Brutalism in Colour

A look into Brutalist style architecture
in Manchester juxtaposed against contemporary
European architecture.

Project Outline
Unit X
Brutalism in Colour

Project Statement:
Within this project I want to look at 'unwelcoming', Brutalist style architecture juxtaposed against classically refined, colourful, contemporary European architecture. I will take primary research from the concrete city around me and use creative platforms to source my secondary information. Throughout material exploration and testing knitted structures I hope to combine the two design concepts into my one idea.

Body of Work:
Throughout this project I plan to create physical development of knitted designs, but curate a digitally based sketchbook/portfolio. I want to try and work with the physical designs to create visually exciting digital pages that show progression of the ideas and themes throughout. I want the concept and context to be very apparent all through the work, so the body of work feels refined to the audience. I also intend to make twelve final fabric samples that I will photograph and put into the digital sketchbook

Research:
I plan to do mainly visual research throughout this project as I really want to give a refined concept. I want to take inspiration from architectural design, fashion design, garment construction and yarn qualities. I want to understand how yarns work in order to produce more structural knitted designs that would also work well when on the body.

Challenges:
My main challenge throughout this project will be having to complete my work from home. Using a domestic machine means knitting in a different way. I will have to adapt my ideas to the resources that are available to me. I plan to do lots of material exploration to help me adapt my project efficiently.

Future Intentions:
As it stands I'm not sure I want to go down the designer route. I want to work within Museums and Galleries, curating exhibitions and making 'art' accessible to all.
I plan to use this project to develop my skills in refining ideas, understanding concepts and contexts and understanding how to structure my time efficiently.

Context:
For this project I plan to focus on a full fashion context. I want to work towards a 'ready-to-wear' context, so the garments feel more relatable for the audience. I want to focus on creating an identity within the knitted fabrics that represents the places I am basing them off. The colours and yarns types used throughout will be influenced by my architectural research.

"Brutalist buildings are characterised by their massive, monolithic and 'blocky' appearance with a rigidgeometric style and large-scale use of poured concrete. The movement began to decline in the 1970s, having been much criticised for being unwelcoming and inhuman."

https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Brutalism

"Contemporary Dutch architecture maintains strong roots in the vanguard arts and architecture movement from the 1920s. The avant-garde designs of De Stijl and Theo van Doesburg, together with the work of Piet Mondrian, inspired new ways of connecting indoor and outdoor spaces and creating volumes and geometries that blend into the urban fabric."

"Colours and catchy shapes are among MVRDV's signature architectural elements. The firm designs playful architecture as a way to attract people and create a sense of community."

