



ARACHNE PORTFOLIO

Eva Buryakovsky

Project Statement; Concept Themes

The myth of Arachne tells of a gifted young weaver who defies Minerva and is transformed into a spider

Rebellion Against Community



Hakobyan, Who Are The Azerbaijani People

Oppression



Azerxalca Carpet Weaving Factory Workers

- Craft used as resistance against authority
- Patriarchal systems that restrict women's creativity
- Carpet-weaving culture as the social setting
- Conflict of generational and interspecies hierarchies

Tradition



1850 Garabagh Group Carpet, 2025

Hierarchies



Shahriar, Daughters of the Sun, 2000

In this interpretation, the myth is set in a pre-revolutionary Caucasus carpet-weaving community in Azerbaijan

Transformation



Adams, The Vines, 2022

Female Agency



Kuba Region Carpet Weaving, 1985

- Becoming a spider as both punishment and freedom
- Transforming to reclaim creative power
- Weaving as a political and symbolic act
- The artist: a keeper of memory and challenger of power

Political Craft



Ahmed, Symbol, 2018

Artist's Role



Franses, Western Khanates, 2017

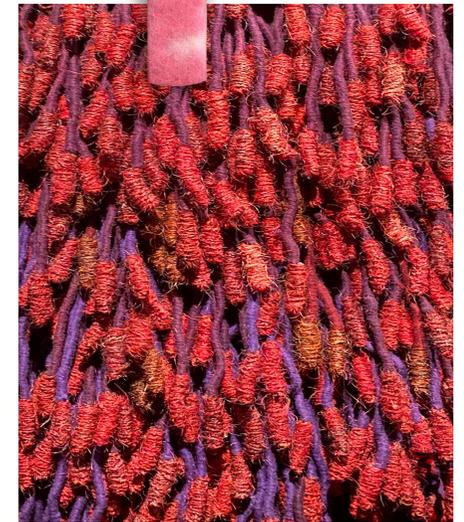
Arachne Character Board

Carpet Weaver Girl

- Young Azerbaijani carpet weaver (early 20s)
- Proudful, devoted, and intensely craft-driven
- Lives immersed in wool, yarn, dyes, and looms
- Seeks a level of mastery beyond human limits
- Costume constructed from felt and woven scraps



Arachne's Costume
Before
Transformation



de Amaral, *Natureza Mora*, 1981



Karimov, *Shirvan Region Carpet*, 1985

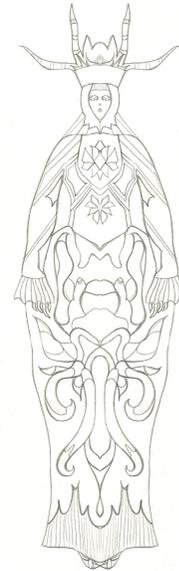


Karimov, *Kuba Region Carpet Weaving*, 1985

Process Page

Final Silhouette, Ornament And Colour Palette Development

Initial Hand Sketch



Process Hand Sketches



Arachne's Final Spider Costume Silhouette
(Final Hand Sketch Overlaid On Toile)



Final Colour Palette



Spider Ornament In Colour

Arachne Character Board

Transformed Into A Spider

- *Transformed Arachne becomes more aggressive*
- *Weaving remains the centre of her existence*
- *She no longer needs a loom; the web is produced directly from her body*
- *She is now made of wool, yarn, and cobwebs*
- *She becomes a textile-adjacent spider being*

