



Chelsey Wertans

Fashion Design Portfolio

chelsey_wertans@fitnyc.edu

chelseywertans.com

My Journey Begins...

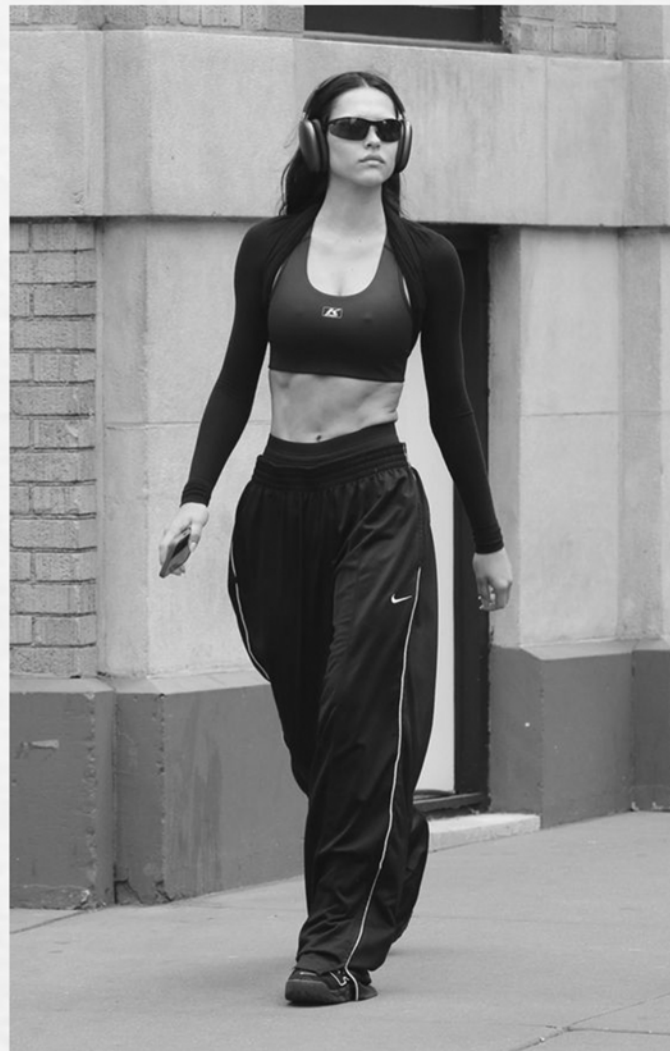
My grandmother's fashion style inspired my design vision. She always gave me praise and advised me on my work. I have been sewing and drawing since I was six years old. After I acquired my first sewing machine, she gifted me a bag full of what she called, "Shmattas", a Yiddish word for rags. Before me was a pile of old clothes that didn't fit her, scraps of fabric and trim from her collection. I would spend hours sorting through the bag and making unique creations from the treasure trove she gave me. With the support of my family, I continue to practice my craft and work towards my goal of designing for a contemporary market and possibly having my own business someday.

I strive to create garments that empower women and make them feel comfortable and fashionably current at the same time. My Brand signature emphasizes fit and a feminine style within a sustainable professional environment. As a representative of my generation, I look to support sustainable practices, in business and as a designer. I am committed to designing within these dimensions for my customer with a beautiful spirit.

She



She is a modern working woman, successful at her chosen field, that allows for her to purchase clothes at any price. She is diverse in ethnicity, size or shape. She is enlightened in spirit and brings joy to the lives of those around her. She takes care of herself. She is passionate about her work and doesn't need a man to bring her happiness. She is an intelligent, independent, a woman who radiates confidence. She is she.