https://www.architonic.com/en/story/tlmag-dutch-architecture/7001599

Melara, Trieste, ItalyMelara, Trieste, Italy

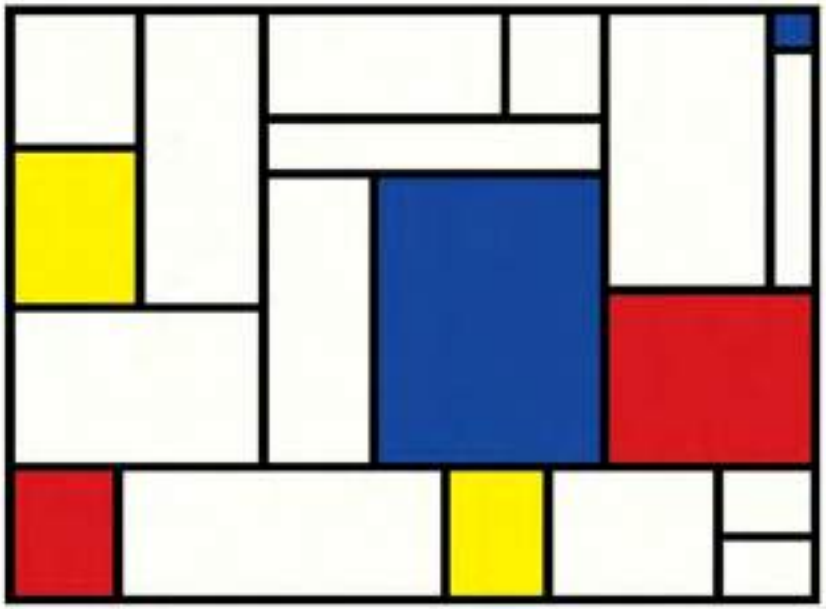
The couch, The Netherlands

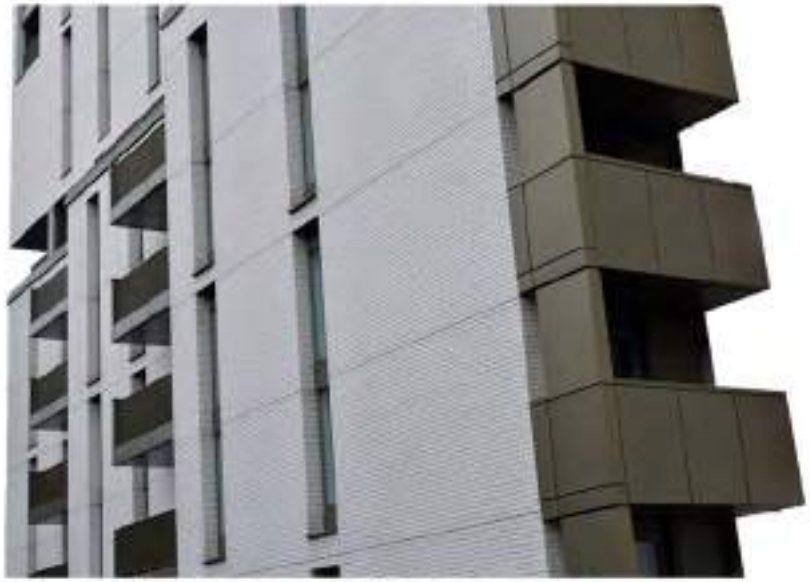
Piet Mondrian
Jaime Van Wart/ Sharleen Chen/ Ran Park
Xavier Delory

The Netherlands-based **De Stijl movement** embraced an **abstract, pared-down aesthetic** centered in basic visual elements such as **geometric forms** and **primary colors.**

Led by the **painters Theo Van Doesburg** and **Piet Mondrain** - its central and celebrated figure – De Stijl artists applied their style to a host of media in the fine and applied arts and beyond.

De Stijl's influence was perhaps **felt most noticeably in the realm of architecture**, helping give rise to the international style of the **1920s and 1930s**