Arachne's Costume
After
Transformation



Zoroastrian Symbol Of Eternal Fire

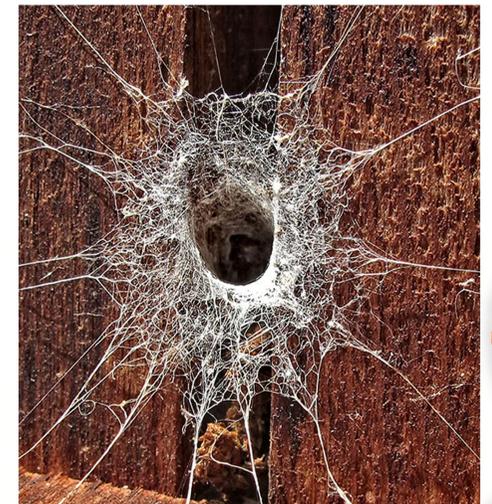


Buryakovsky, Fire Mountain, 2025

Albers, Under Way, 1963

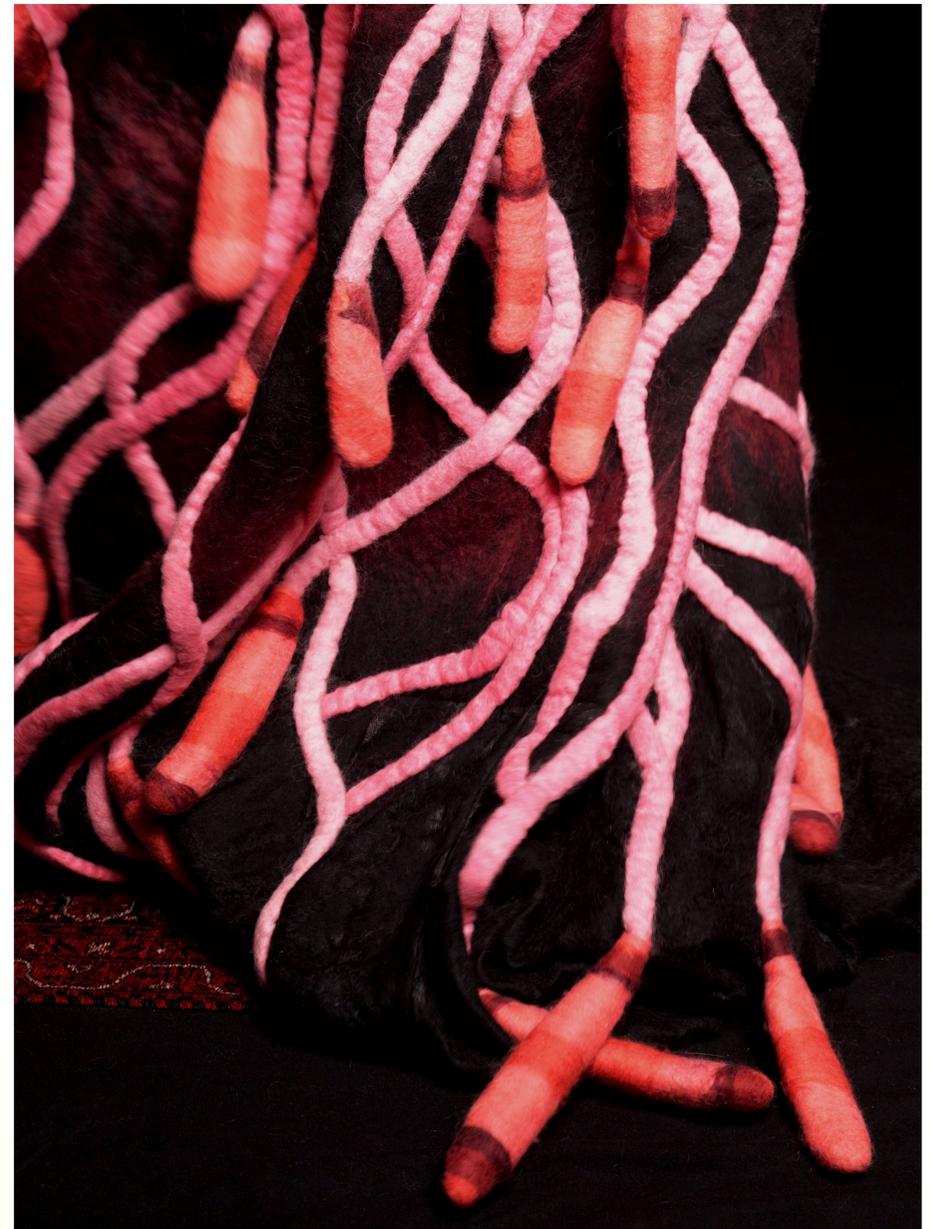


Hillyard, Ladybird Spider, 2011



Hendry, Radial Web, 2018

Introduction to Arachne



Transformed Arachne



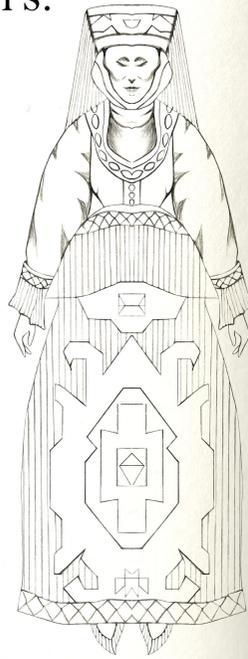
Arachne's Mother

Supporting Characters:
Carpet Weaver



1900 Piled Carpet By Shirvan Group

Initial Hand Sketch
Of Arachne's Mother



- Woman in her 50s, carpet weaver
- Dedicated to her craft and textile heritage
- Strictly follows ancient symbols and precise geometric patterns
- Her materiality reflects control and order
- Costume based on early 20th-century Azerbaijani women's dress

Character Board



Kazakh Traditional Women's Costume



Arachne's Mother's Costume

Karimov, Shirvan Region Carpet, 1985



Dean, Dyeing Techniques, 2018



Ahmed, Handmade Carpet



Buryakovsky, Sheep In Gobustan Field, 2025



Ganja, Traditional Men's Costume

Initial Hand Sketch Of Arachne's Father's Costume



Studt, Purple-Dyed Fabrics & Corresponding Sea Snails, 2018



18th Century Shah Oud Instrument



Supporting Characters:
Textile Dyer



Arachne's Father's Costume

- Middle-aged Azerbaijani man (50s)
- Herds sheep, collects and dyes wool using local herbs
- Supplies materials to his wife and daughter
- Life centred on work, family, and the Azeri community
- Strongly invested in preserving traditional ways of living and making
- Views feminist and queer identities as a threat to patriarchal authority
- Costume inspired by the Azeri hunting dress from the Ganja region

Arachne's Father

Character Board



Colorit Creativity Workshop, Wool And Dyeing, 2015

Supporting Characters: Old Carpet Weaver