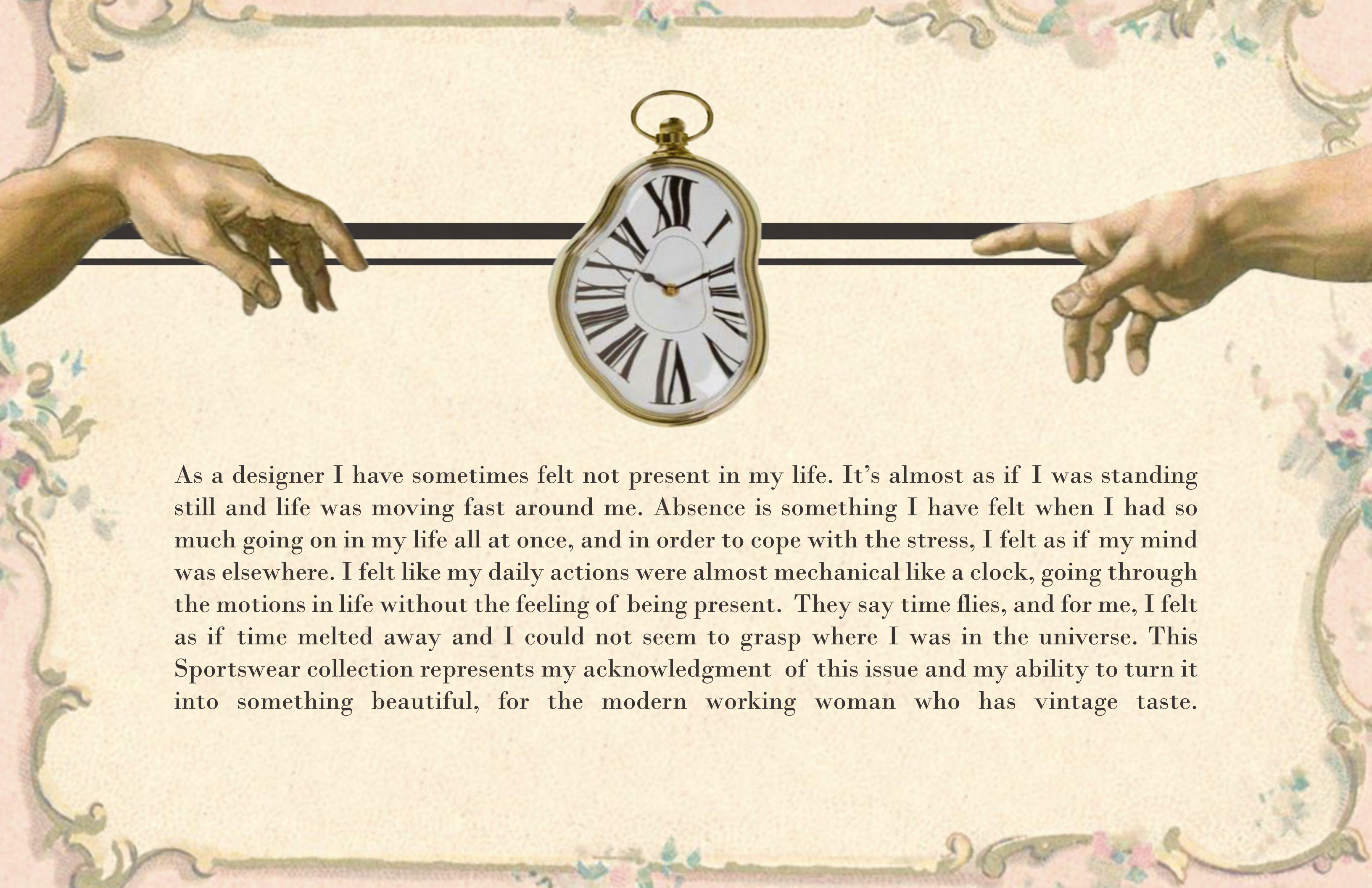


Becoming me

The following three collections are a compilation of my thoughts, emotions, and feelings leading to me becoming the person I am today. The best person I can be. Me.