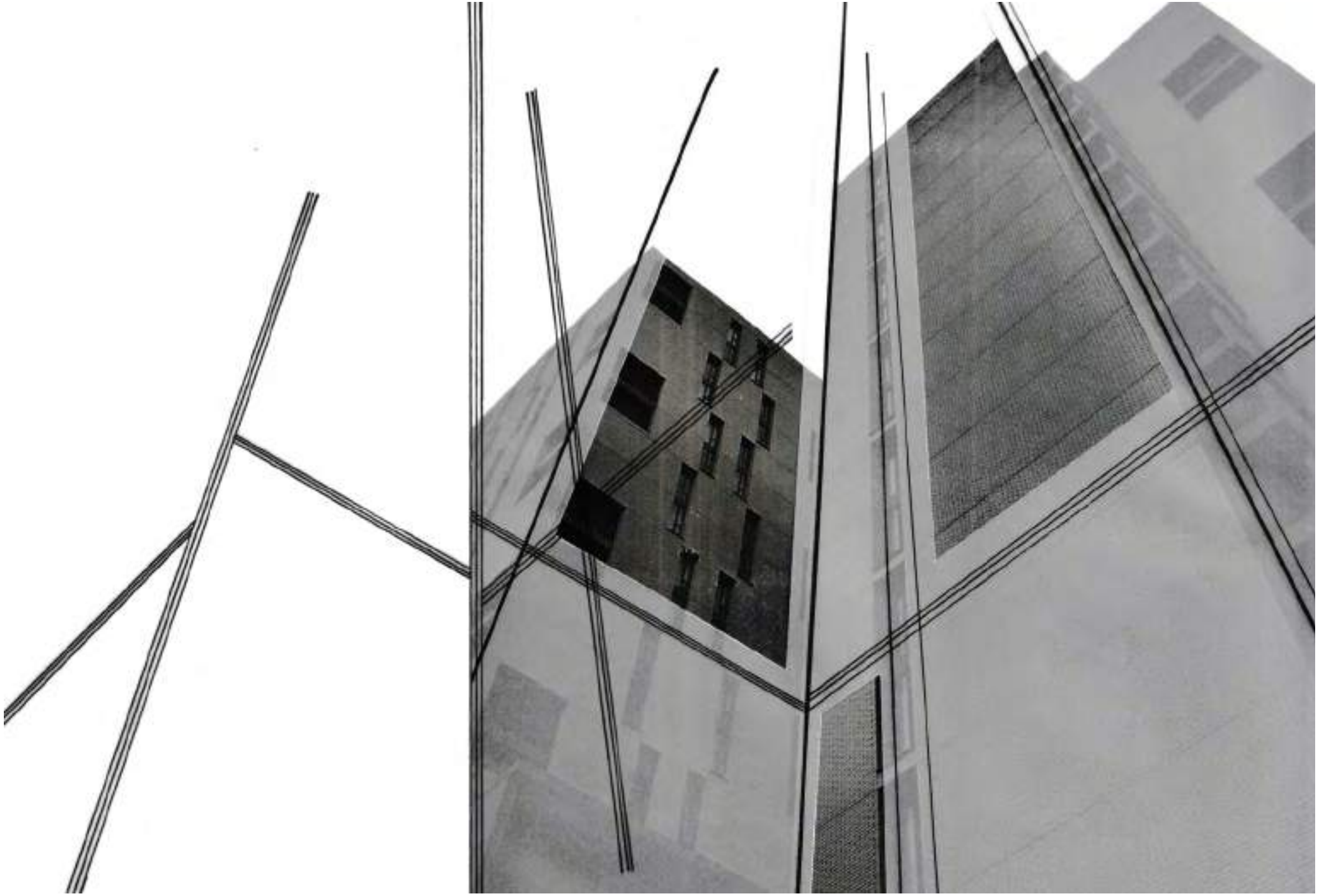


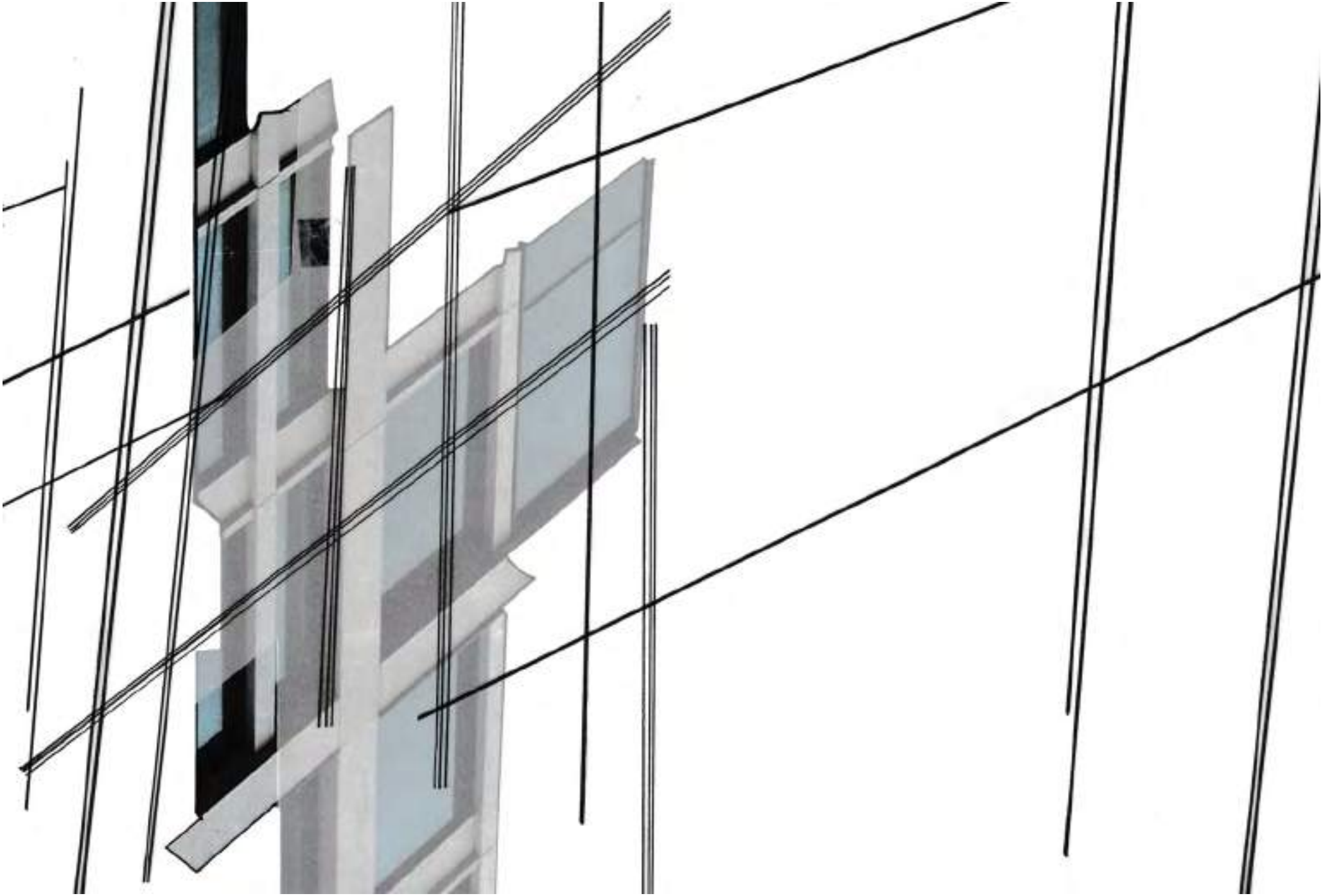


'Brutalist' Inspired Primary Sources:

Secondary Sources:

Concept
Context
Process



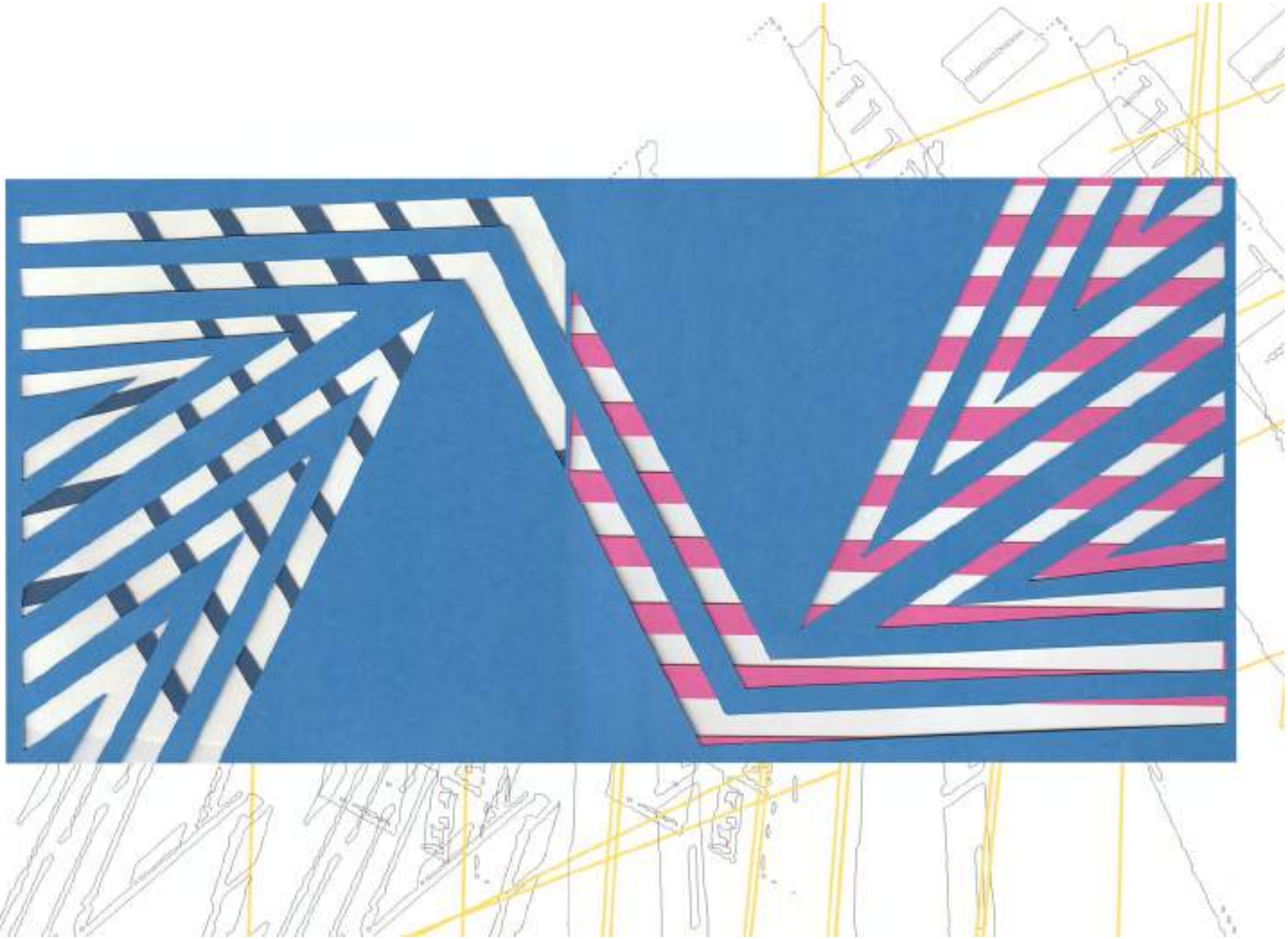


