



NOT DEAD YET

**WALTER
VAN BEIRENDONCK**

D

R

A

W

THE WORLD

AWAKE

**Nothing I do
feels provocative.
Everything I do
feels normal.**

A WORD FROM WALTER

I always consider the future.

**Drawing is a very early step in bringing potential to life.
A potential form, a potential collection, a potential world.**

**Every time I sit behind my desk, pencil in hand,
I take a giant leap toward actualising a new dream.**

**Since my early years, long before I even thought of
becoming a fashion designer, drawing was my big escape.**

My way of bringing a realm into reality, as I saw it in my mind.

**Even if I couldn't vocalise it yet, I could use pencils and paint
to make my thoughts come alive. Making sure newly discovered parts
of my preferred universe could start to exist outside myself.**

**Designing and producing a collection the way I do it,
is to take hundreds of carefully crafted steps
that are all very different but nonetheless incredibly connected.**

**Very early on I discovered that drawing each look
—— head-to-toe, hair-to-nails, hat-to-footwear ——
exactly as I saw it in my head on a fresh sheet of paper,
was the most important one.**

**Trusting this process —— ever since the 80s up until
my most recent collection that I drew just before this book
went to the printers —— I have never wavered from that and I never will.**

**After every runway show, upon returning from Paris,
I store the latest drawing book in my archive, where it takes a seat
next to its —— more than 75! —— brothers and sisters.
When I look at them all, I know each of their exact back stories
and all the wishes and hopes I held and still hold for them.**

But I *always* consider the future.

**I knew that one day, the time would come to share my drawings with the world.
Let them serve as tale tellers or study objects. Or even better,
let them energise budding dreams and desires.**

**For the first time ever, but with great pride,
I am presenting over five hundred of my drawings,
downloaded from my brain over more than four decades.
I hope they will help you draw your own world awake.**

XXX

WALTER

DRAW THE WORLD AWAKE

A conversation between
Walter Van Beirendonck & Dominique Nzeyimana

DOMINIQUE NZEYIMANA:

***DRAW THE WORLD AWAKE* is a new sibling to your monograph *DREAM THE WORLD AWAKE*. Why is it important to you to release a big but very conscientious selection of your sketches in book form?**

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK:

“Since the beginning of my career, I have kept a pretty orderly and systematic record of all my drawings. I’ve been collecting them for a long time because I felt like I should be doing something with them. Give them a bigger purpose. But I would like to stress this first: it’s very important to know that these drawings are not fashion illustrations. That’s essential. These are fashion drawings that I use to work with and that support my imagination and entire way of working. Big difference. Most people know of fashion illustrations created after a look has been shown or after a piece is finished. That’s something completely different. In my case, it’s something that deeply supports my practice and, to me, that’s crucial to highlight. It will allow the viewer to look at the drawings differently. Sketching is so crucial to my design process — I thought it would be a beautiful thing to release a book that only contains my drawings.”

Indeed, it is common for fashion illustrations to be produced by third parties rather than the designers themselves.

WVB: “Yes, by fashion illustrators whose job it is to create drawings on behalf of fashion houses or labels. Designers who still draw by hand, as I do, are rare these days. Karl Lagerfeld’s drawings were well known and plentiful. But in my case, these are drawings meant for working with and this is the first time I’m showing a selection of them.”

In your work, the image that’s in your head and gets put onto paper is also what actually materialises on the runway. It’s incredibly recognisable.

WVB: “Exactly. It isn’t a ‘neutral’ type of sketch that is then edited and used by a ‘modelist’ or patternmaker. I do my research and then I literally place a blank sheet of paper in front of me and start drawing. I’m immediately trying to capture the mood that I want the final presentation on the catwalk to have. It requires a lot of imagination because, at that moment, there are no garments or ‘toile’ prototypes. Just some first ideas. It’s a puzzle that you have to start figuring out.”

Are there any fabrics in the room at that point?

WVB: “I start by attending my favourite fabrics fair where I determine the direction the textiles will go in and what I’ll be using, more or less. When we’re talking about really specific fabrics that I make or develop myself, I can already picture them or bring them to life in my imagination.”

The inspiration pops up during travels, trips, visiting an exhibition or any kind of event?

