railway tracks", and the real world in which Yang Fei lives is in the infinite fissure that runs parallel to the two railway tracks. In the birth event, the tearing of the umbilical cord is dynamic, while the fissure of the parallel railway tracks as the place of his birth is static. For Yang Fei, the fissure has the significance of a life form. His destiny is torn again and again like a thin sheet of paper, unable to escape the fissure created by the tear.

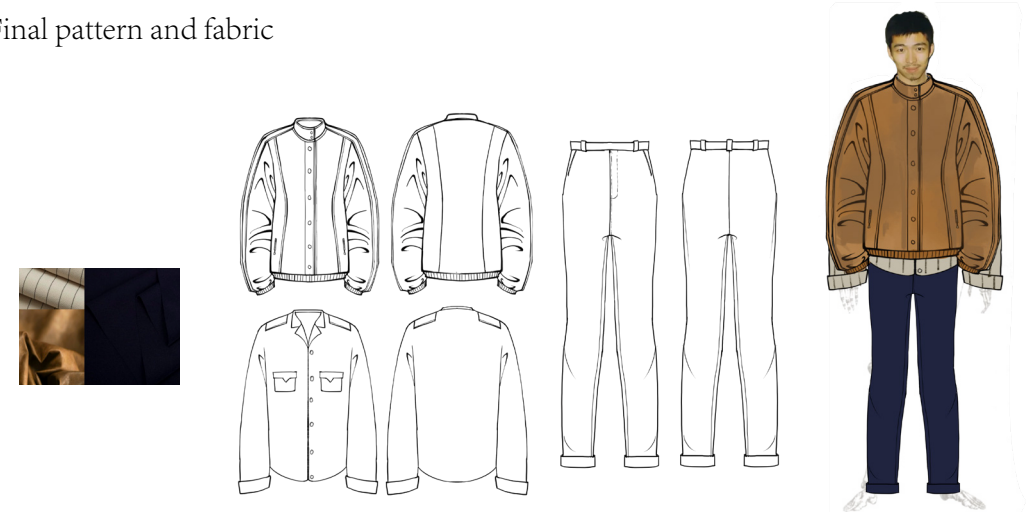
Moodboard





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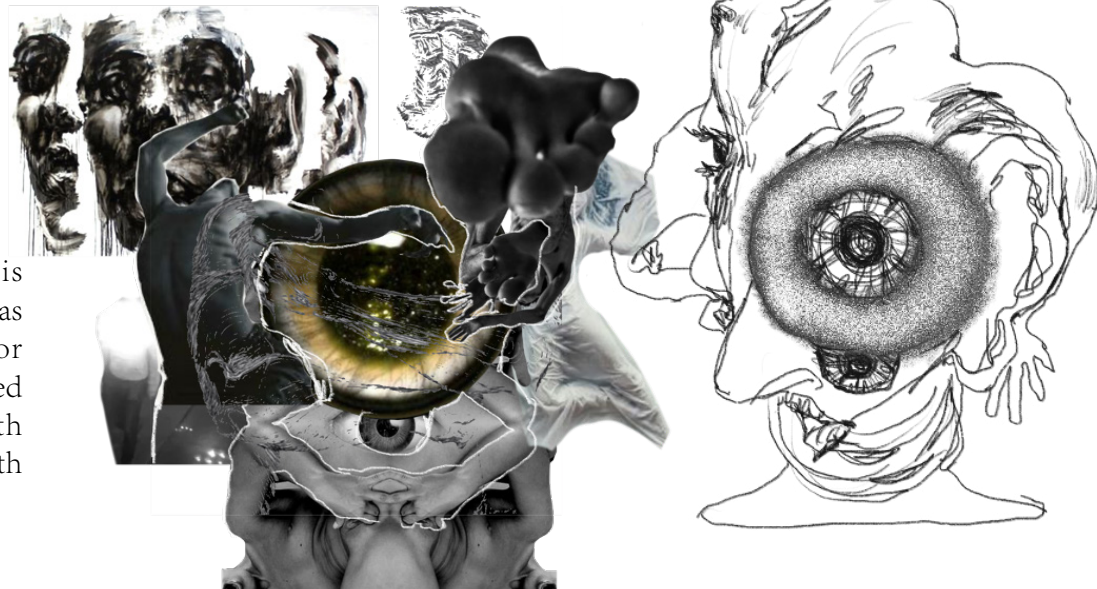