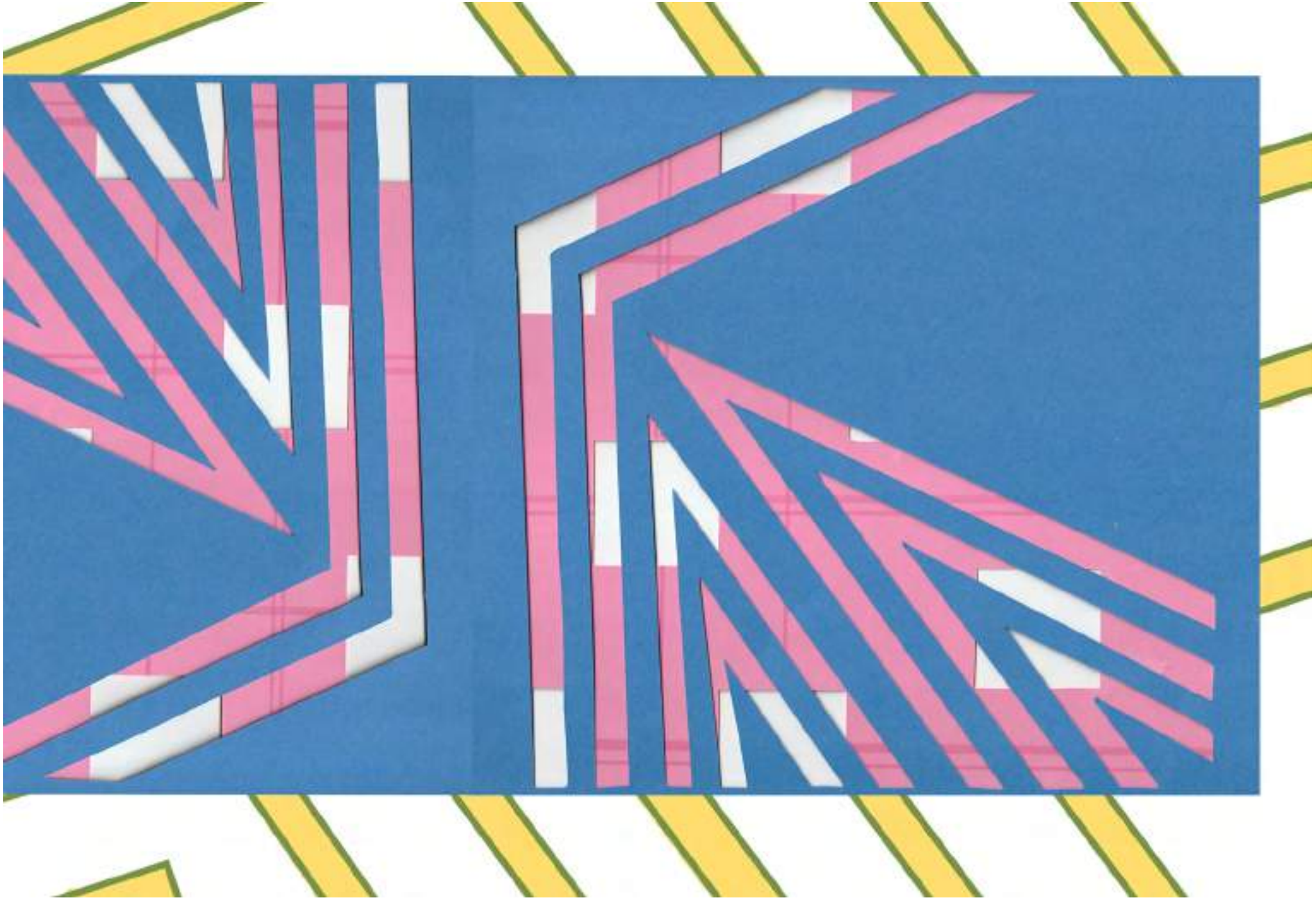
Creating Texture With Knit

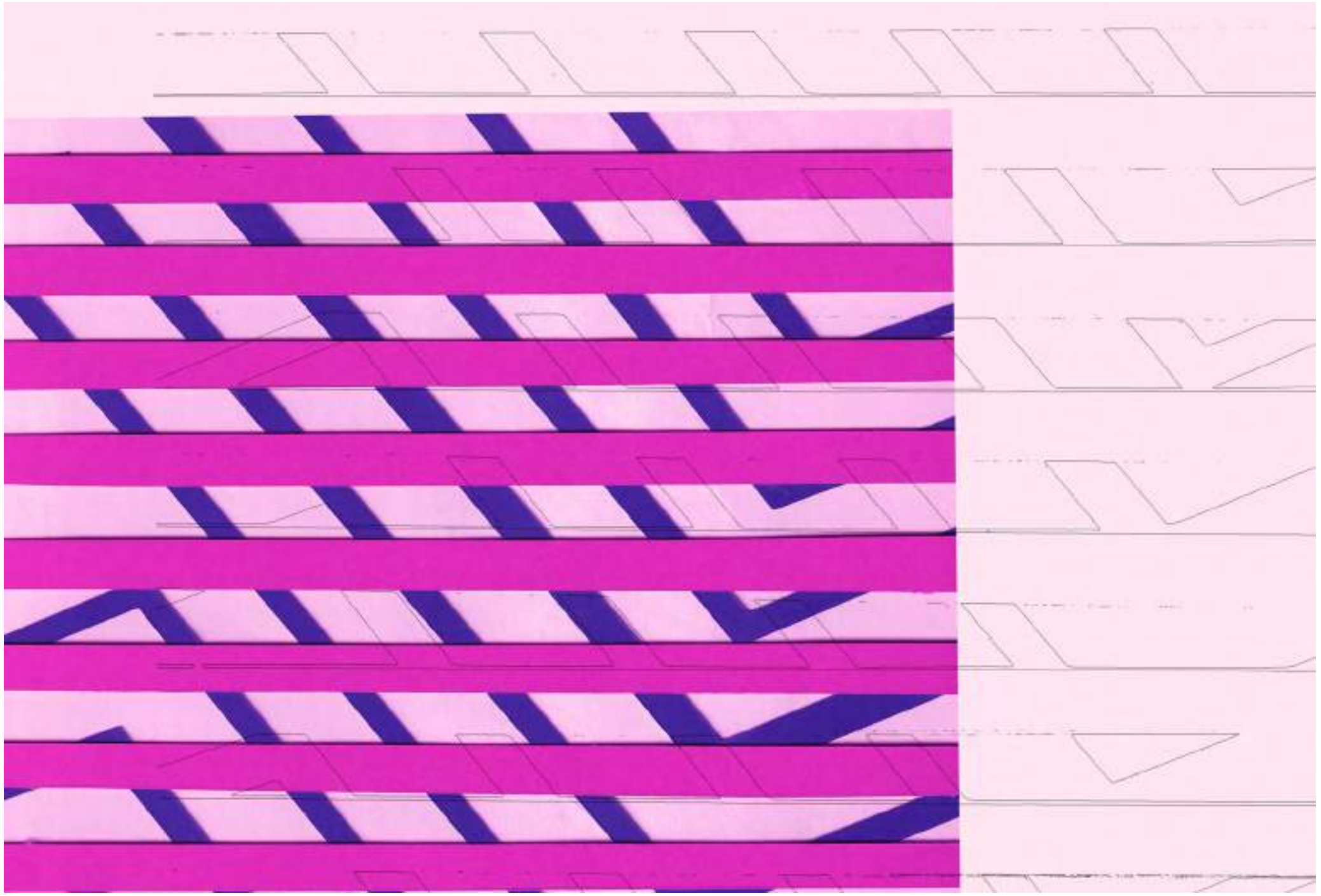
Material