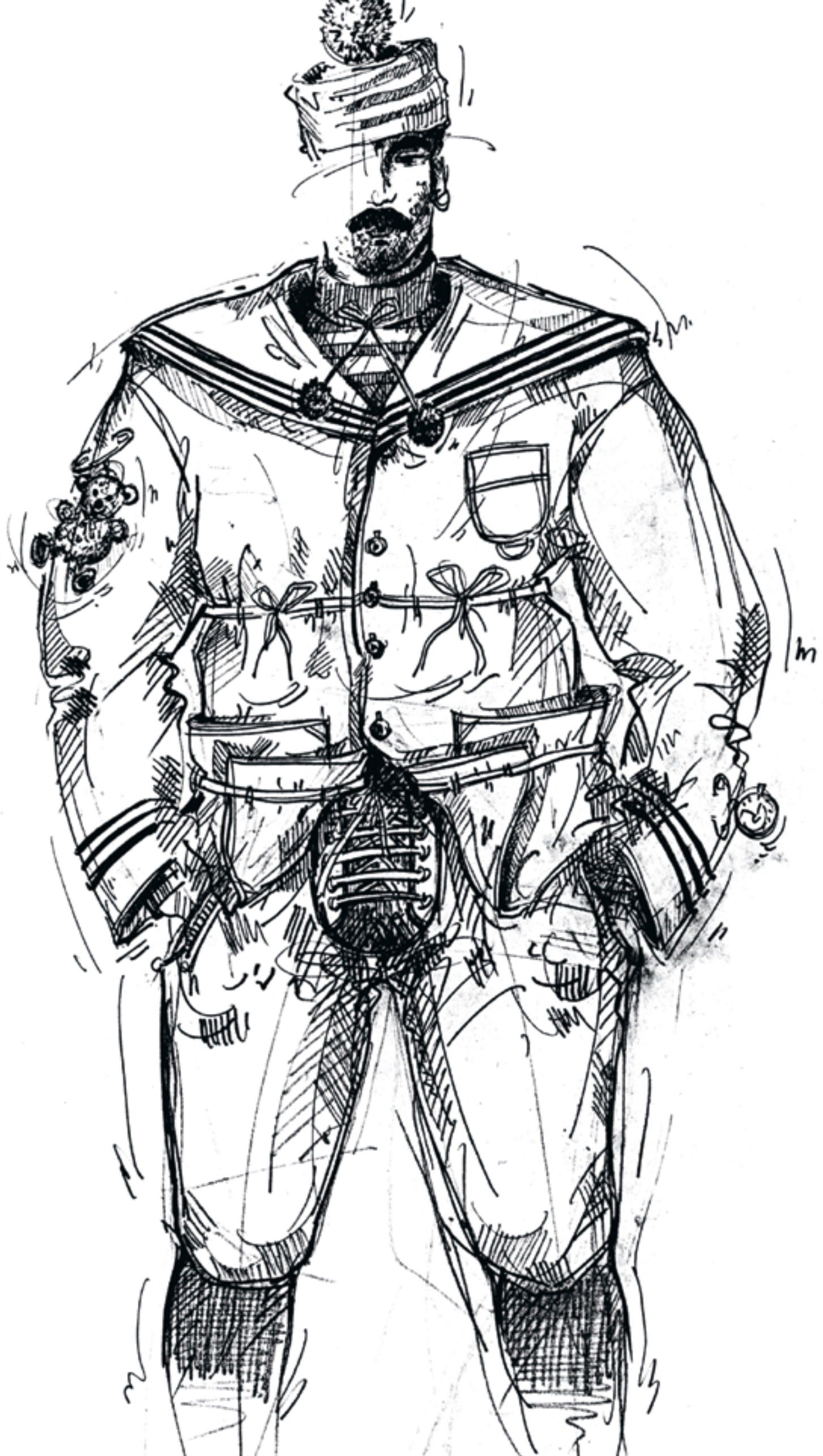
WVB: “It can be prompted by anything. Usually, it’s something that just triggers me. Often it’s something I had been working on at the end of a previous collection. Then I start researching, which means visiting exhibitions, reading and looking at books. Next, I start collecting images and pasting them in my books — those are not necessarily the collage books, but just my inspiration books. They are a bit less artistic.”