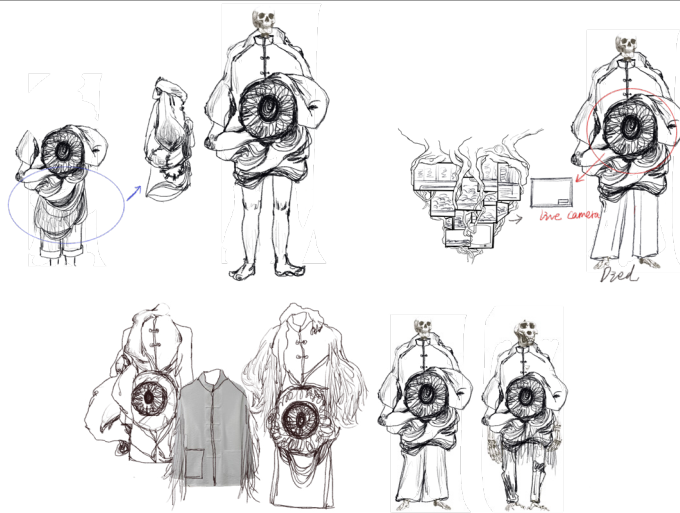
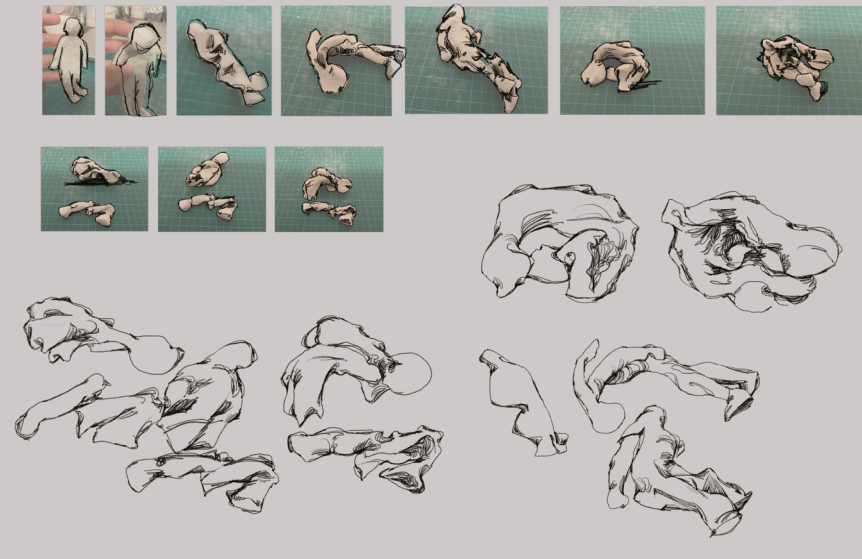
Feelings

Mood board

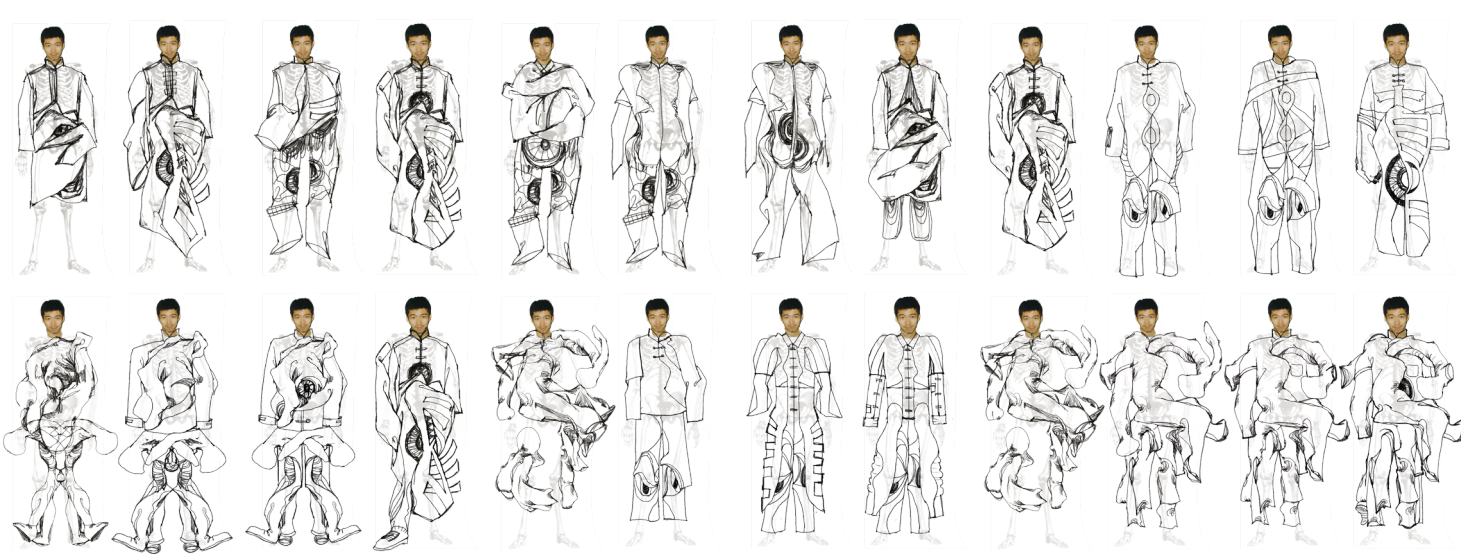


Yang Fei died when his house collapsed and he was crushed in the diner. For his character design, I tried to use his state of death for the design, along with element extraction.