- Minerva disguised as an elderly Azerbaijani weaver (80s)
- Appears short and whimsical
- Arachne initially does not take her seriously
- Assumed to live like the other women: spinning wool, weaving
- Uses this form to deliver a “gentle” warning to Arachne
- Constructed from embroideries, textile braids, and wool



Minerva's Costume
Transformed Into
An Old Woman

Ganja Region
Traditional Women's
Costume



Colorit Creativity Workshop,
Wool And Dyeing, 2015



Initial Hand Sketch Of
Minerva's Costume
Transformed Into
An Old Woman



1900 Piled Carpet By Baku Group



Pile Carpet Weaving Workshop With Rena, 2025



Carpet Weaving in Azerxalca Factory

Minerva Character Board

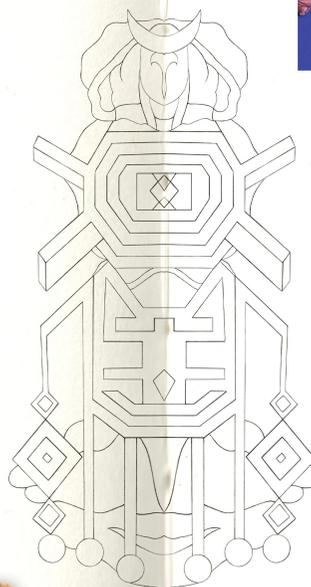
Minerva Character Board



Mukherjee, Basanti, 1984



1910 Wool Piled Carpet By Nakhchivan Group



Initial Hand Sketch
Of Minerva's Costume
As A Textile Goddess

Supporting Characters: Textile Goddess



Minerva's Costume As A Textile Goddess



Azerxalca Installation, 2025



19th Century Boghazalty Necklace



Hagverdiyev, 3D Carpet Installation, 2022

- Unusually tall, immortal woman with a commanding presence
- Seeks to punish and subdue Arachne's "wicked" behaviour
- She is prideful and egocentric
- Accepts the weaving challenge, convinced of her victory
- Loses the contest but destroys Arachne's human existence
- Remains victorious through domination rather than skill



The background is a complex, textured surface with a metallic, iridescent sheen. It features a mix of dark blues, purples, and greens, with a pattern that resembles cracked stone or organic, cellular structures. In the center, there is a piece of dark, textured fabric, possibly silk or a similar material, which is layered over a piece of bright blue, crinkled paper. The overall composition is layered and visually rich.