Exploration

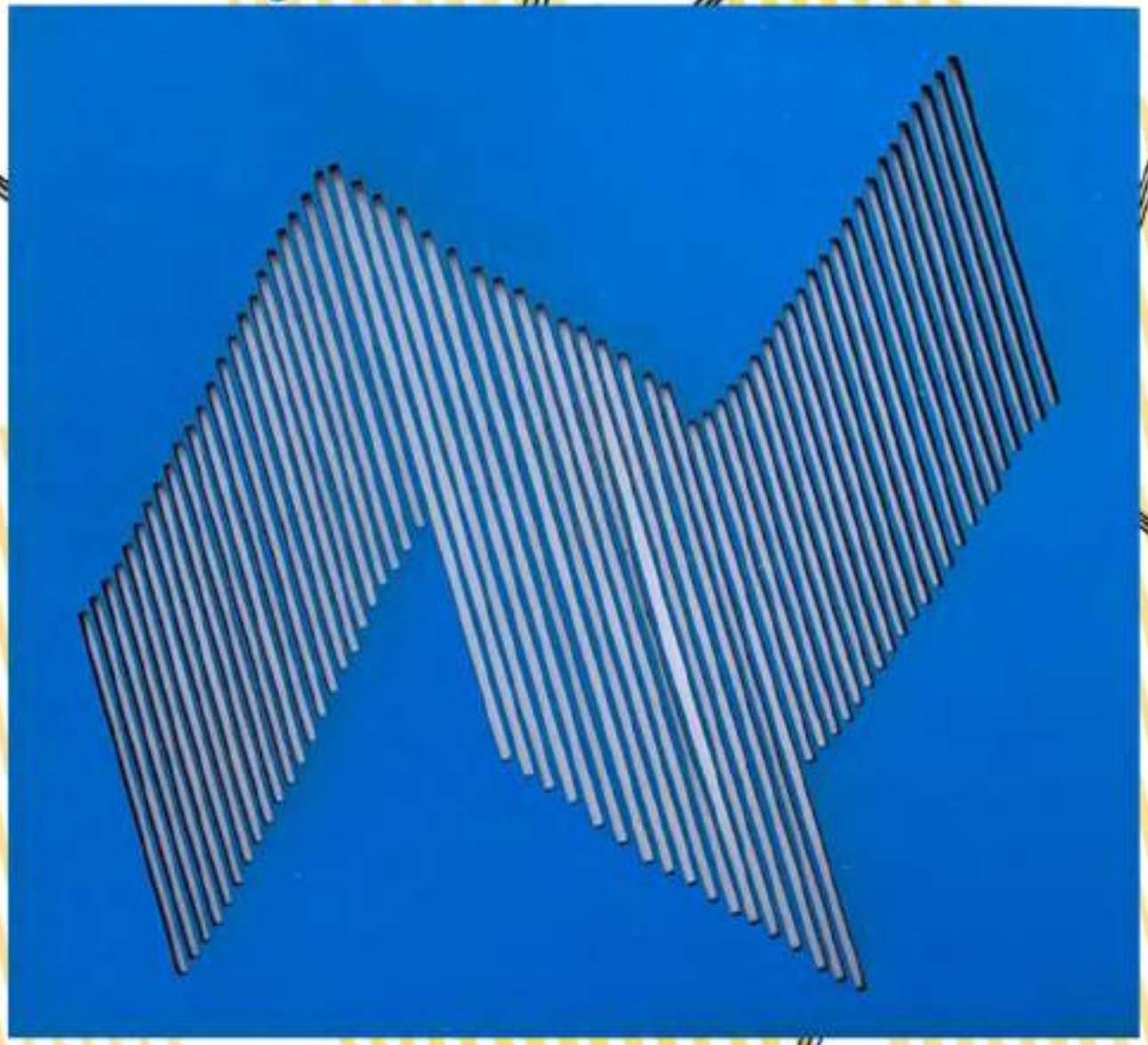
Final Colours



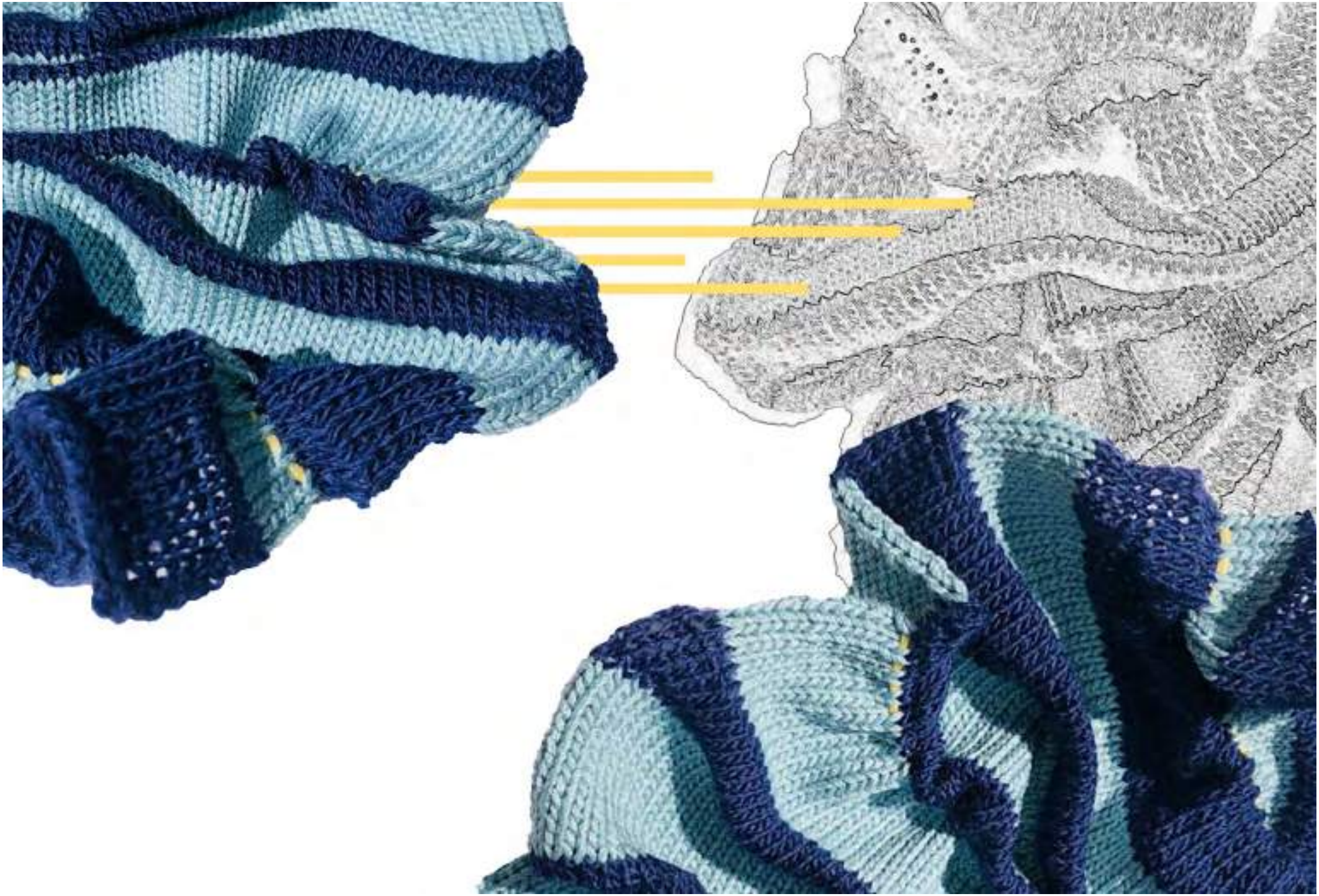