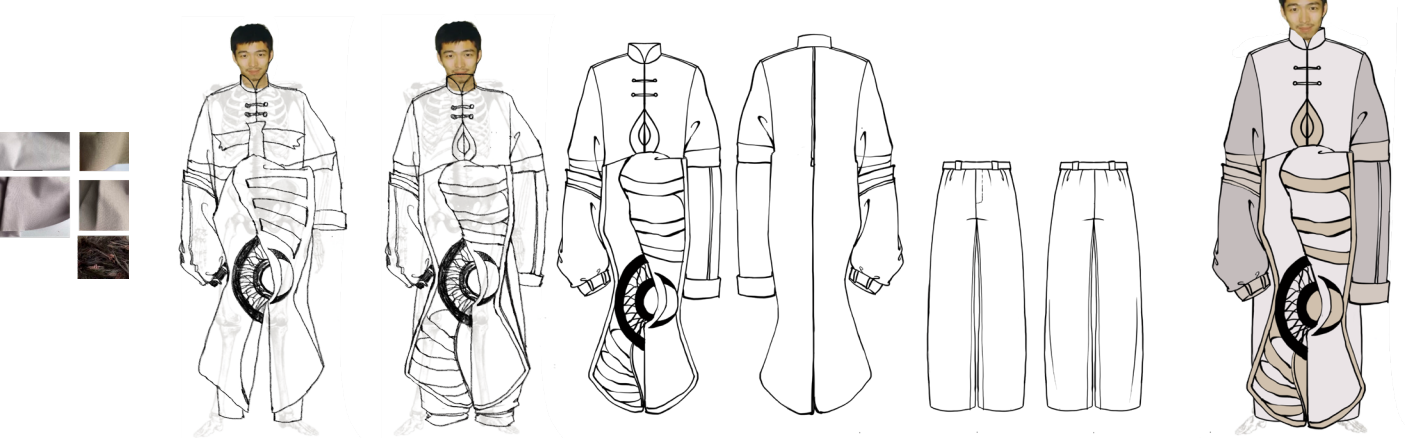
Test



Developing

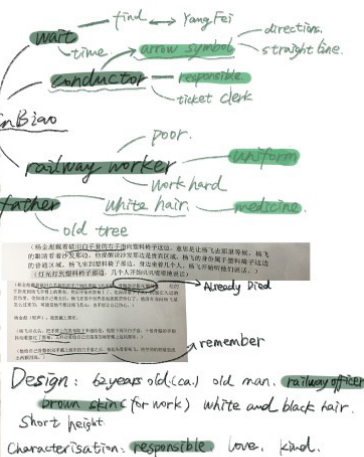


Final pattern and fabric





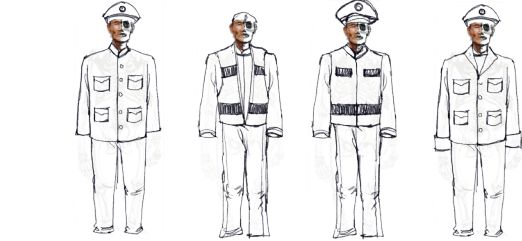
Although Yang Jinbiao did not bring him much material enjoyment, but as an adoptive father, Yang Jinbiao deservedly is a good adoptive father, and can even be said to be a great father. But the adoptive father again great, ultimately, is also flesh and blood, with the flesh and blood of the body of the bond, the young adoptive father of Yang Fei's love is not so indestructible, when he faced in Yang Fei and lovers can only choose between the dilemma, naturally faltered.



100



old man
feelings: →

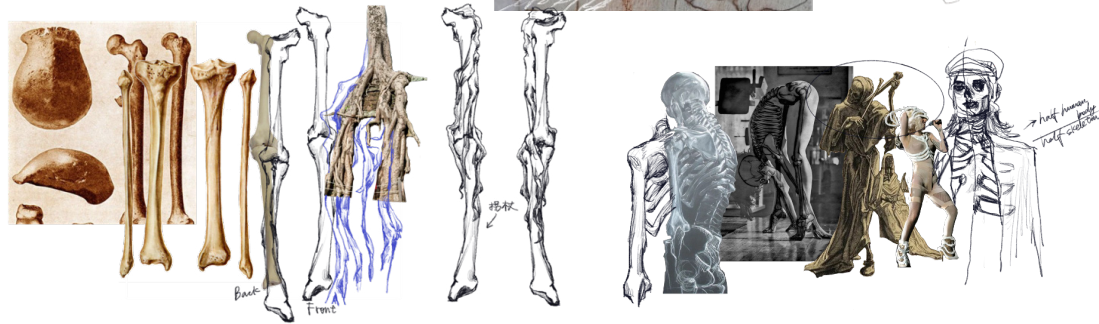




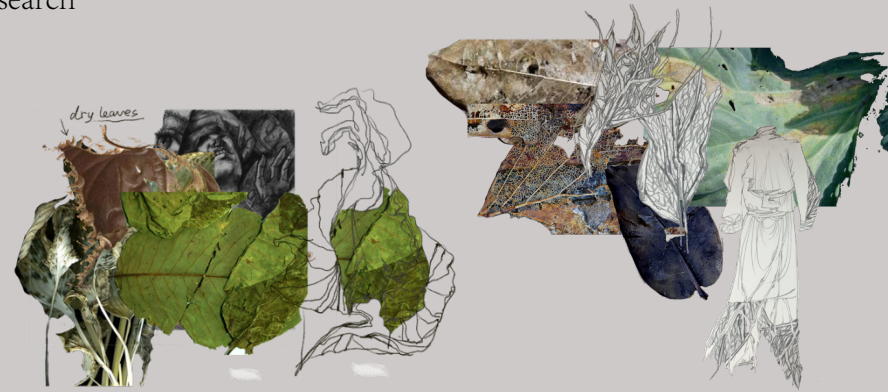
Feelings

When Yang Jinbiao died of a serious illness, he didn't want to drag Yang Fei down, so he left home alone. He being the earliest person to die in the whole drama, I chose the skeletal element considering the time of his death

