

Artistic Development Examination

Irmgard Mkhabela

This is where I started, with elastic and a figure form:

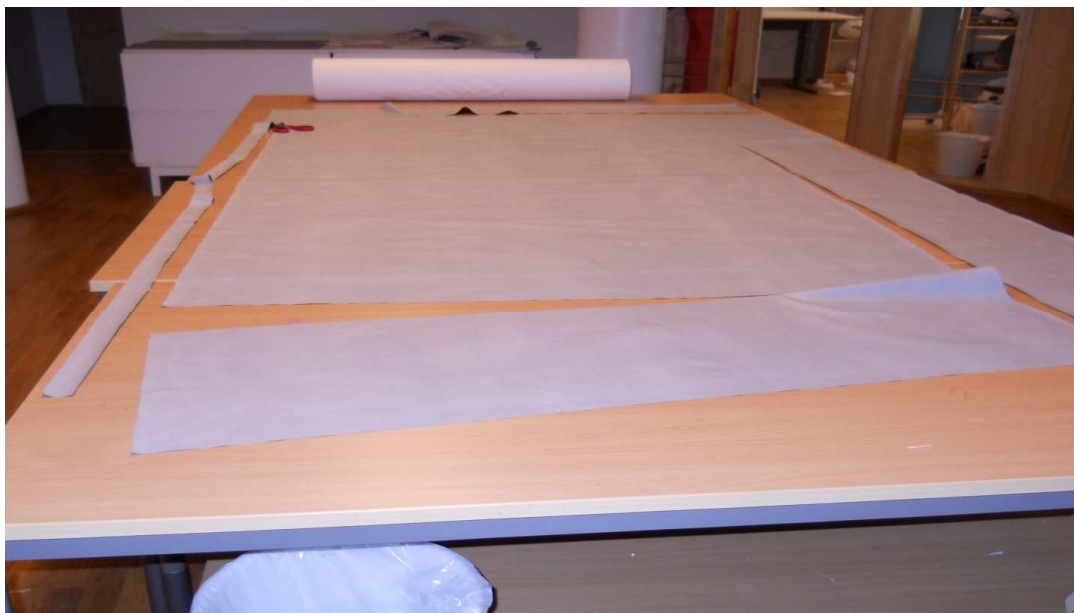


I play around a bit with elastic on a mannequin, stood back and started strapping more. I later decided to first drape a cloth and then do the elastic over.



I thought it looked interesting and asked Xixi what she thought. She asked what is it I was trying to say; clearly she was not impressed!

I remembered Lars suggested I cut and drape, so I tried the following:

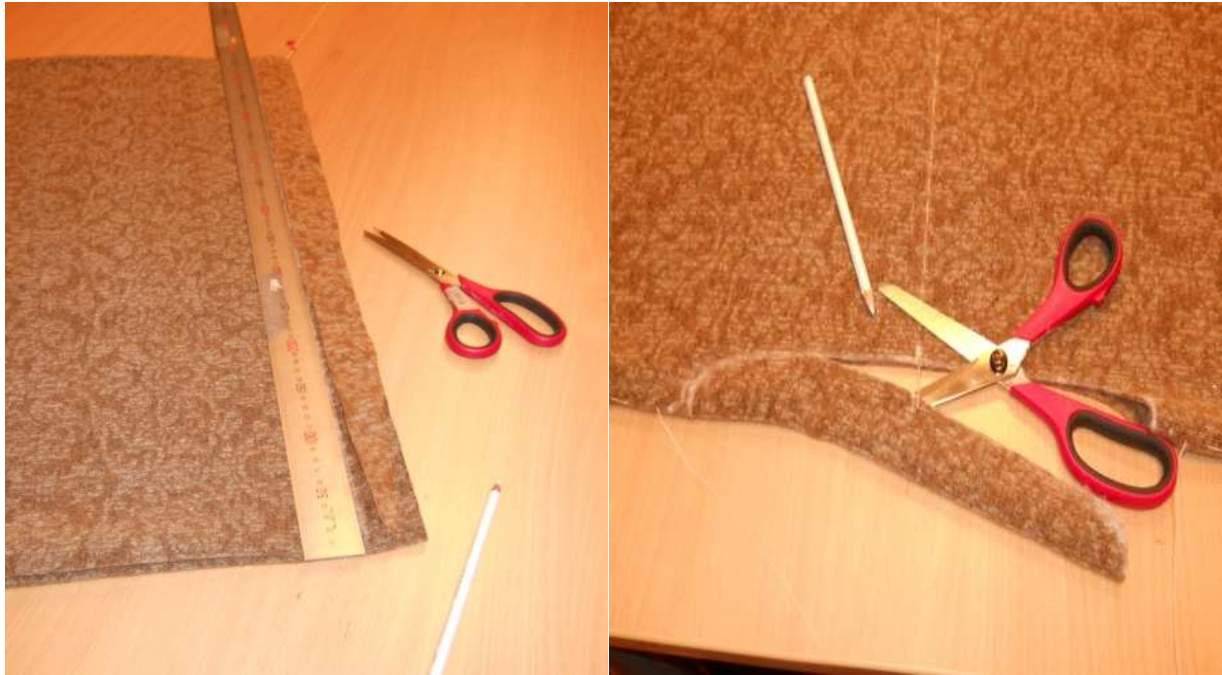


I laid-out a piece of cloth on a table and cut four different widths from the edges and later draped it in four different ways:



It was interesting, but I thought, it lacked structure and in my mind, a bit amateurish, so I was not convinced!

In my state of confusion, I thought of exploring a 'cut' I have tried before – cutting a rectangular piece of cloth and 'scooping' the center to create a waistline. It is a quick solution to making a skirt or dress, without having to make a conventional pattern, I thought.



I first tried it on the waist, (mannequin) and decided to on the neck instead. I stood back to observe how it hangs from the upper body.



I played with the folds to see what they can do and ended up with a beautiful bust shaping:



I then started looking to create sleeves for the 'dress'



I then started cutting the one side to release it from the rest of the 'dress'.



Cutting up the side to create a sleeve and seam.



The underarm seam created, shapes both the side and bust area.

Next was to do the other side with the first side done.



I then mirrored the other side to ensure likeness.



I did not know whether to leave the hem as is or cut it.



I later decided to start shaping it up.



I followed the line created by the front hem to shape the final hem.

The hang of the cloth inspired this vintage looking dress:



I draped the one sleeve and left the other as is to indicate the difference.

This attempt, although a success, did not 'impress'.

Lars advised that I cut and drape without measuring – 'use scissors only and nothing else'.

I was frustrated and started cutting as indicated below:



It was interesting, especially after seeing the contrast after turning the cut bits.



Interesting, but what am I saying with this?

Another attempt:



