



"THE CORK DRESS"  
CORK · WAX · RAFFIA

## LOOK 1



Look 1 explores the translation of shifting light and spatial layering within traditional Chinese gardens into material and surface development. The garment is constructed from pure cork fabric, selected for its natural texture, sustainability and tactile depth. Punched detailing and raffia knotting are applied across the surface to create variations in density and tone, referencing the shifting light and shadow conditions found within Suzhou gardens. These surface interventions allow the garment's tonal qualities to shift through movement, reinforcing the idea of clothing as a changing perceptual field rather than a static object.

The printed element of the garment is developed from a responsibly produced sustainable faux fur sourced in China. Rather than replicating fur directly, the print translates its visual rhythm, texture and density into a contemporary graphic language. This approach reinterprets the material presence of fur through a non-animal alternative, proposing print as a sustainable and expressive substitute. Together, cork fabric, raffia interventions and print establish a layered material system that reflects the project's broader exploration of sensory perception, natural materials and sustainable reinterpretation.



## LOOK 5



- Left & Right  
raffia cork dress with scented wax  
Jennifer Jiang(2026)  
photographed in Edinburgh



Look 5 is a highly material-driven piece that explores craftsmanship, structure and multisensory interaction. The garment is hand-woven using approximately 50 rolls of recycled raffia, totalling over 4,000 metres of material, and constructed across three main panels. The weaving process required around 200 hours of handwork, reflecting a slow and embodied approach to making. Due to the softness and flexibility of raffia, cork fabric is fused into the structure to provide additional stability and support, enabling the integration of suspended wax components while maintaining the garment's overall form.

The lower section is designed with hand-cut and hand-tied fringe detailing, forming a wave-like silhouette inspired by natural movement and water flow. The construction intentionally minimises the use of metal hardware, reinforcing the project's commitment to material reduction and craft-led construction methods.



- Left & Below  
linen raffia tassel dress  
printed cork coat

Serafima Yudina(2026)  
photographed in Edinburgh

## LOOK 2

Suspended wax components are embedded throughout the garment, developed through self-cast moulding processes. These elements are inspired by the mother-of-pearl wooden window structures of the Humble Administrator's Garden (Zhuozhengyuan), where transparency, framing and layered light create shifting spatial depth. As the wearer moves, the wax pieces introduce variations in translucency and reflection, extending the garment's visual dynamism.

In addition, selected essential oils are integrated into the wax components, allowing each piece to carry a subtle and evolving scent profile. The movement of raffia generates soft acoustic qualities reminiscent of natural environments, such as rain interacting with foliage. Together, these elements extend the garment beyond visual expression into a multisensory experience, engaging sight, touch, sound and scent, creating an immersive experiential space for the wearer.



- Above  
printed cork wax dress  
printed raffia shoe

Serafima Yudina(2026)  
photographed in Edinburgh