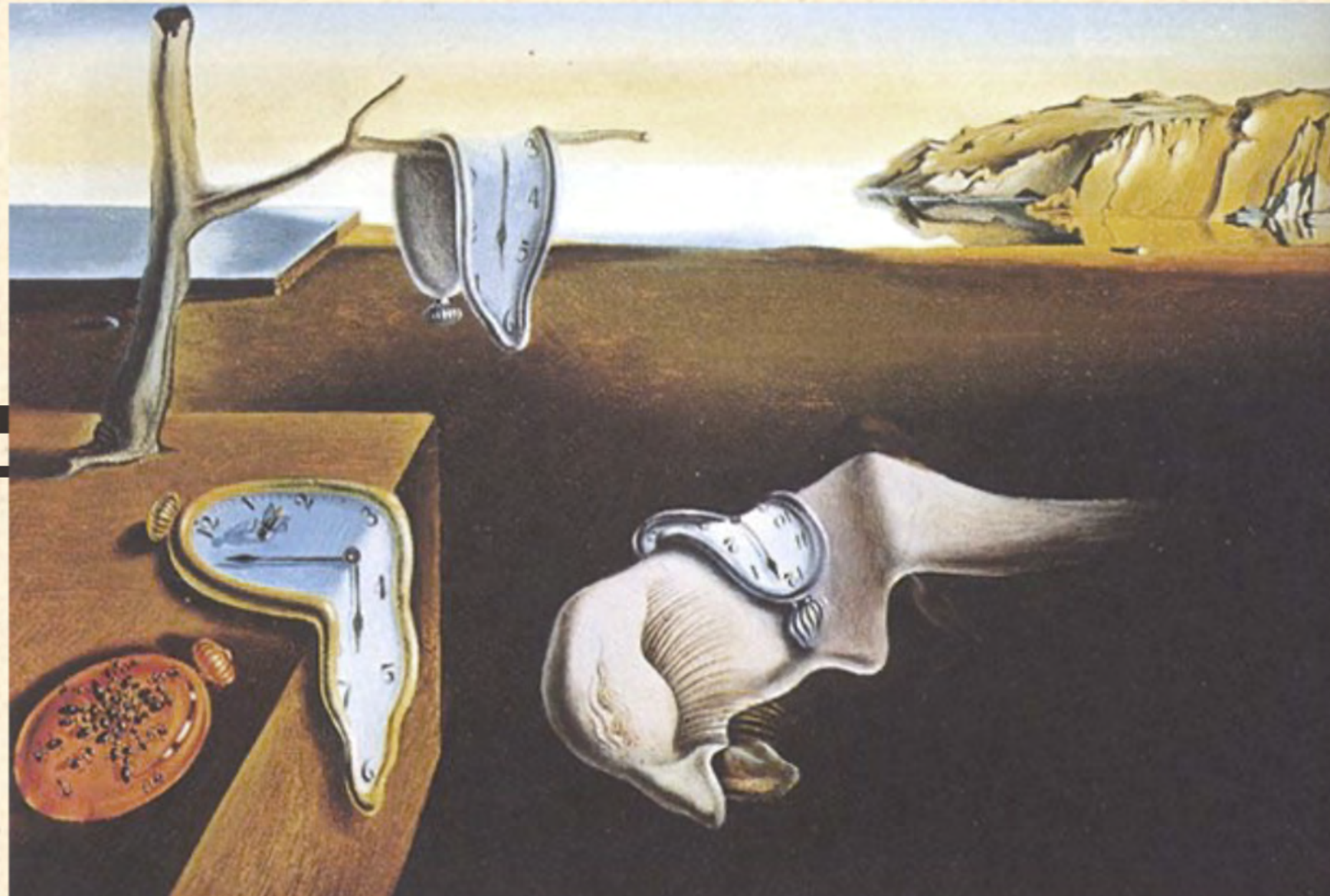


Absence
S/S



As a designer I have sometimes felt not present in my life. It's almost as if I was standing still and life was moving fast around me. Absence is something I have felt when I had so much going on in my life all at once, and in order to cope with the stress, I felt as if my mind was elsewhere. I felt like my daily actions were almost mechanical like a clock, going through the motions in life without the feeling of being present. They say time flies, and for me, I felt as if time melted away and I could not seem to grasp where I was in the universe. This Sportswear collection represents my acknowledgment of this issue and my ability to turn it into something beautiful, for the modern working woman who has vintage taste.





The Persistence of Memory

Salvador Dalí, 1931

For me, this painting by Salvador Dalí serves as a reminder that time is fleeting. Time seems melted and warped in the process of constantly working sometimes. Nothing is permanent. Where I am now is only a blink in the span of a lifetime. Life goes on even if I feel I'm standing still at times. It's important to know that time does not control us entirely and we can create time for ourselves occasionally.

The Victorian Era Inspiration



In this collection, I looked to the Victorian era as inspiration for silhouettes. This era was a turning point in history for its industrialization and invention of the modern workday. As a fashion designer who is constantly working to keep up with the many projects I must do, I found it fascinating that before the Victorian era, people did not frame their lives around the clock. People rose with the sun and worked when they felt like it. In 1888, Willard Legrand Bundy invented the employee time clock which allowed employers to precisely track the hours their staff worked. This led to standardized workdays with repetitive tasks, a trend still used today. Even with the strain of repetitive work days, I have found new ways to work hard and connect to my designs and work regardless of the feeling of being absent minded. The Victorian era serves as an inspiration for ruffles, embroidery and special little details seen in my designs.

Color Inspiration



Fabrication

There is silk satin, taffeta, and brocade. There is also linen pleated shirting and wool suiting. Along with these there are some novelty fabrics.