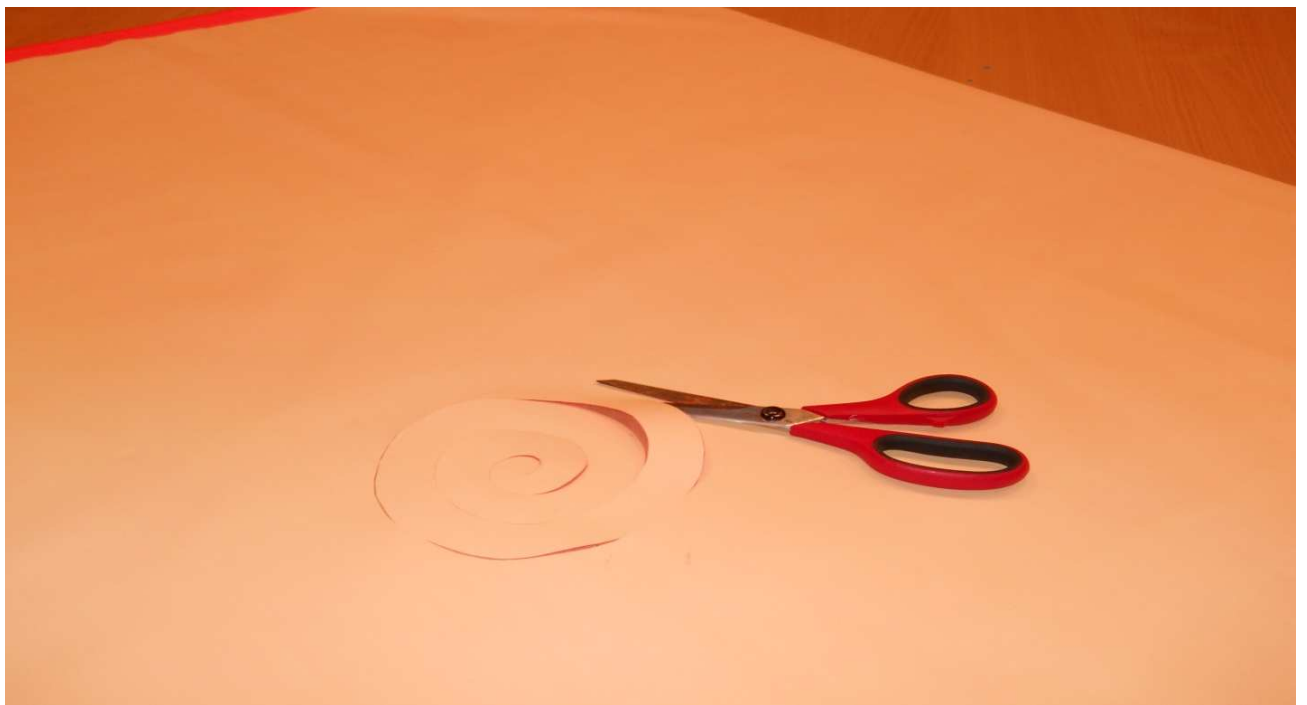
Not much about this attempt!



I changed to something more cheerful, an orange coloured cloth, with a different coloured back and a rubbery handle.



For some reason, I started cutting in a spiral.