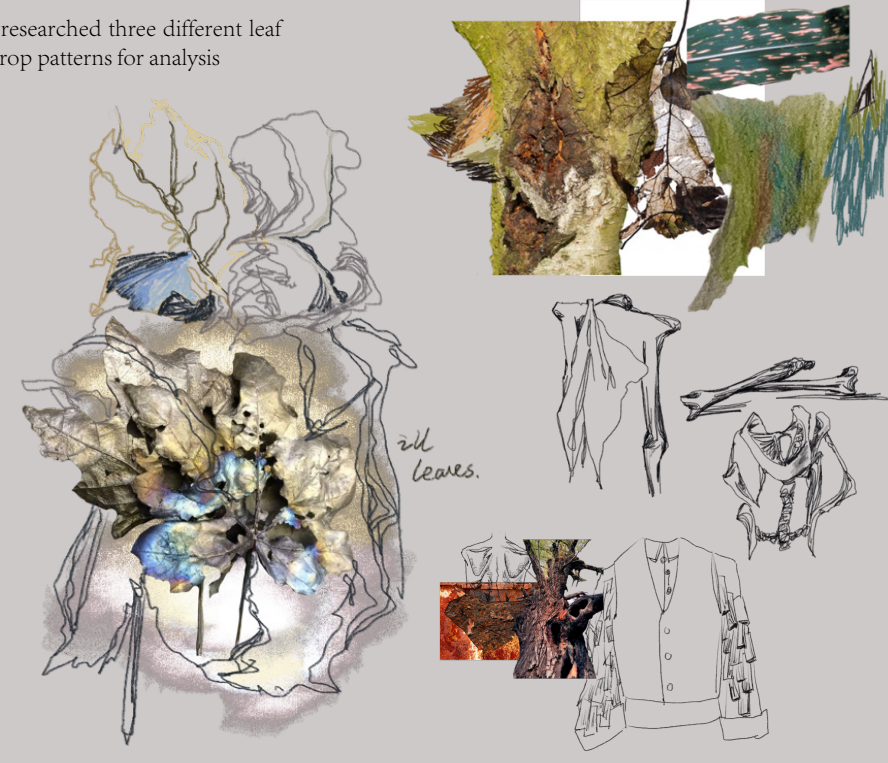
Moodboard

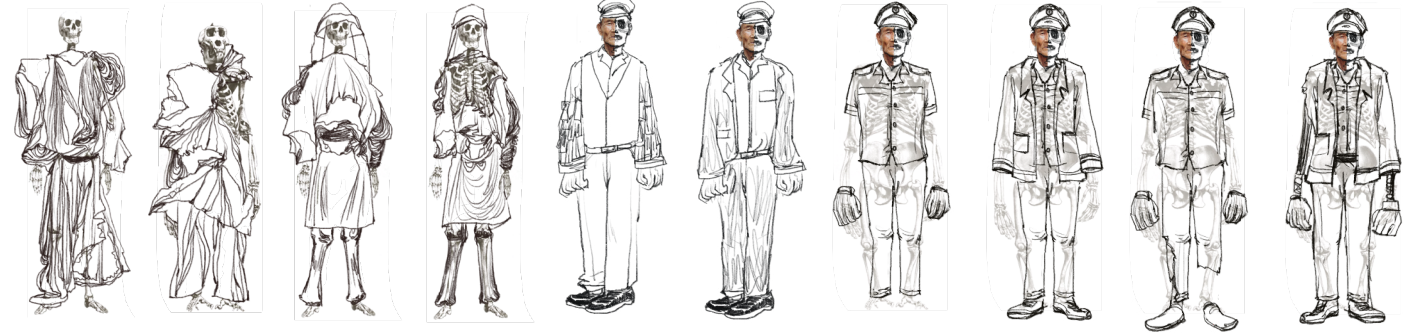


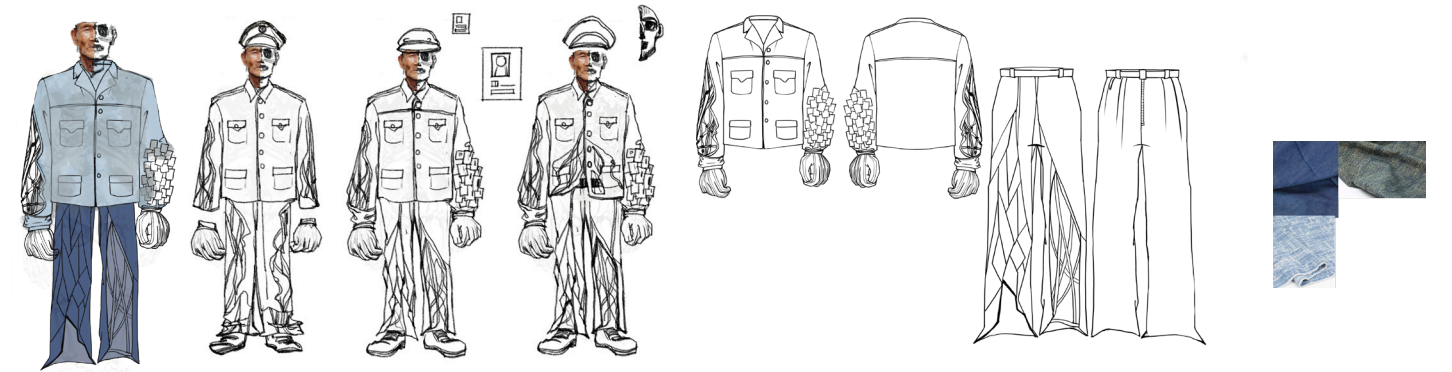
After his death, Yang Jinbiao worked as a receptionist at a funeral parlour, a necessary route to the place of death, where he was in charge of extradition, symbolising "going home". I chose the concept of "falling leaves return to their roots" in traditional Chinese funeral culture. The leaves wither away and become the nutrients that nourish the tree. In traditional Chinese culture, falling leaves represent reincarnation and death,



