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MA Fashion

“The unknown
is just as real as
the known,
and must be made
to look so.”

Eco fashion evokes a romantic idea of nature, a clean, beautiful and benevolent nature – an image that could be described as ‘supernatural’. The supernatural is an idealised and, one could argue, sterilised image of nature.

Although some labels are referring to the beauty of imperfection, promotional materials omit the aspects of nature we do not feel comfortable with such as disease, decay, death and mutation.

The project title, a quote by the painter Graham Sutherland, symbolises the need to visualise and engage with a side of nature that tends to be shunned when a more ‘organic’ life-style is promoted.

Walter Benjamin writes: ‘the most forgotten alien land is one’s own body. The body and its immediate surroundings are the site where we most vigorously suppress imperfections and ‘unknowns’. In the project, garments represent our ‘extended self’ (J.D. Porteous). They try to engage the wearer and on-looker with the uncomfortable side of nature.

The materials used in this project were sheepskin, leather and barkcloth which had been discarded due to production errors.

















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