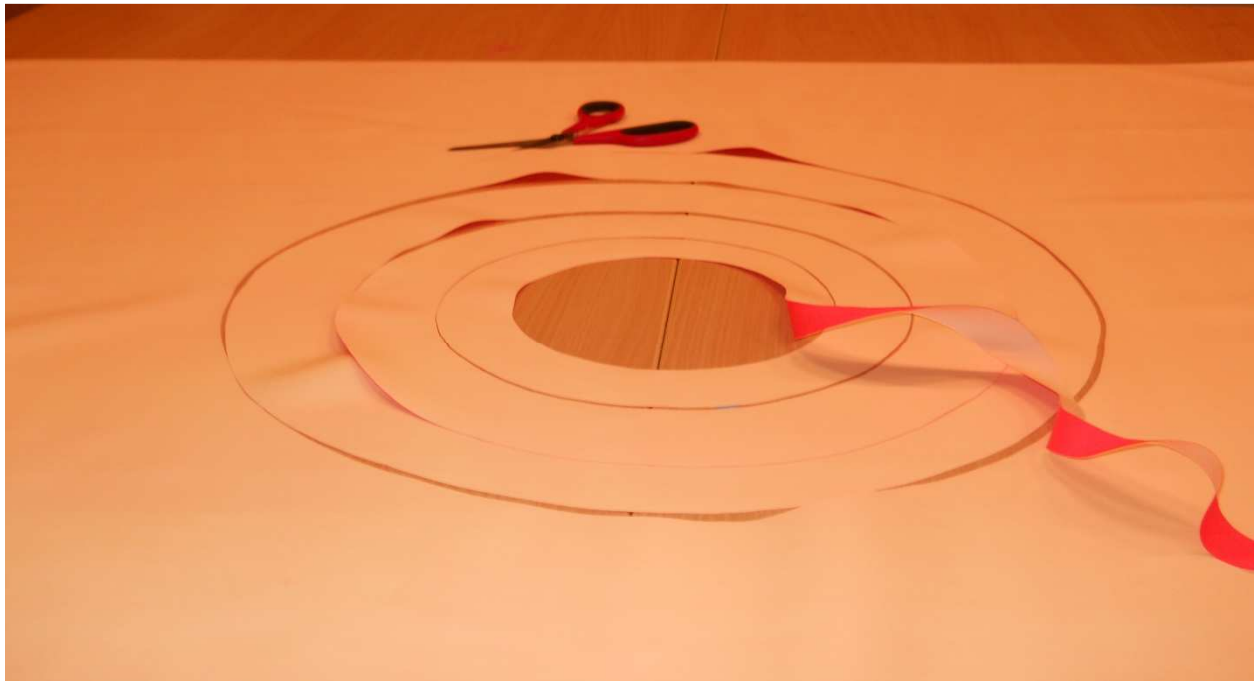


Even though it was controlled, it

I got excited when I picked up the center or where I began cutting. I went on to observe how it curls and 'springs' back to shape.



The colour and contrast was visually fascinating – at some point I thought I was going to leave it as it is and then explain my reasons. I even turned it around!



I started 'draping' or rather wrapping the spiral strip around the mannequin

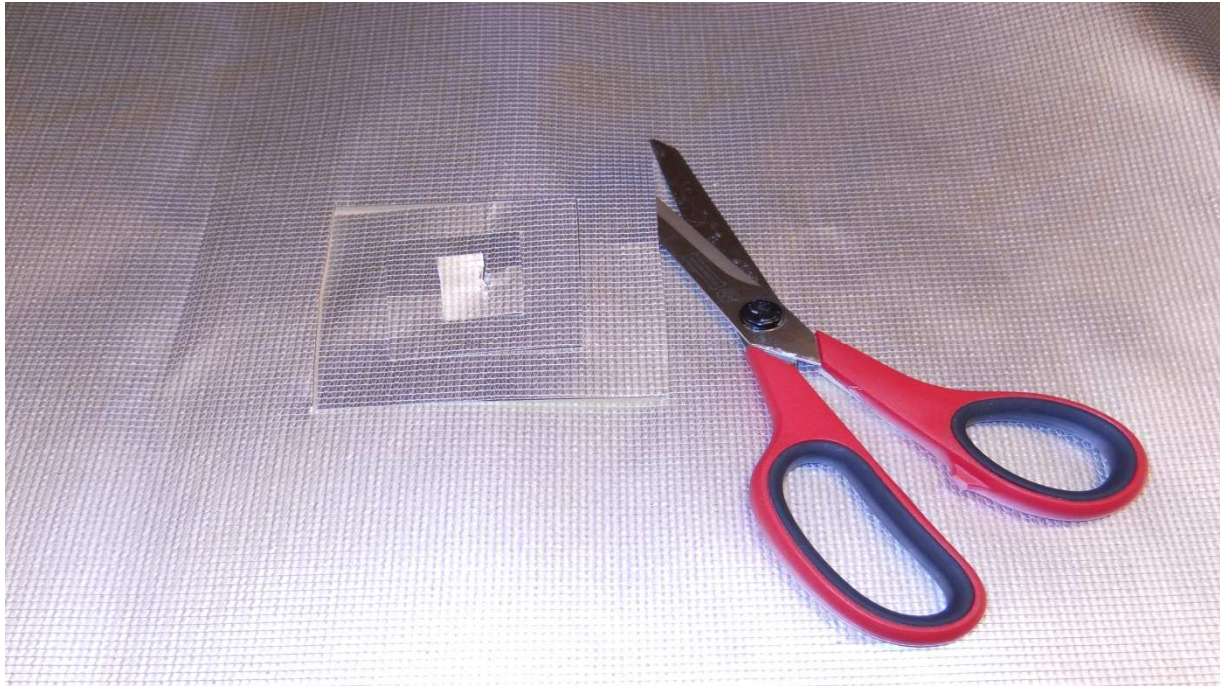
I liked the ease the strip wrap around the figure form and the layers I came to create.