SIRIN & ALKONOST
PORTFOLIO
Eva Buryakovsky

Project Statement

The project draws on the Slavic myth of Sirin and Alkonost, two interconnected birds whose opposing forces shape human fate

Human And Non-Human Systems



Bednarz, Machinery Maintenance, 2015

- Human and animal forms merge, highlighting shared vulnerability
- Pollution is integrated rather than rejected
- The body recovers mobility through a gradual transformation
- Immobilised movement reflects the suffering of wildlife

Symbiosis



Simon, Plastitar, 2022

Concept Themes

The birds merge into a single hybrid figure that moves from ecological contamination and paralysis toward renewal and reconciliation

Natural Cycles



Attenborough, Fantail Pigeons, 1998

- The narrative follows decay, rebirth, and regeneration
- Alkonost's body is affected by human-made ecological crisis
- An ancient Slavic myth is reimagined through a modern ecological lens
- Pollution is embodied through the oil-spill shell that restricts the body

Anthropocene



Sassoon, Oil Spill in Dalian, 2010

Resilience



Forshaw, River Kingfisher, 1991

Ecological Trauma



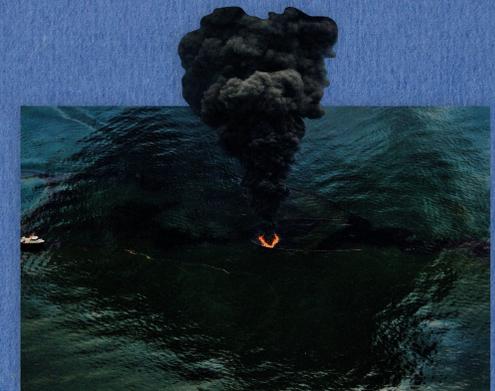
Beltra, Still Life in Oil, 2013

Contemporary Myth



van Herpen, Roots of Rebirth, 2021

Contamination



Beltra, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, 2013

Sirin Character Board

Oil Spill Cocoon

- The *Sirin* character is reimagined as a state of being, evolving from the Alkonost under the impact of human pollution
- The *Sirin Cocoon* is a liminal form that breaks apart into oil-spill matter and reforms by merging with other living bodies
- This cycle connects endurance and contamination, showing nature's survival
- The *Oil Spill Cocoon* represents ecological collapse
- Its surface is made from sediment, and industrial waste, creating a toxic sheen



Trapped Inside
The 'Sirin' Oil Spill
Cocoon Costume



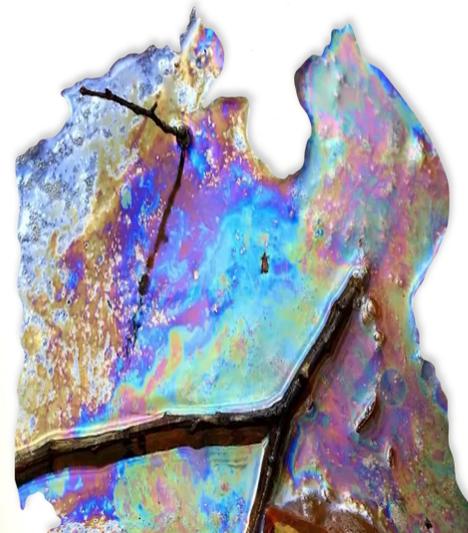
Painted Oil Spill
Fabric Sample For Costume



Wouter, *Deform*, 2015



van Herpen, *Wilderness Embodied*, 2013



Augustyn, *Oil Spill*, 2025;



