

Tenant of Culture

Soft Acid

8 Jul/18 Sep

Introduction

Soft Acid is the first institutional show in the UK by Tenant of Culture, the anonym of Dutch artist Hendrickje Schimmel (b. 1990, Arnhem, Netherlands). Tenant of Culture is the third recipient of the Camden Art Centre Emerging Artist Prize at Frieze.

Deconstructing and repurposing discarded materials from the fashion industry into new sculptures, garments and anthropomorphic forms, Tenant of Culture uses the materials and language of fashion and clothing to explore the vast and problematic waste accumulated through the industry's various stages of production, distribution and consumption.

Her research for this exhibition began in Camden Art Centre's archives, where she uncovered reference to the mass labour of women in the laundry industry in 19th century Britain, the extent of which is scarcely documented. Researching this historical industry informed her ongoing investigation into contemporary production methods and the importance of the process of washing in many stages of textile and garment production.

Soft Acid, comprises an ambitious new site-specific installation reminiscent of the mechanisms and fixtures of high-end fashion display. Large sculptural forms are suspended from a bespoke stainless steel hanging system that fills gallery three – a mass of synthetically coloured textile works consisting of used and reassembled garments. Deconstructed, bleached, re-dyed, re-assembled, wrung out, pressed, hung and stretched, the sculptures mirror the methodologies and processes used in

both historic and contemporary textile factories and commercial laundries.

Intentionally avoiding materials that are commonly associated with sustainability or romanticised depictions of 'organic' and 'natural' tones and fabrics, the sculptures are made from synthetic waterproofs, hi-tech performance-wear, plastic accessories and bleached and dyed denims. Originally treated with acid or enzymes and dyed noxious, artificial colours, the processing of textiles (turning them from a raw material into a fabric) uses immense amounts of water, much of which is then polluted with microfibres and chemical dyes and released back into the environment.

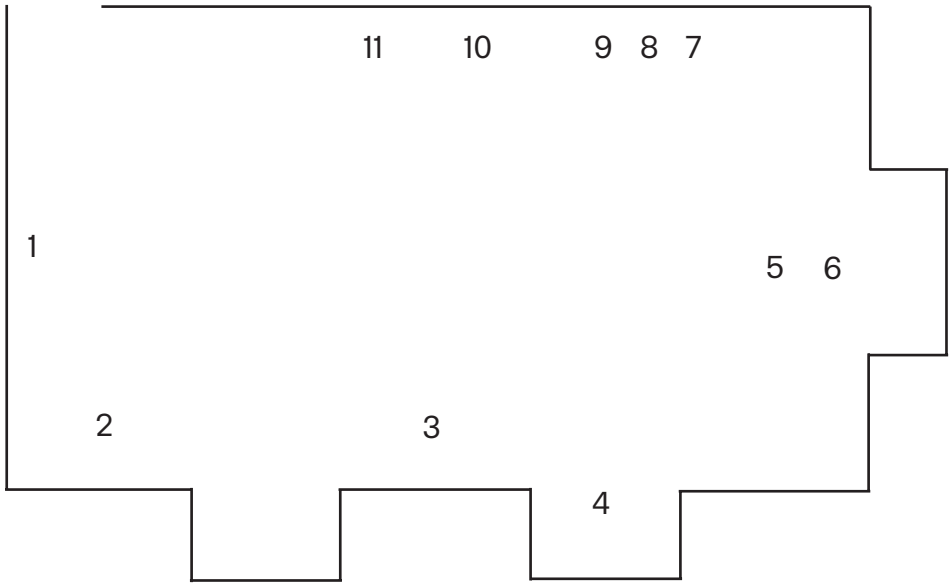
Through a material and dialectical investigation, *Soft Acid* seeks to examine the ways in which ideological frameworks materialise in methods of production, circulation and exchange. It asks where does value sit, who gets to decide, and at what cost? The resulting works nod to former relics, simultaneously desirable and monstrous, a reminder of the contingent cycle of trends and fashion, and the exploitative and often invisible economies of supply and demand.

List of works

- 01 *Extensive Range of Carrying Options (Series) Parka, 2022*
165 × 70 × 70 cm
Recycled plastic handbags, thread, found mannequin body, stainless steel.
- 02 *Dry Fit (Series) Green, 2022*
305 × 110 × 160 cm
Recycled outerwear and sportswear, elastic, toggles, buckles, thread, fabric, bungee cord, washing machine counterweight.
- 03 *Soft Acid (Series) Red, 2022*
305 × 80 × 30 cm
Recycled jeans, thread, dye, buckles, eyelets.
- 04 *Extensive Range of Carrying Options (Series) Blazer, 2022*
165 × 70 × 45 cm
Recycled plastic handbags, thread, found mannequin body, stainless steel.
- 05 *Dry Fit (Series) Pink, 2022*
340 × 310 × 95 cm
Recycled outerwear and sportswear, elastic, toggles, buckles, thread, fabric.
- 06 *Extensive Range of Carrying Options (Series) Trench Coat, 2022*
155 × 60 × 50 cm
Recycled plastic handbags, thread, found mannequin body, stainless steel.
- 07 *Residual Hue (Series) Puzzlecut, 2022*
40 × 30 × 12 cm
Recycled shoes, glue, jesmonite, thread, afterseason ink collected by Alike van der Kruijs, paint.
- 08 *Residual Hue (Series) Plimsole, 2022*
30 × 32 × 12 cm
Recycled shoes, glue, jesmonite, thread, afterseason ink collected by Alike van der Kruijs, paint.
- 09 *Residual Hue (Series) Kitten Heel, 2022*
R: 39 × 32 × 15 cm
L: 37 × 32 × 12 cm
Recycled shoes, glue, jesmonite, thread, afterseason ink collected by Alike van der Kruijs, paint.
- 10 *Soft Acid (Series) Beige, 2022*
340 × 130 × 110 cm
Recycled jeans, thread, dye, buckles, eyelets, bungee cord, washing machine counterweight.
- 11 *Soft Acid (Series) Yellow, 2022*
305 × 100 × 140 cm
Recycled jeans, thread, dye, buckles, eyelets, bungee cord, washing machine counterweight.

Courtesy of the artist and
Soft Opening, London

Please do
not touch the
artwork



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