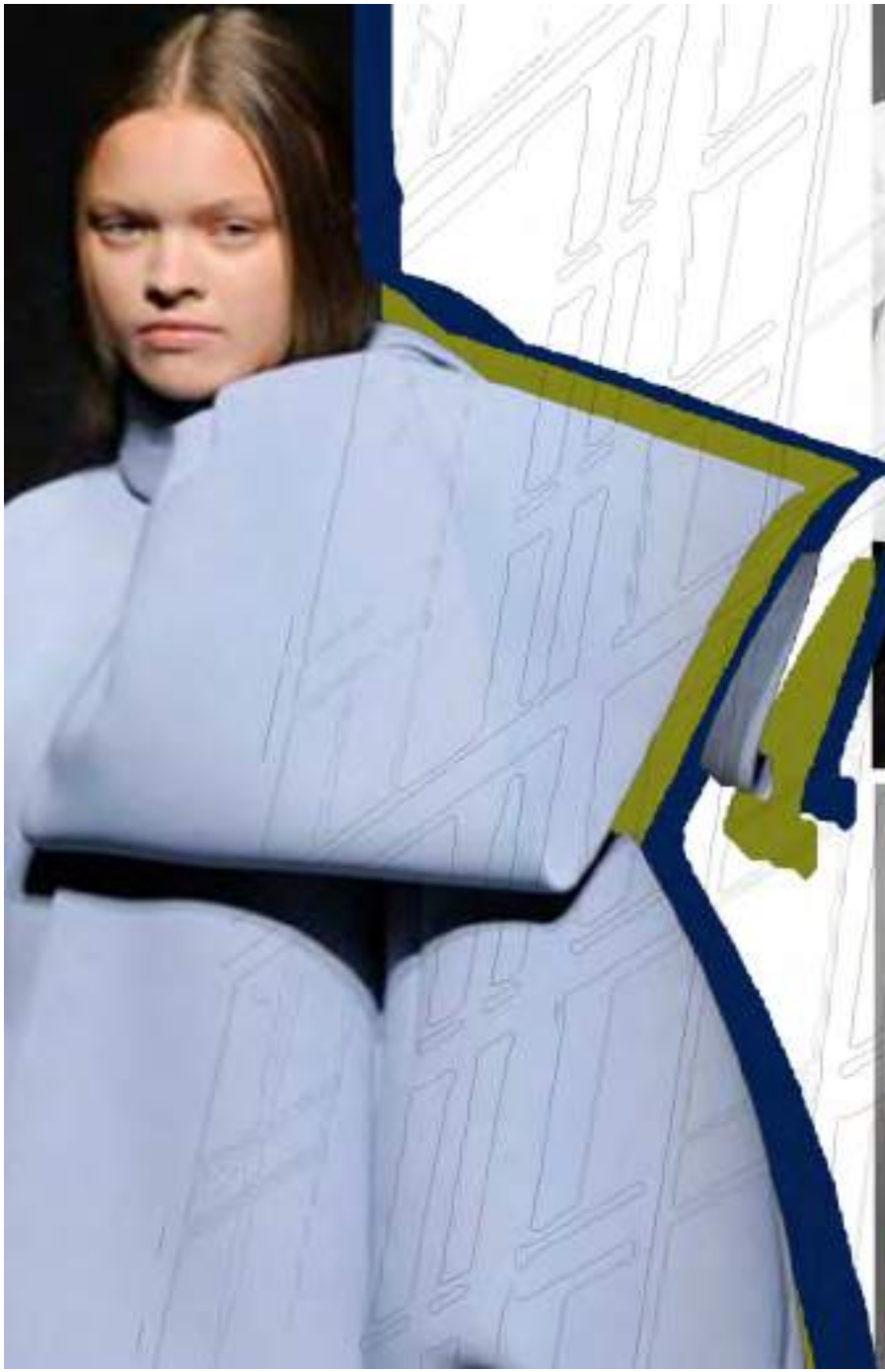
Laser *Cutting* MDF



Yarn Wraps
Colour Quantaties
Geometric shapes



GoodHood
Joeseph 2020
Marc by Marc Jacobs
J.W. Anderson



Off White
Dice Kayek
Pixie Market
Balossa