Vrubel, *Girl with a Wreath*, 1910

Alkonost Character Board

Kingfisher Bird



Perrins, Kingfishers, 2003



Perrins, Red-Backed Kingfisher, 2003



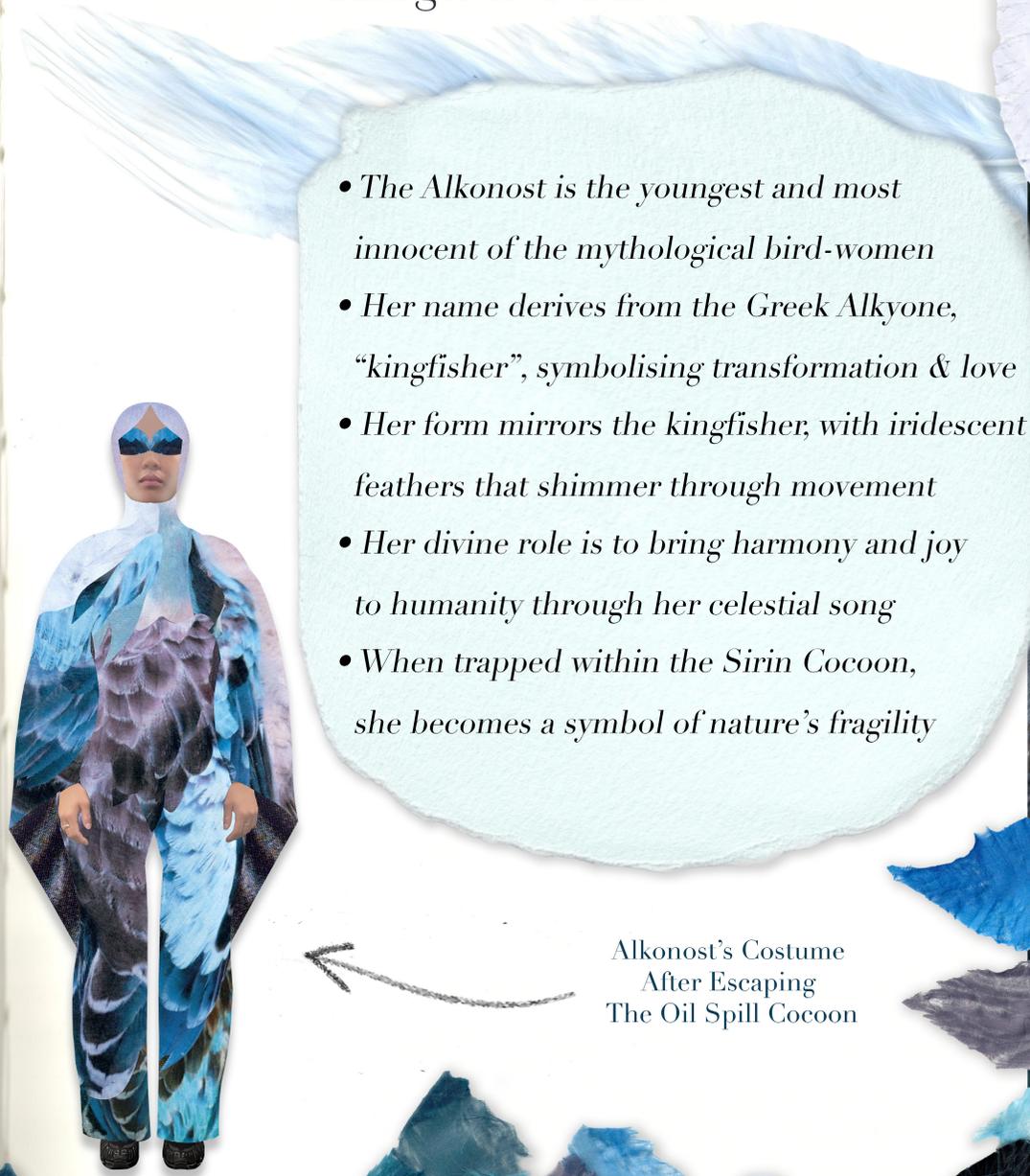
Barrett, Blue-Winged Kookaburra, 2005



van Herpen, Sensory Seas, 2020



Dupont, Woodland Kingfisher, 2014



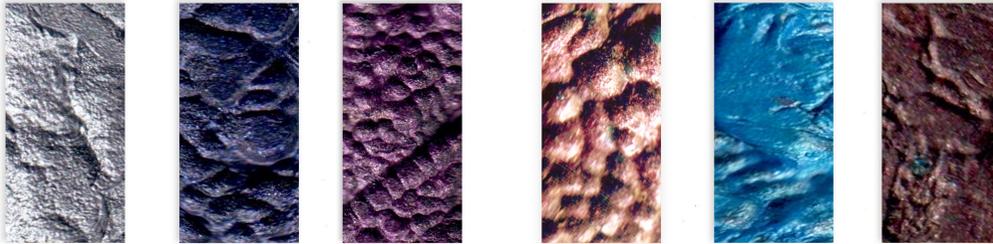
- *The Alkonost is the youngest and most innocent of the mythological bird-women*
- *Her name derives from the Greek Alkyone, “kingfisher”, symbolising transformation & love*
- *Her form mirrors the kingfisher, with iridescent feathers that shimmer through movement*
- *Her divine role is to bring harmony and joy to humanity through her celestial song*
- *When trapped within the Sirin Cocoon, she becomes a symbol of nature’s fragility*