I researched three different leaf drop patterns for analysis







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Shu Mei(mouse) - 刘梅 - Alive



Feelings

In the current consumer civilisation and material civilisation, the rat race represented by Mouse Girl has no chance to enjoy the benefits brought by the development of the times, and can only struggle at the bottom of the city through simple manual labour. When she was born, she was angry with her boyfriend Wu Chao because of a copycat mobile phone, and had suicidal thoughts. She was guided by a group of internet watchers and eventually stood on the top floor of Pengfei Building and leapt down. A mobile phone may be just a toy in the eyes of the urban upper class, but for Mouse, it is enough of a reason for her to commit suicide, and such a story makes one feel deeply distressed about Mouse's situation. In the world of the undead, where all material interests have been discarded, after Mouse learns that Wu Chao has gone to sell his kidney in order to buy himself a cemetery plot, all she remembers is the warmth of her relationship with him in the difficult real world.

Moodboard

Mouse is a girl who washes hair at a salon, she lives with her boyfriend in an underground rented house and has no money to dress up or eat, but she is very pretty



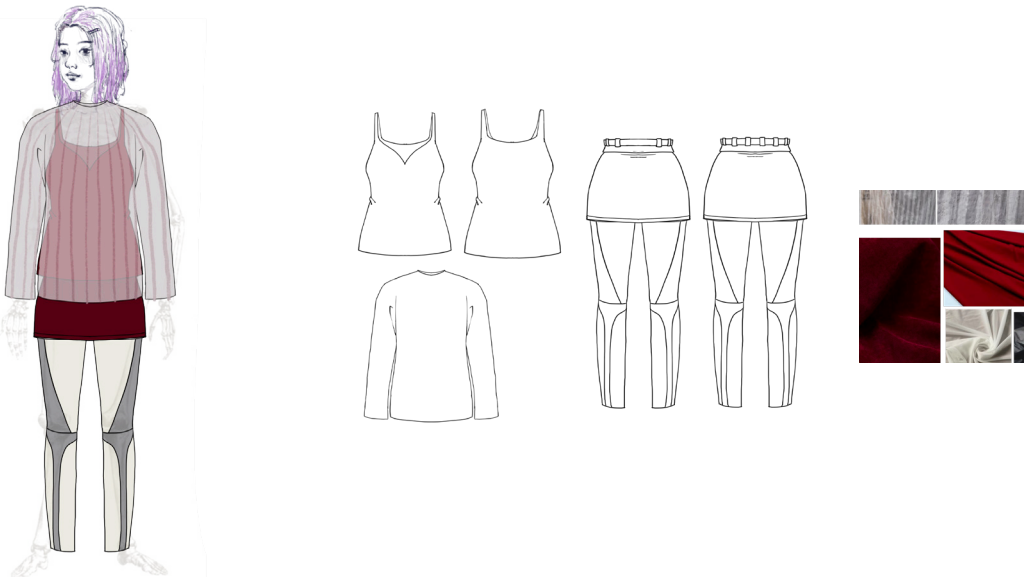
Research



Developing



Final pattern and fabric



The Seventh Day

Shu Mei(mouse)- 刘梅 - Death



Feelings

Perhaps the pressure of real life has made this girl no longer able to notice the warmth of life and the preciousness of emotions, and she can only feel happiness after death. Countless small people struggling at the bottom of the city like the mouse girl become victims of the real society, which is not only their pain, but also the pain of the whole society. Mouse Girl jumps to her death, but after her death she gets to rest in peace and puts on a wedding dress.