So those capture the more literal inspirations...

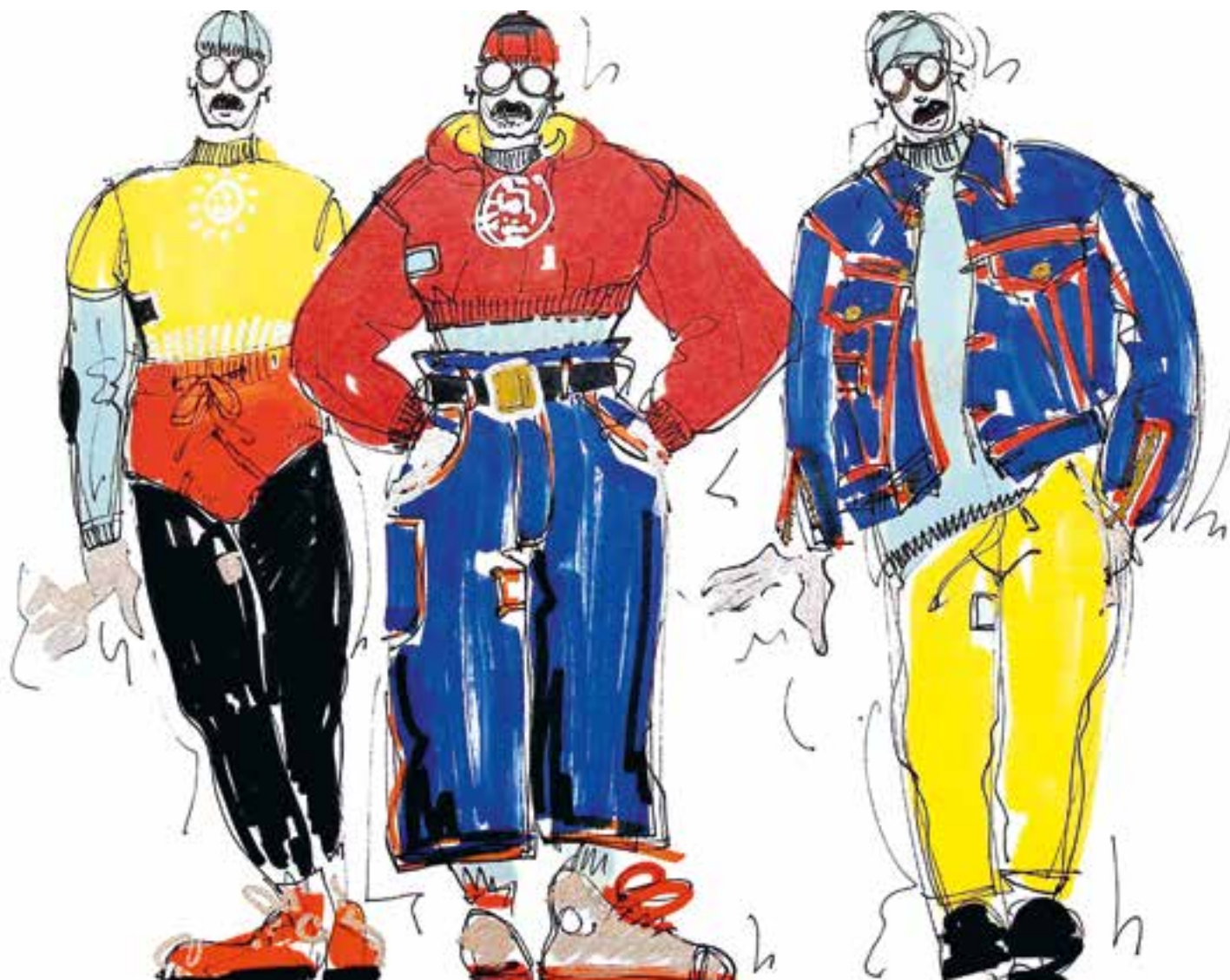
WVB: “I don’t have one with me right now. Normally there should be one in this pile right here for this season. A book in which I collect visuals that might inspire or where I write texts that might come in handy. It contains images, mood... purely things that are on my mind. There it is. Clearly, here, I was looking at all sorts of clowns: old-time clowns, retro clowns, dolls...”