Alkonost's Costume
After Escaping
The Oil Spill Cocoon

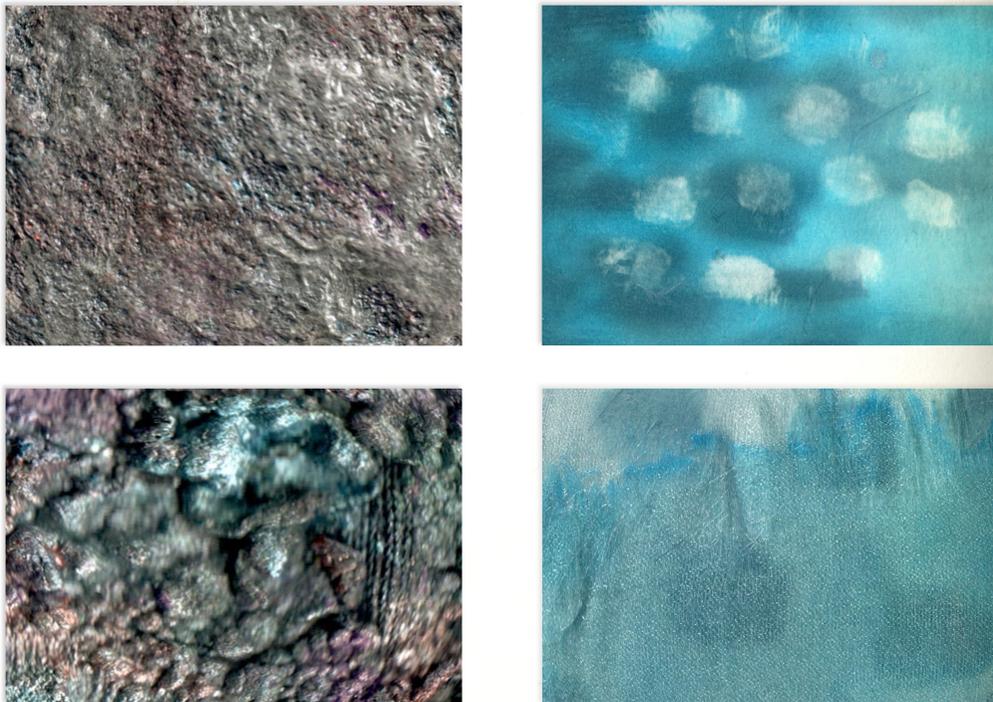
Process Page

Initial Colour Palette, Sample Development, And Silhouette Designs

Painted Puff Binder Textured Fabric Swatches In Sirin's Costume Colour Palette



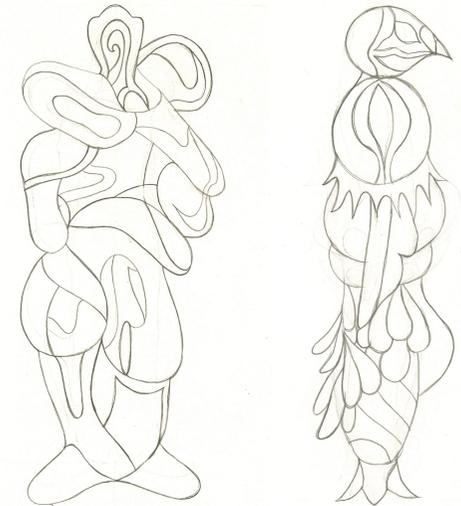
Painted Puff Binder Oil Spill Fabric Samples & Flocked Feather Fabric Samples



Alkonost Kingfisher Costume Collage



Sketches Of Initial Sirin And Alkonost Costumes



Sirin Oil Spill Cocoon Costume Collage



Sketches Of Final Sirin And Alkonost Costumes



Gamayun Character Board

Supporting Characters:

Short-Eared Owl

- Gamayun is an ageless, owl-like being embodying timeless wisdom
- She dwells among rusted oil platforms and polluted sea structures
- She speaks of humanity's environmental destruction
- Her body is made of rust, corroded metal, and oil-coated feathers



Perrins, Short-Eared Owl, 2003



van Herpen, Micro Dress, 2012



ABS Group, Jack-Up Drilling Rig, 2025



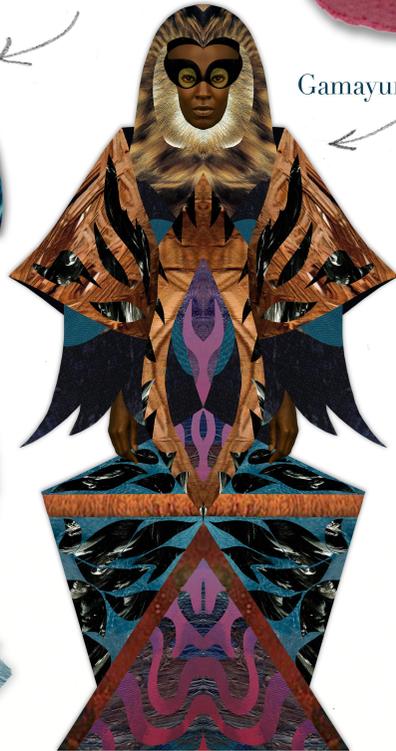