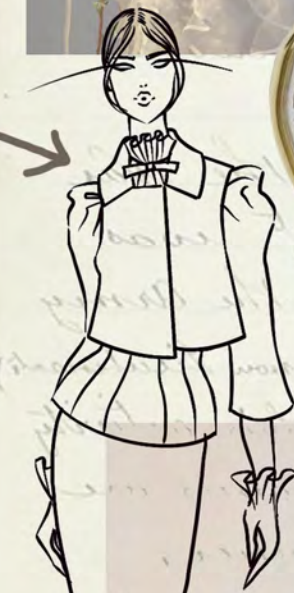
Modernize Hoop Skirt



Ruffles



Peter Pan Collars



A-Line



Frilly Collars



Puff Sleeves



Pleats and Pintucks



Corsets



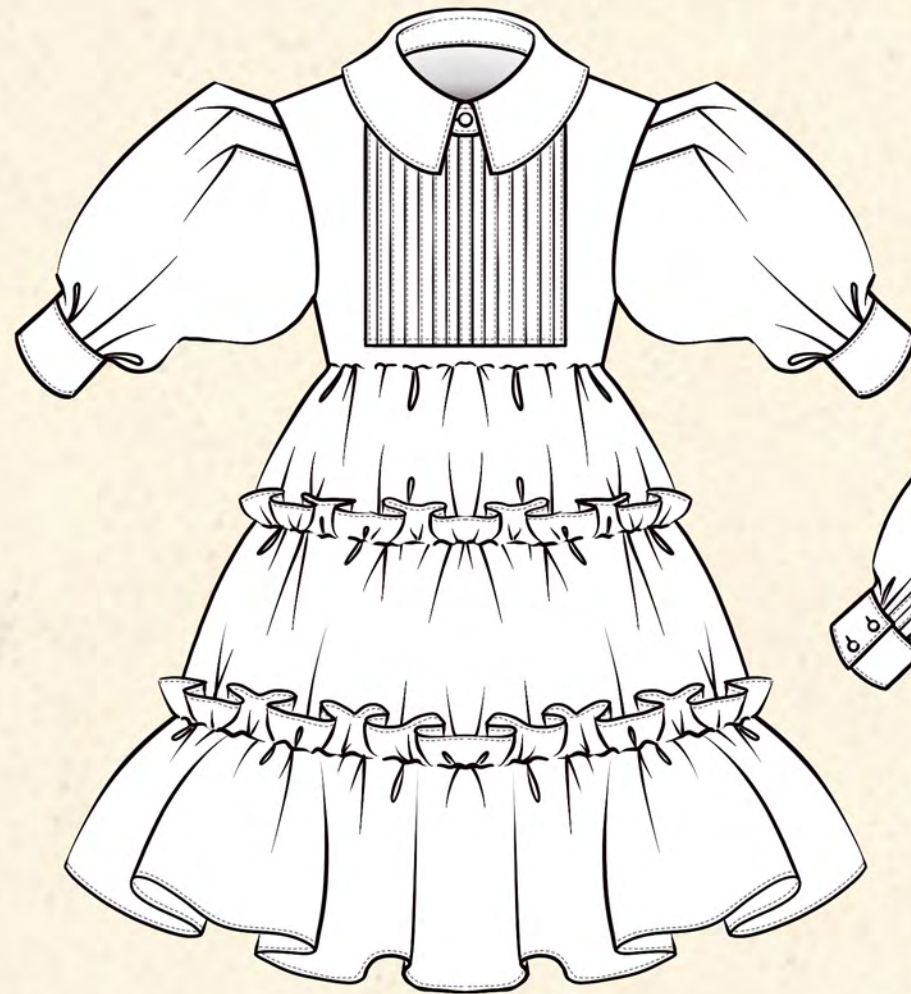
Tiered Skirts