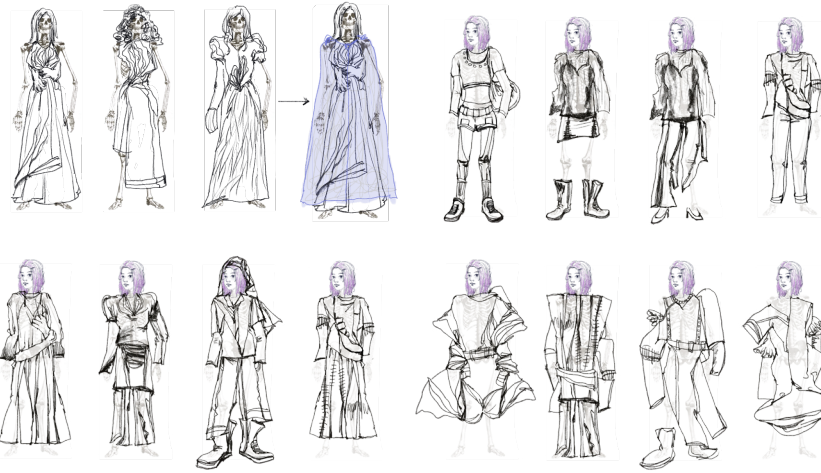
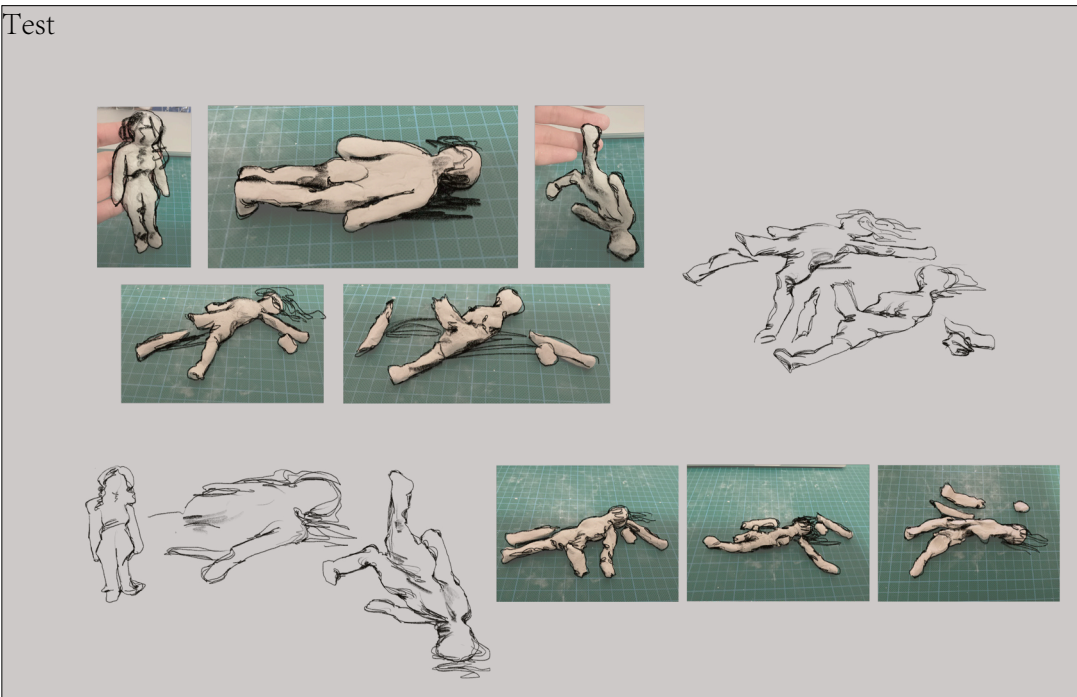
Mood board



The mouse girl jumped to her death, and for the costume I used elements of a wedding dress and a sense of chaos



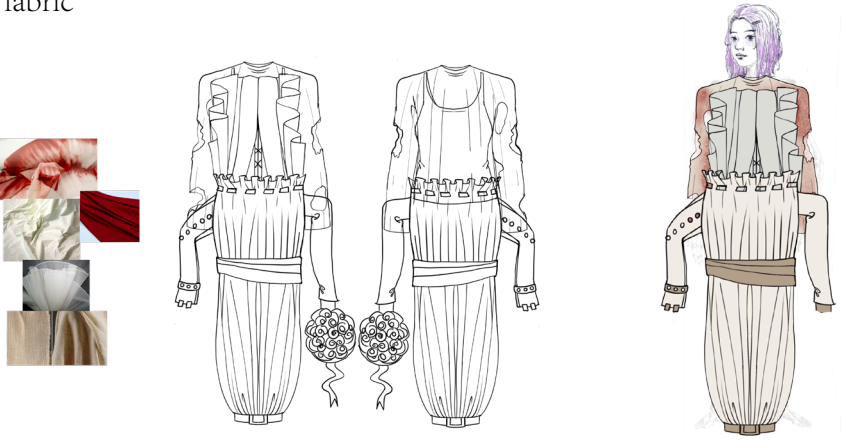
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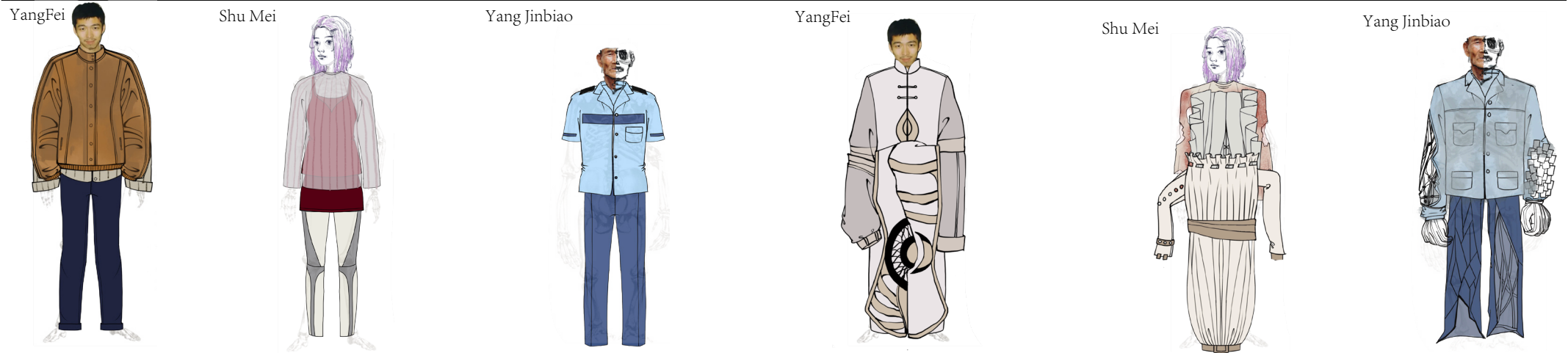
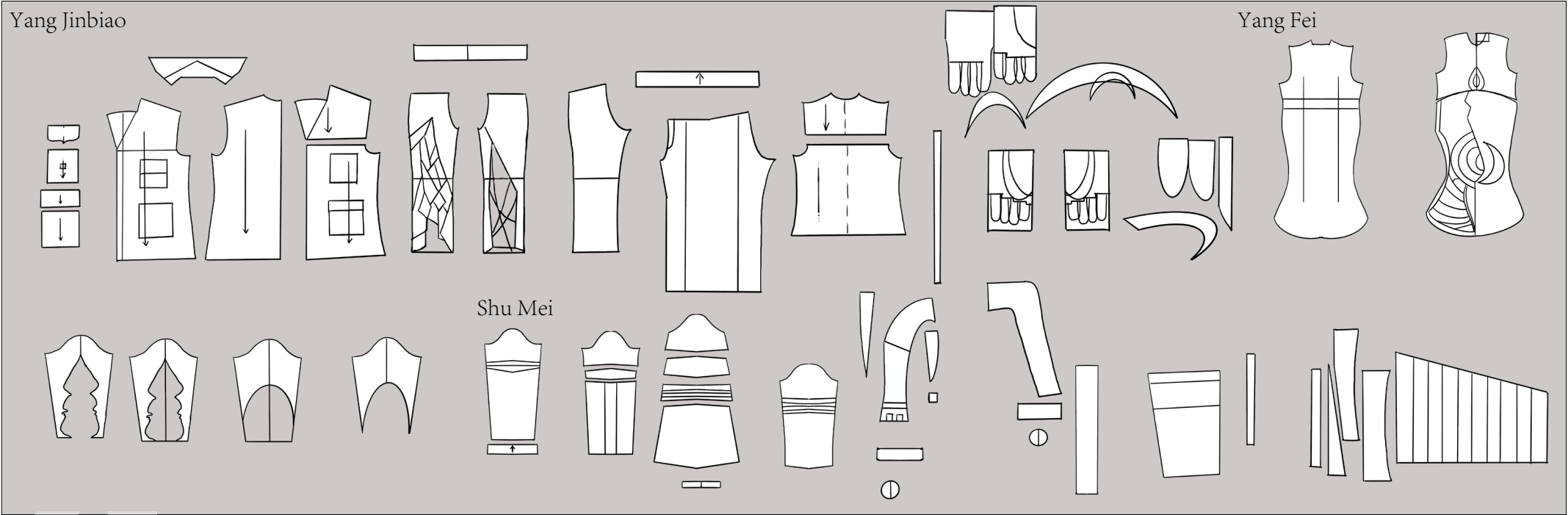