Champot, Cape, 1895



Vasnetsov, Gamayun the Prophetic Bird, 1898

Dahiya, Ambaraya River, 2020

Painted Oil Spill Fabric Samples
And Dyed Feathers
For Costume



Gamayun's Costume



Initial Hand Sketch
Of Gamayun



Perrins, Buff-Breasted Sandpiper, 2003



Madlevskaya, 18th Century
Kokoshnik Kostroma Region, 2022



Vrubel, Princess Volkhova, 1900



V&A, Bodice, 1639

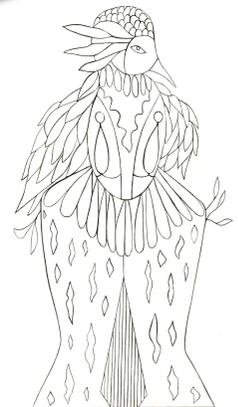


van Herpen, Roots of Rebirth, 2021

Bereginya's Costume



Initial Hand Sketch
Of Bereginia



- Bereginia is the eldest bird-woman, foremother of all avian beings
- She rules both air and water, uniting celestial and earthly forces
- Just like a Sandpiper bird, she exists between land and sea as both nurturer and destroyer
- As the archetypal mother, she governs cycles of life, decay, and renewal
- Her form is fluid and ever-changing, composed of feathers & water droplets

Supporting Characters:
Sandpiper Bird
Bereginya Character Board

Escape from the Oil-Spill Cocoon





Newfound Freedom



Symbiosis with Oil-Spill Fragments