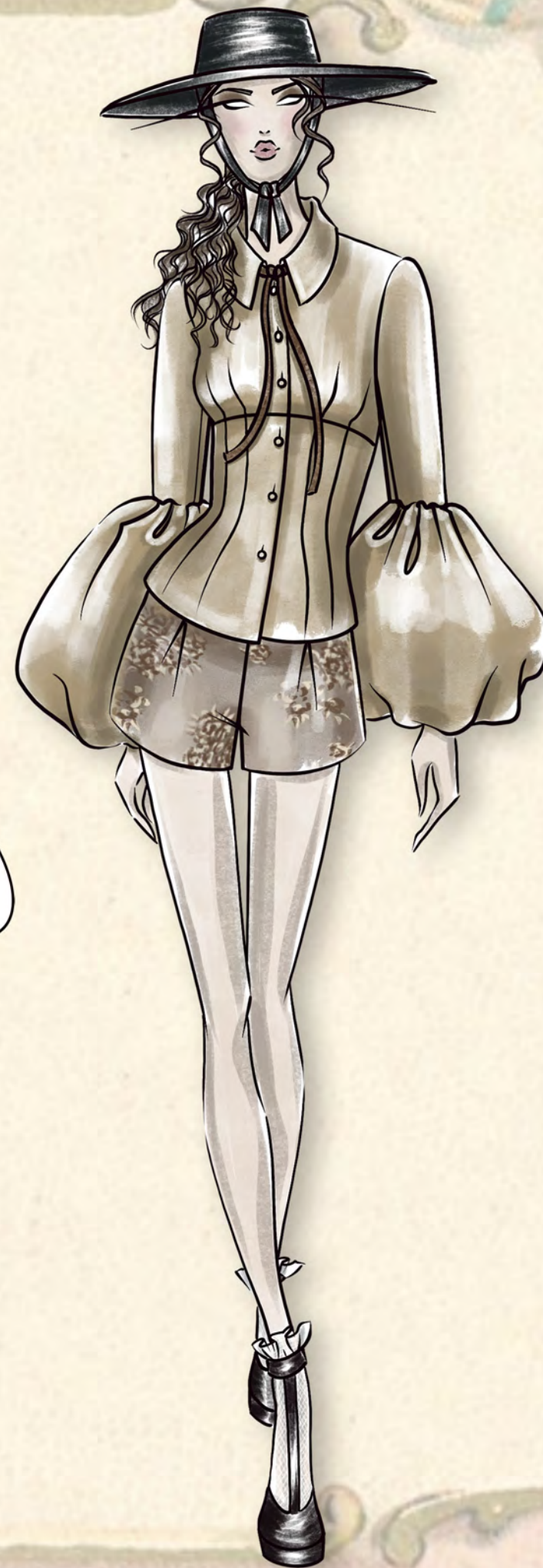
Accessories

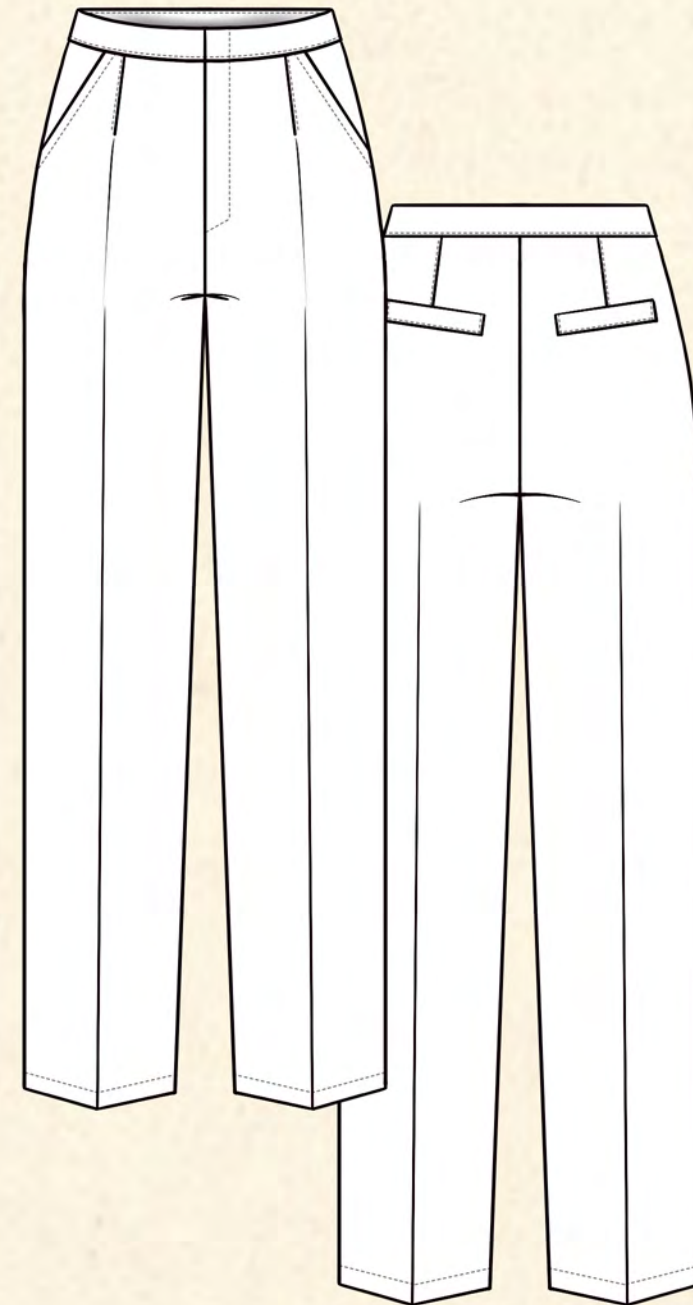
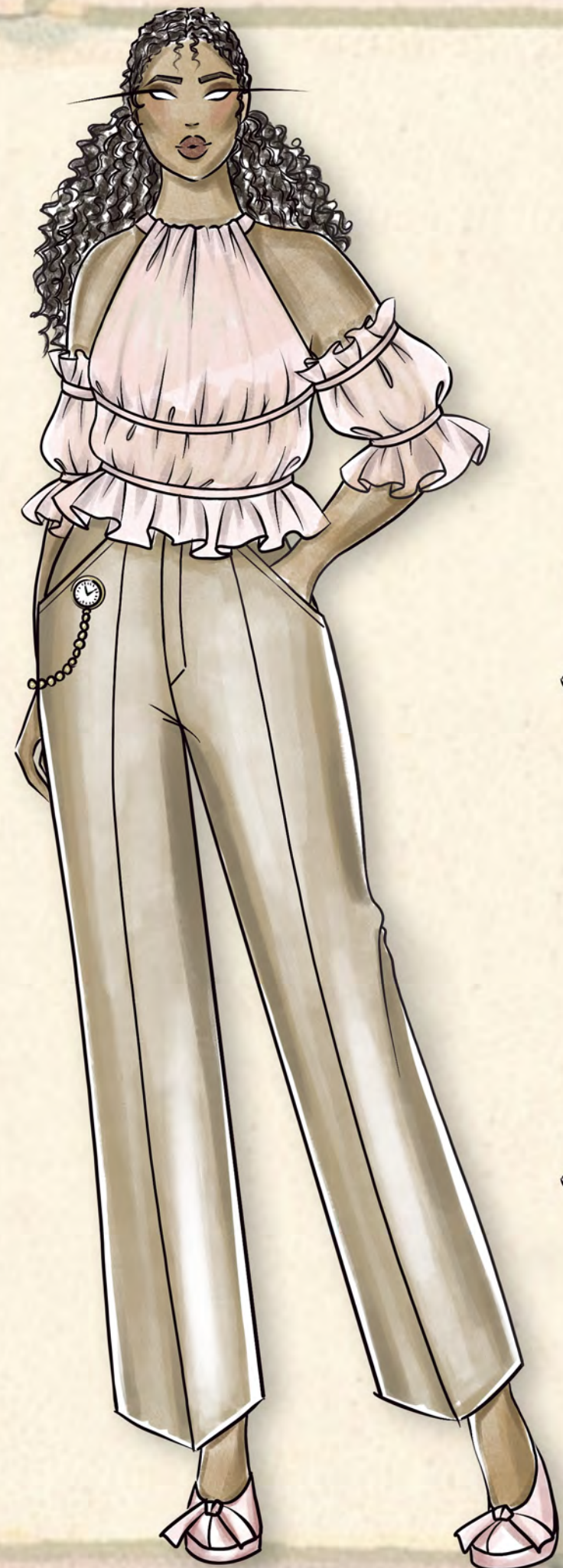