Developing



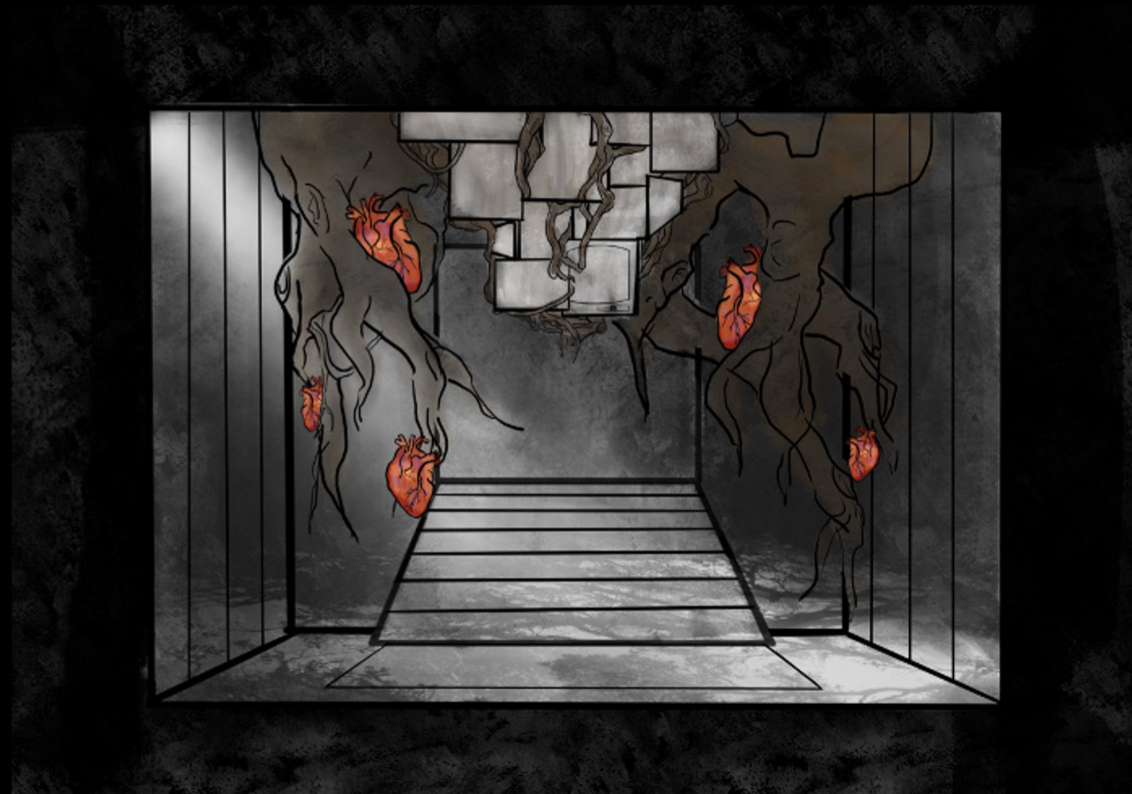
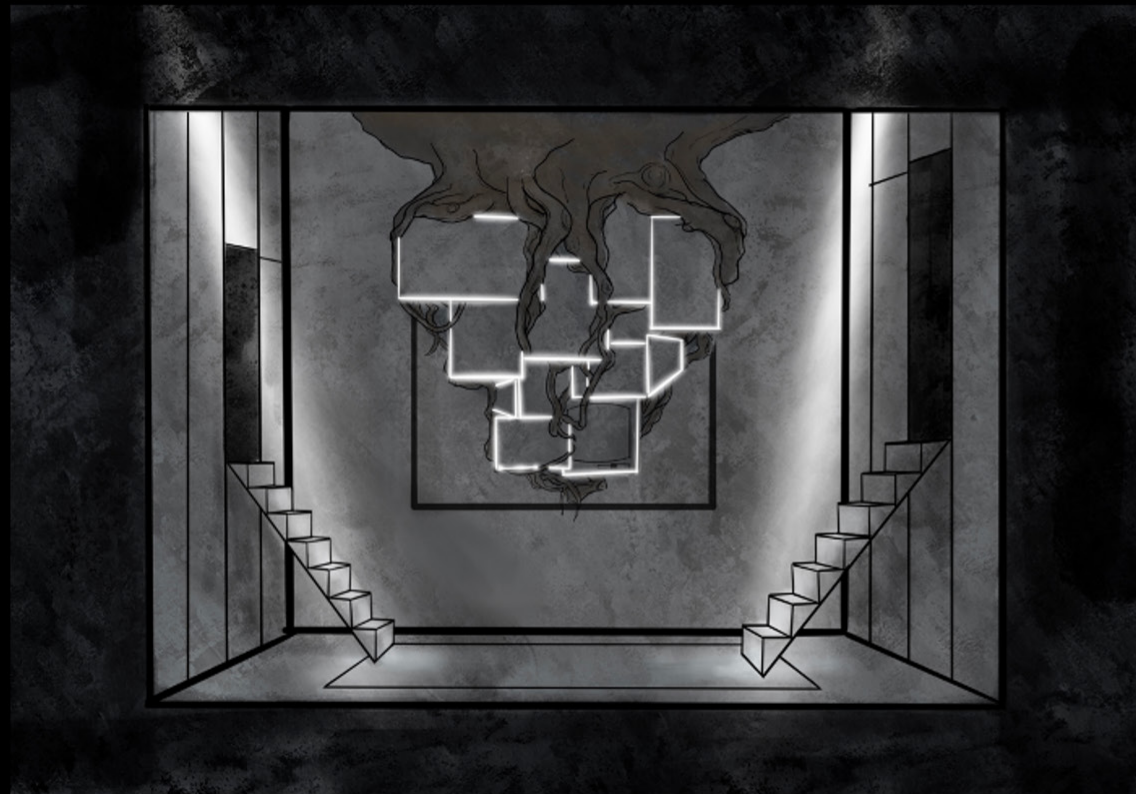
Final pattern and fabric

