

June 2021

Pushing boundaries; collaboration and interdisciplinary practice

Swansong

The Remains of immunity

Mix Magazine (Colour Hive) x L1 & L2 BA (Hons) Interior Design x BA (Hons) Photography x KASK University of Arts Belgium

The uncertainty of the global pandemic sets an exciting stage to forecast through the current blurred lens how the future of design may emerge from one of the biggest events of our lifetime. Set with the challenge of exploring a current topic ‘Swansong’ from industry leaders in the forecasting scene, Mix Magazine by Colour Hive describing this theme as ‘An end of days, decadent fatalism is explored through nostalgic references to past times on the brink of disaster.’ Through working as a diverse, international and interdisciplinary team we took this theme in new directions exploring complex social issues through the art form of dance producing a dynamic forecasting article with curated imagery capturing our emerging colour palette.

**Submitting Students Work:
Ashley James Powell & Paige Sargent**

Swansong

The Remains Of Immunity

EDITOR Ashley Powell
 WORDS Paige Sargent
 PHOTOGRAPHY Edward Brown & Hannah Willing
 WITH THANKS TO Mila Valova, Annie Jenkins, Charley Soulsby and Marie Vanwelden



The current attention in increasing uncertainty through society and the fragility of democracy generates decadent fatalism which leads to a vulnerable and manipulated generation. The unsettling power of society infects countless minds that are easily influenced, leaving very few innocent and undamaged that flourish in the belief of hope and freedom in controlling their own lives that they can predict their own fate. Through the theme 'Swansong', "exploring decadent fatalism through nostalgic references of past times on the brink of

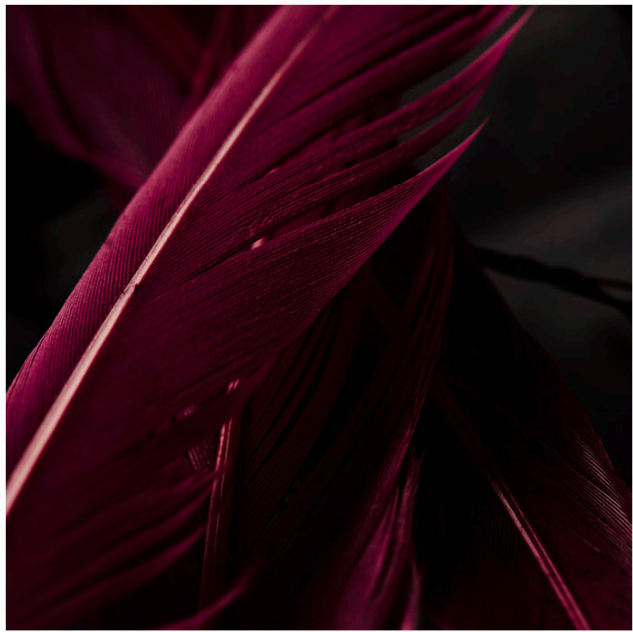
disaster". (MIX MAGAZINE 2020) This will be expressed through telling a story of one of the most well-known ballet performances – Swan Lake. The powerful story communicates and visualises the dark more mournful side of Swan Song. The idea to use this performance not only is deeply rooted in nostalgic past times of performance but can also be translated into modern times which mirrors societies instabilities with the pressures to follow social and political platform 'norms' thus on the brink of disaster.

Overview



“An end of days, decadent fatalism is explored through nostalgic references to past times on the brink of disaster. From Berlin and Shanghai in the '30's to the last days of disco, this is a brave and brittle honouring of liberalism and creativity, tinged with sadness and foreboding.”

MIX Magazine, AW 2021/22

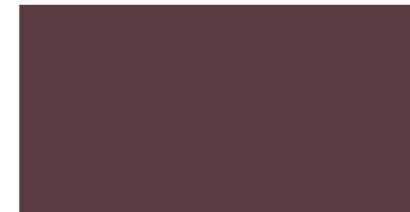


The battle of the Monochromes

The Black Swan is a visual embodiment of society and its negative attributes such as oppression, propaganda, pressure and manipulation heightened through the likes of social media. Through its detrimental characteristics, it is also a visual reminder that unforeseen events occur that society are unprepared for, resulting to ravages across the nation. The looming fate which the black Swan carries predetermined by a force that cannot be controlled. In present times, the visual reminders of the Black Swans fate has urged devastation and fear in society from the outbreak of Covid-19 and the Global emergency we are experiencing. The White Swan however reflects the vulnerability and fragility of people who are controlled through the infectious power of the Black Swan, constrained to live and act under the commands of the Black Swan, the White Swans begin to act in unison with one another. Some White Swans however work in contrast, elements of hope and freewill mirror one another so they can control their own lives which creates a powering shift that enables others to see a glimpse of happiness, but fate is always looming close-by.



MIX58.02.04 Fever Pink



MIX58.02.03 Black Cherry



MIX Pink Opal Inverted



MIX58.02.06 Pink Opal



MIX58.02.01 Harvest Gold



MIX58.02.05 Royal Blue



MIX58.02.08 Cassis

Colour Analysis

Incorporating luxurious colour and textures through the use of props and accessories enables to capture the symbolic meanings that are associated with the concept of fate and hope. The colour pallet and texture entwine with one another creating a complementary form. By incorporating the original Swan Songs Colour variation with an inverted modification, the rich pallet offers a new unexpected element of melancholy and optimism which is shown in a contrasting tone. Through doing so it enables to suggest

new distinctive meanings behind colours.

Capturing the story behind the famous Ballet performance in a new modern twist requires different levels of action shots and still images to embody the raw emotions and ambivalence of the White and Black Swan and how their relationship is perceived in art form. The images are left to viewers own interpretation through their own beliefs in today's society, allowing the Swans to relate to the viewer on a personal level.