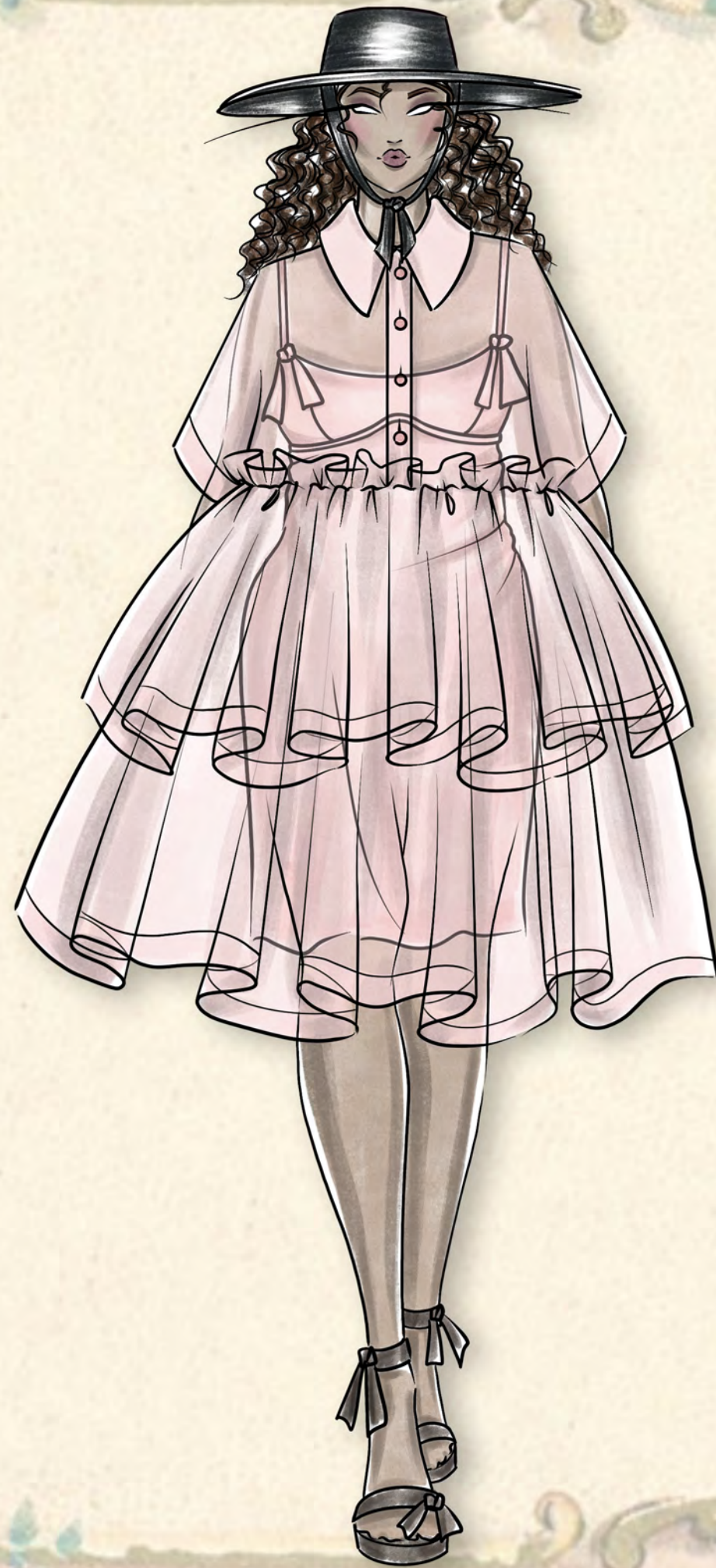
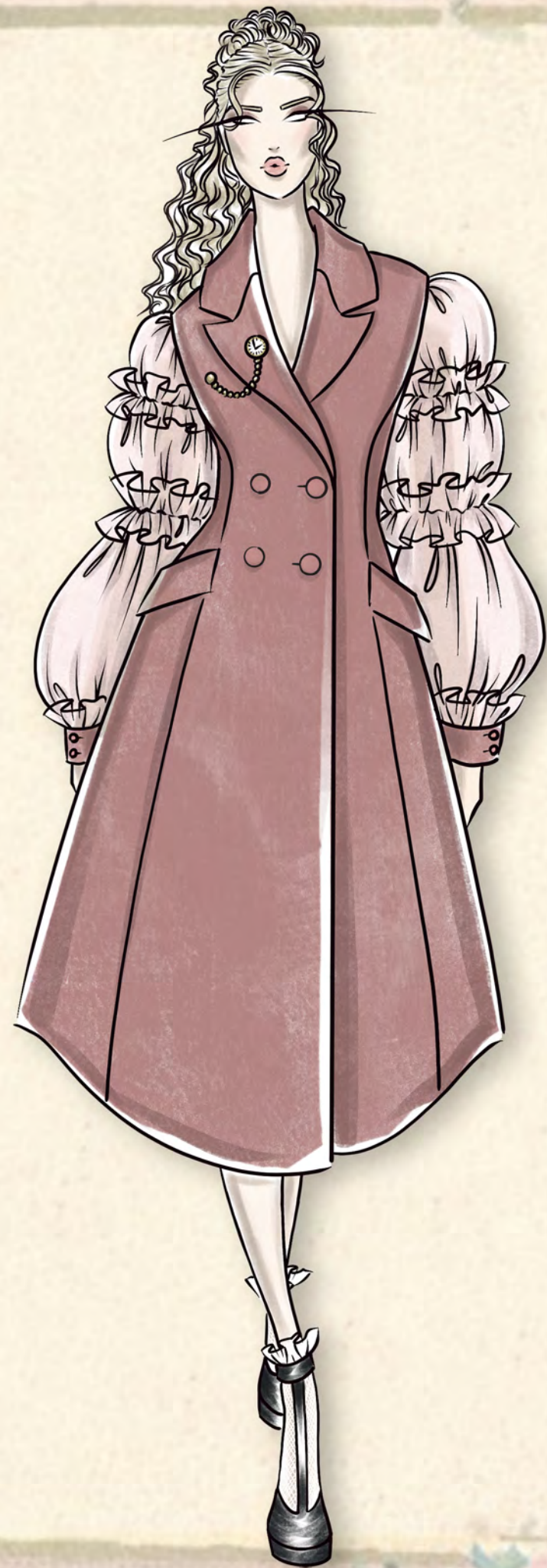