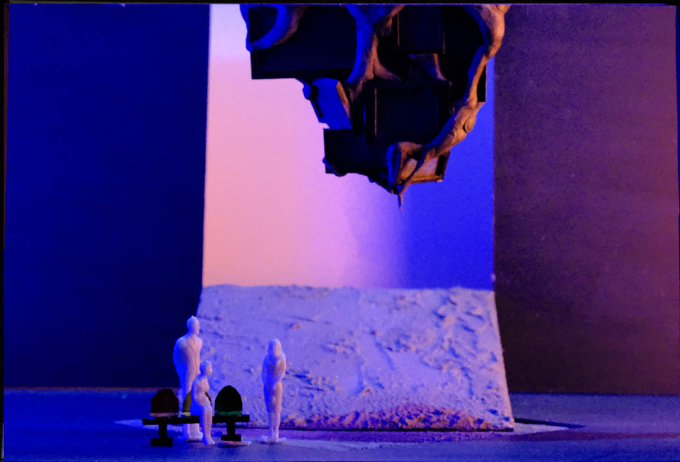
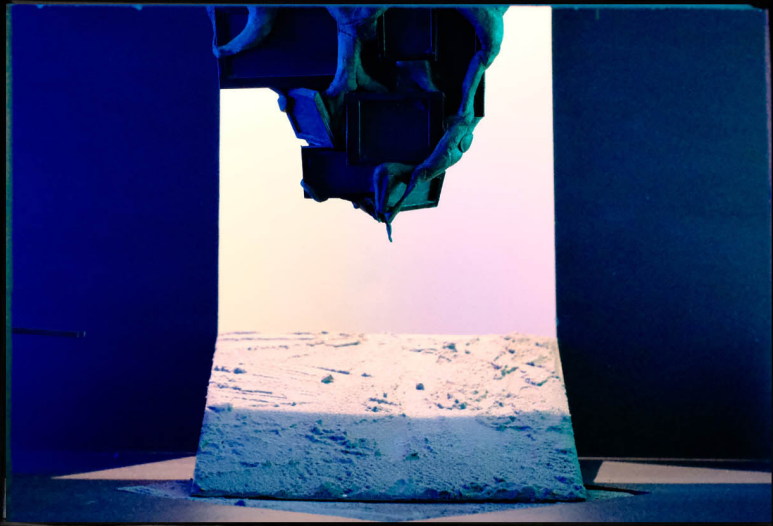




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Team work - Stage Design By Theatre Designer Yunshu Jiang















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