It will be a method I will explore in the future!



The results were ordinary, I thought. I then changed to a different textile: stiff and not flowing.

This time I cut in a spiral but in a square form, using a stiff textile.



I then started wrapping the cut strip around the neck of the figure form.



I continued wrapping, not knowing how it will end!



I did not know what to make of the results!

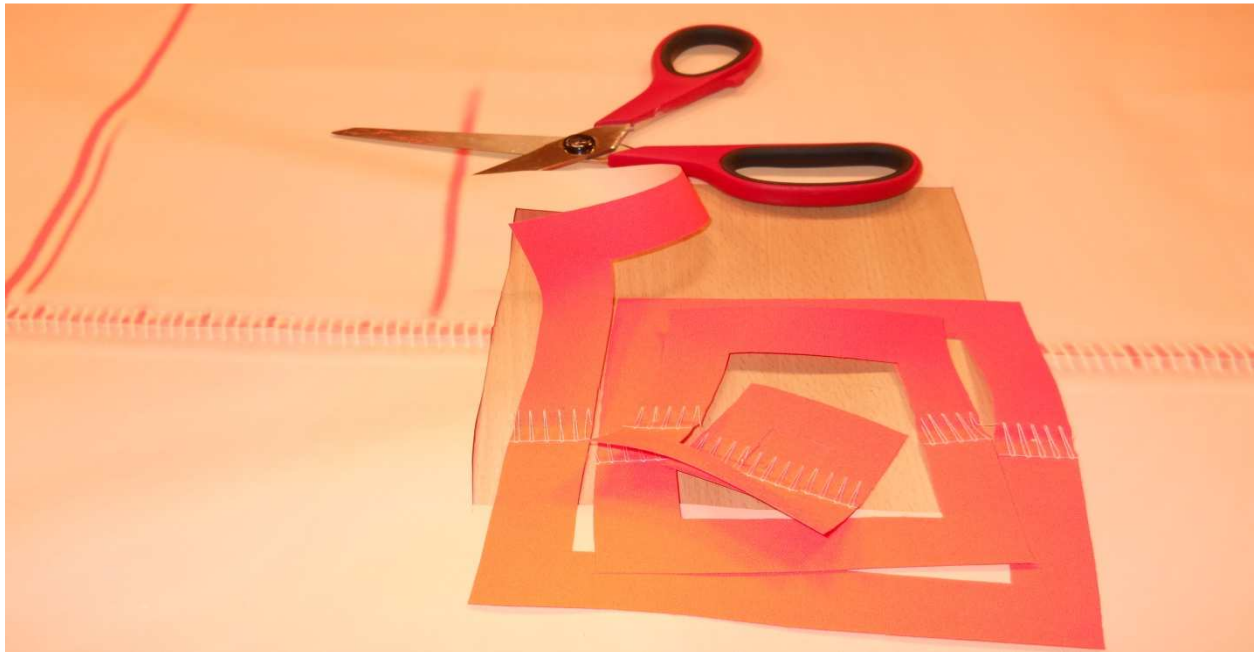
It is kind of interesting, I thought, even though the strip was not lying flat against the figure form.