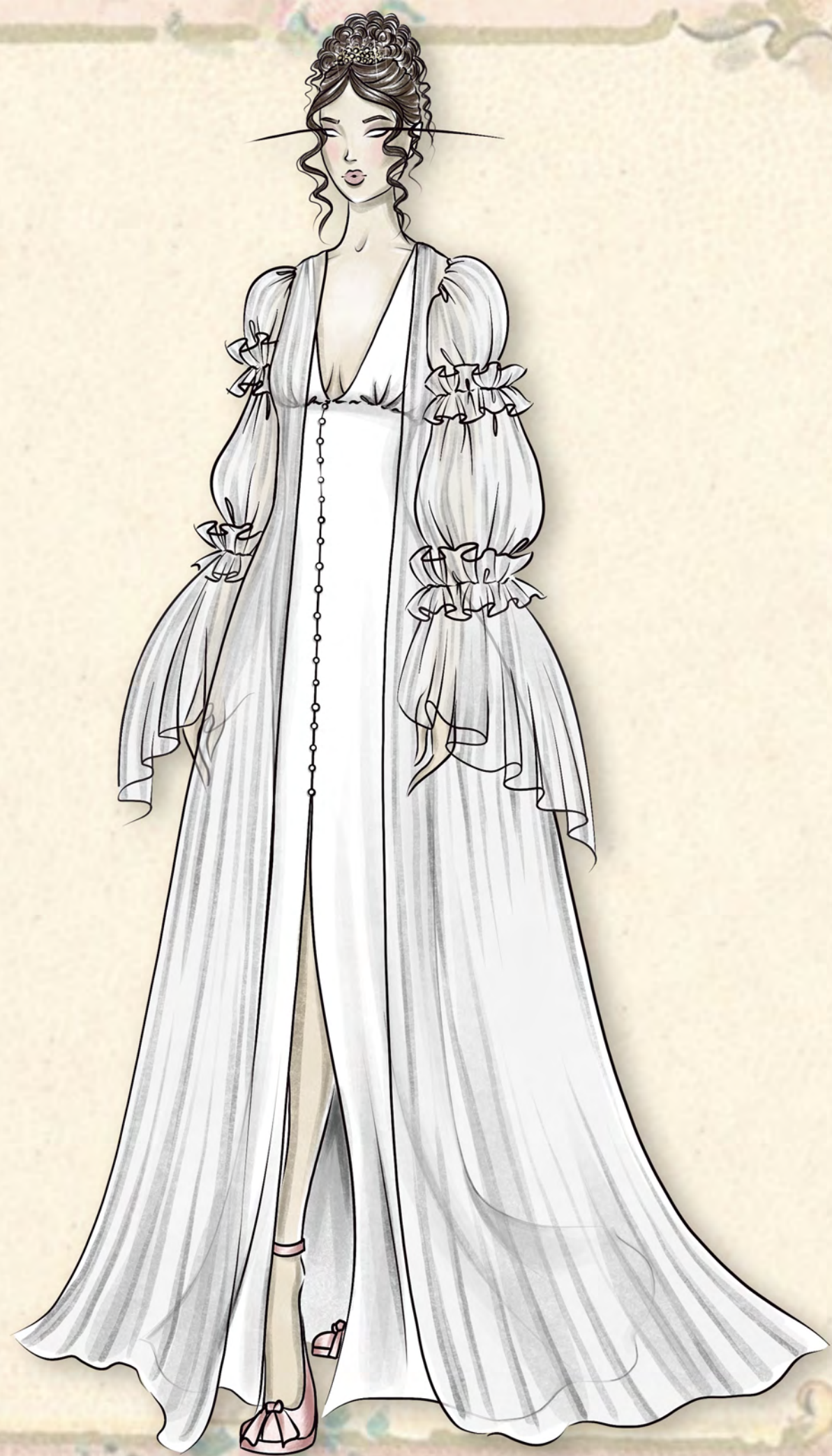














A decorative border with floral and scrollwork patterns in shades of green, pink, and blue, framing a light beige background.

Chelsey Wertans
chelsey_wertans@fitnyc.edu