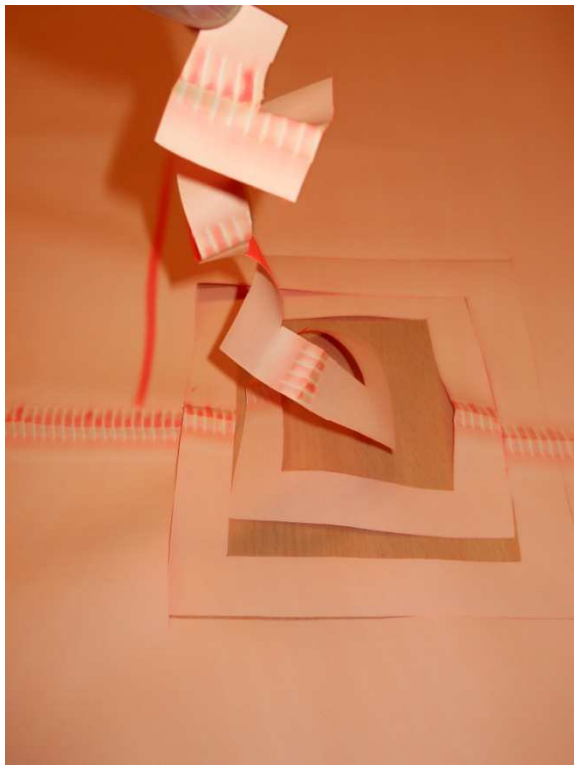
More wrapping!



I decided to cut the orange cloth in a square form and was anxious to see how it will display with its properties taken into consideration!



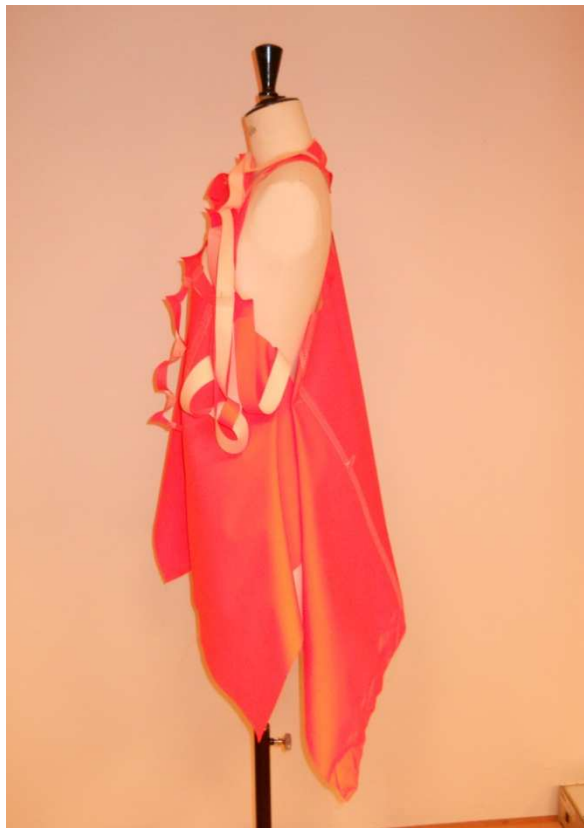
Again, I looked at its expression after cutting and later on the mannequin.



I decided not to cut up the whole piece and then transferred it to the mannequin, where I observed the different ways it hanged. I have also allowed the strip to fall by itself.



More examples:



I went back to explore the use of the circular orange strip.



This time I draped a bit differently - I went up and down, looping the strip:



This gave me an idea of where I can apply this – upper body at the chest area.

I liked this attempt, especially the contrast showing!

My fourth attempt with the orange strip:



This time I started draping from the broad end of the strip.



I loved this attempt and would definitely use it to create a real garment!

My fifth attempt was still very much controlled – the edges of the strip are wound, creating a large bag-like structure:



It is then applied to a figure form and then folded in different ways:



More folding and turning of sections – the start point is also released:



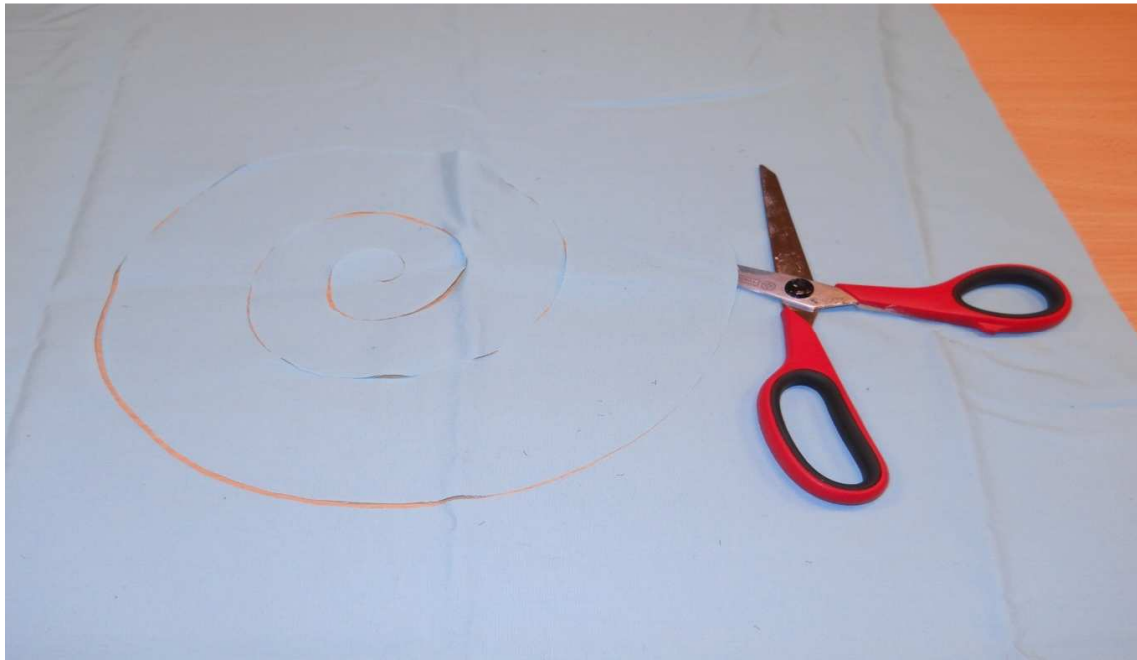
With the strip almost all undone, it is then applied onto the figure form.



The strip was also applied vertically in an unplanned fashion!

The image is a composite of four photographs showing a mannequin from different angles (front-left, front-right, back-left, and back-right). The mannequin is wearing a large, sculptural garment made of a material with a pink-to-orange gradient. The garment is draped over the head and shoulders, forming a complex, layered, and somewhat circular shape that resembles a large flower or a piece of abstract sculpture. The material has a smooth, slightly glossy texture. The mannequin's neck and head are visible, with the brand name 'STOCKMAN' printed on the neck. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

I went back to cutting in a circular form, this time varying the shape of the circle – widening it sooner than with my first attempt.



I applied the cut strip on the mannequin. I liked how they curled like pasta!



Again, because I wanted this to work, I stood for a moment and wondered how several layers would look when stacked together and allowed to 'fall' like above.

I liked the results, and started wrapping and arranging more in different ways:



Examples:

A possible neck and back-body application!



A possible shoulder application!



More examples:



For possible application on different sections of on the upper body – as treatment for the neck, chest and/or sleeve and shoulder area.

The expression created by the stacking or layering of pieces was a success visually, that I would be keen to use in future projects.

It is an effect to explore further and to make sure that the form is kept!

I tried a non woven textile for this attempt.



My spiral cut here was in a triangle shape and have varied the cut gradually from narrow to broad.



Next, was to apply the cut piece on a mannequin.



Even though the textile was stiff, I was surprised by the ease and definite shape it assumed on the figure form. This probably has something to do with the triangle-cut and its stiffness - something I need to investigate further!

The firmness of the non woven textile, created a certain sculptural quality and an interesting tone on tone effect!