AW
1986-1987

BAD
BABY
BOYS



WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
AUTUMN-WINTER 1988-1989
SHOOT THE SUN, SHOOT THE MOON, BE A STAR





**WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
AUTUMN-WINTER 1988-1989
SHOOT THE SUN, SHOOT THE MOON, BE A STAR**





**SS
1994**

**TWINKLE
TWINKLE
LITTLE
STAR**



W.&L.T. — WILD & LETHAL TRASH
SPRING-SUMMER 1994
TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR



AW
1994-1995

COSMIC
CULTURE
CLASH



W.&L.T. — WILD & LETHAL TRASH
AUTUMN-WINTER 1994-1995
COSMIC CULTURE CLASH



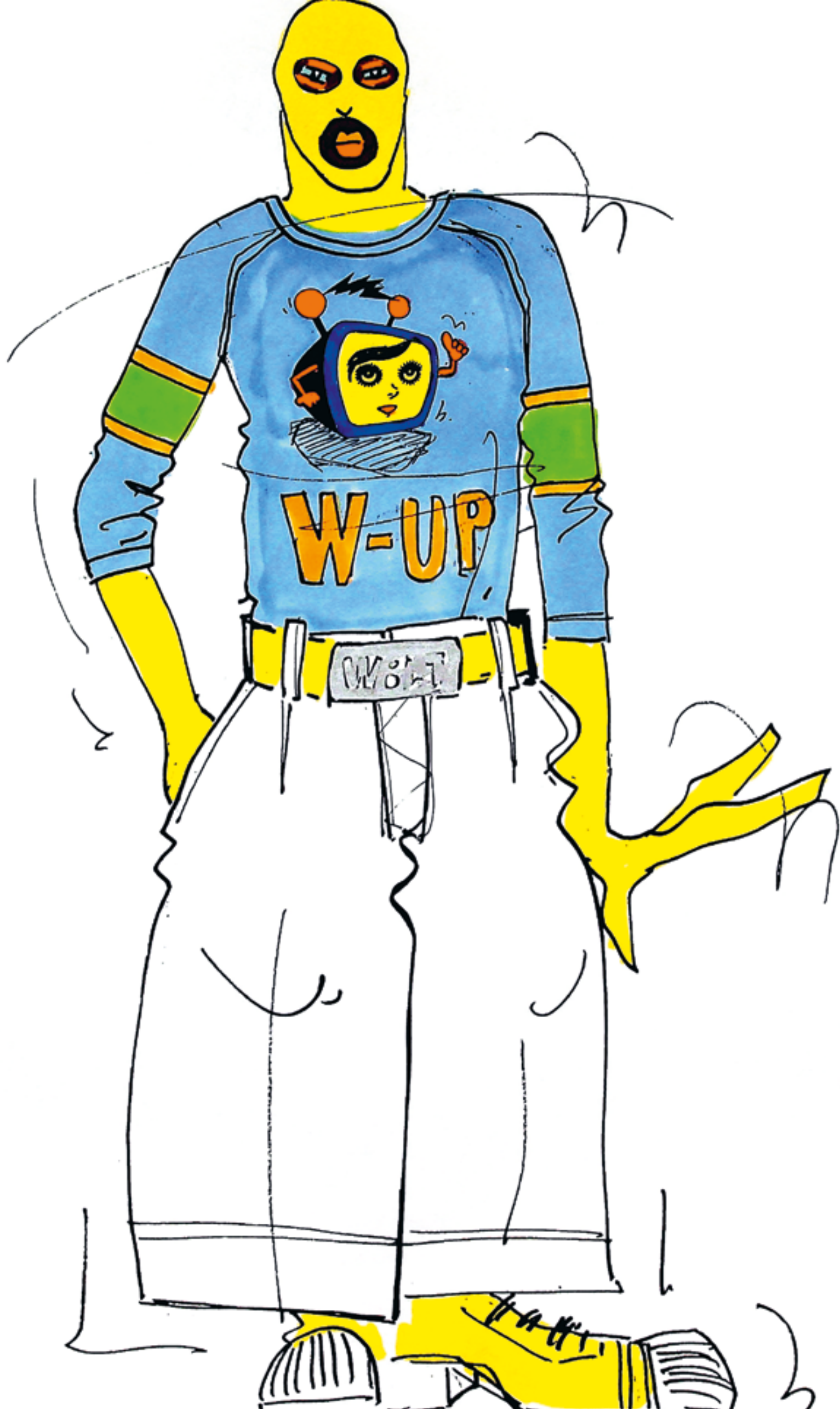
AW

1995-1996

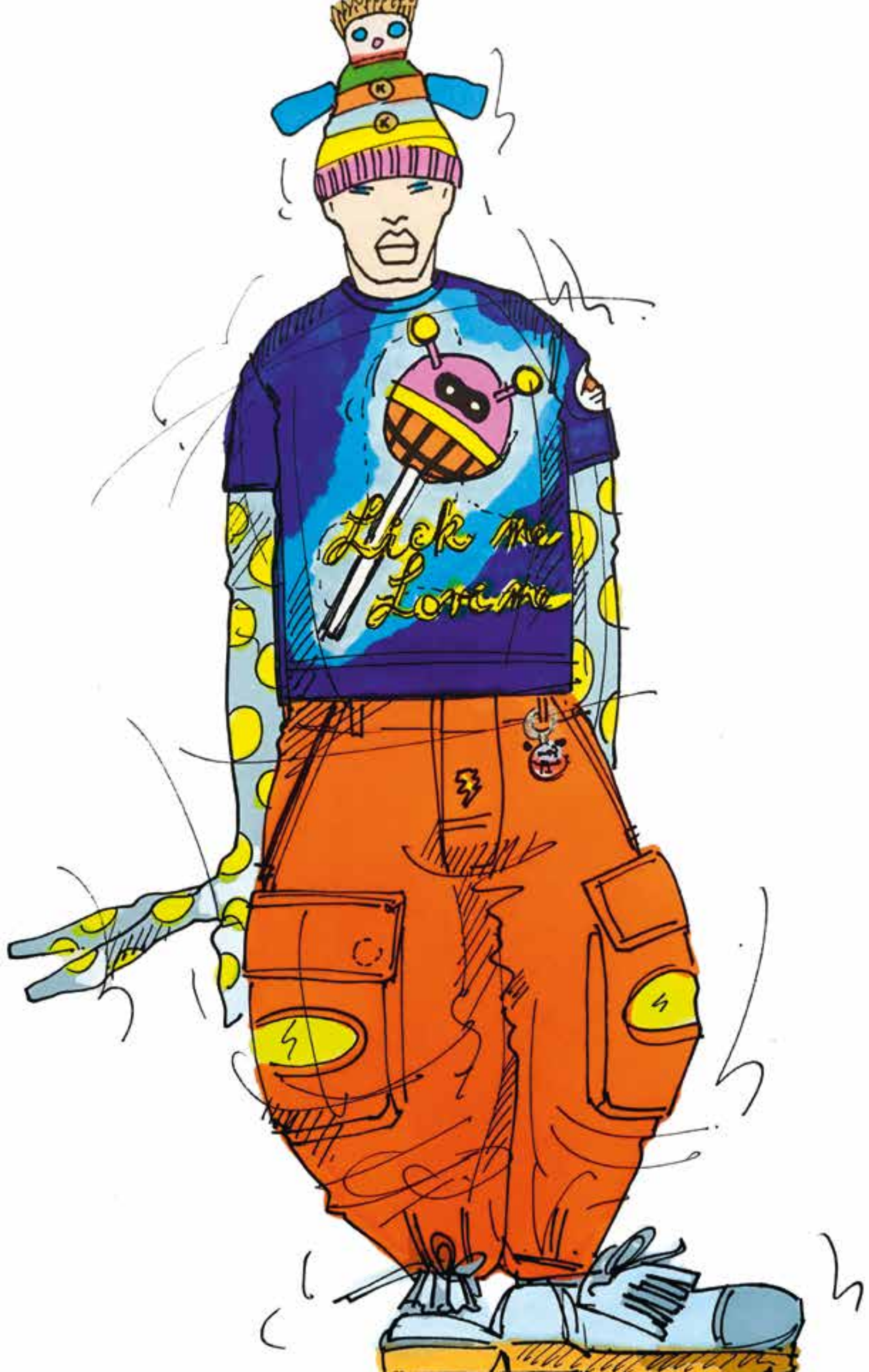
PARADISE

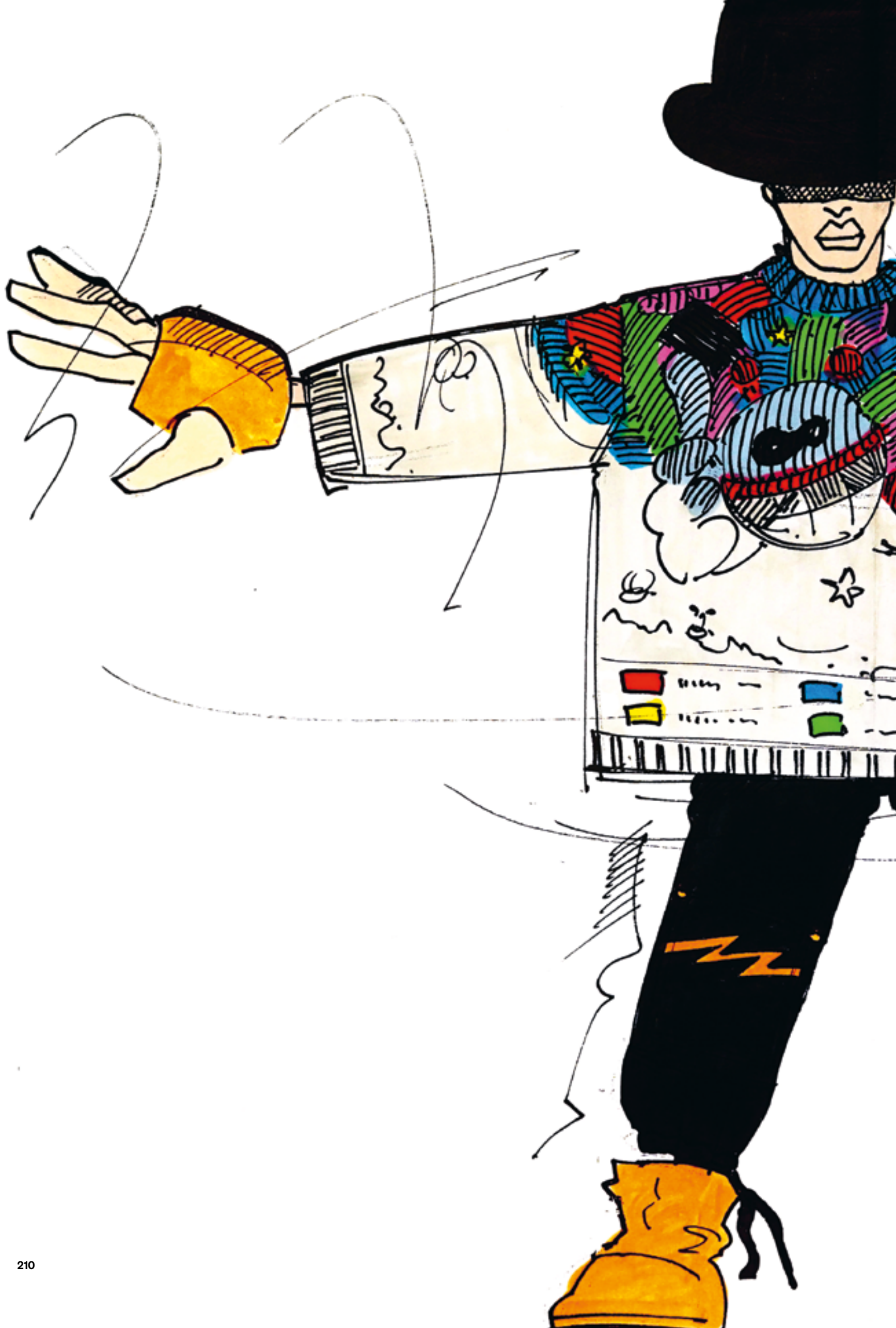
PLEASURE

PRODUCTIONS



W.&L.T. — WILD & LETHAL TRASH
SPRING-SUMMER 1997
WELCOME LITTLE STRANGER





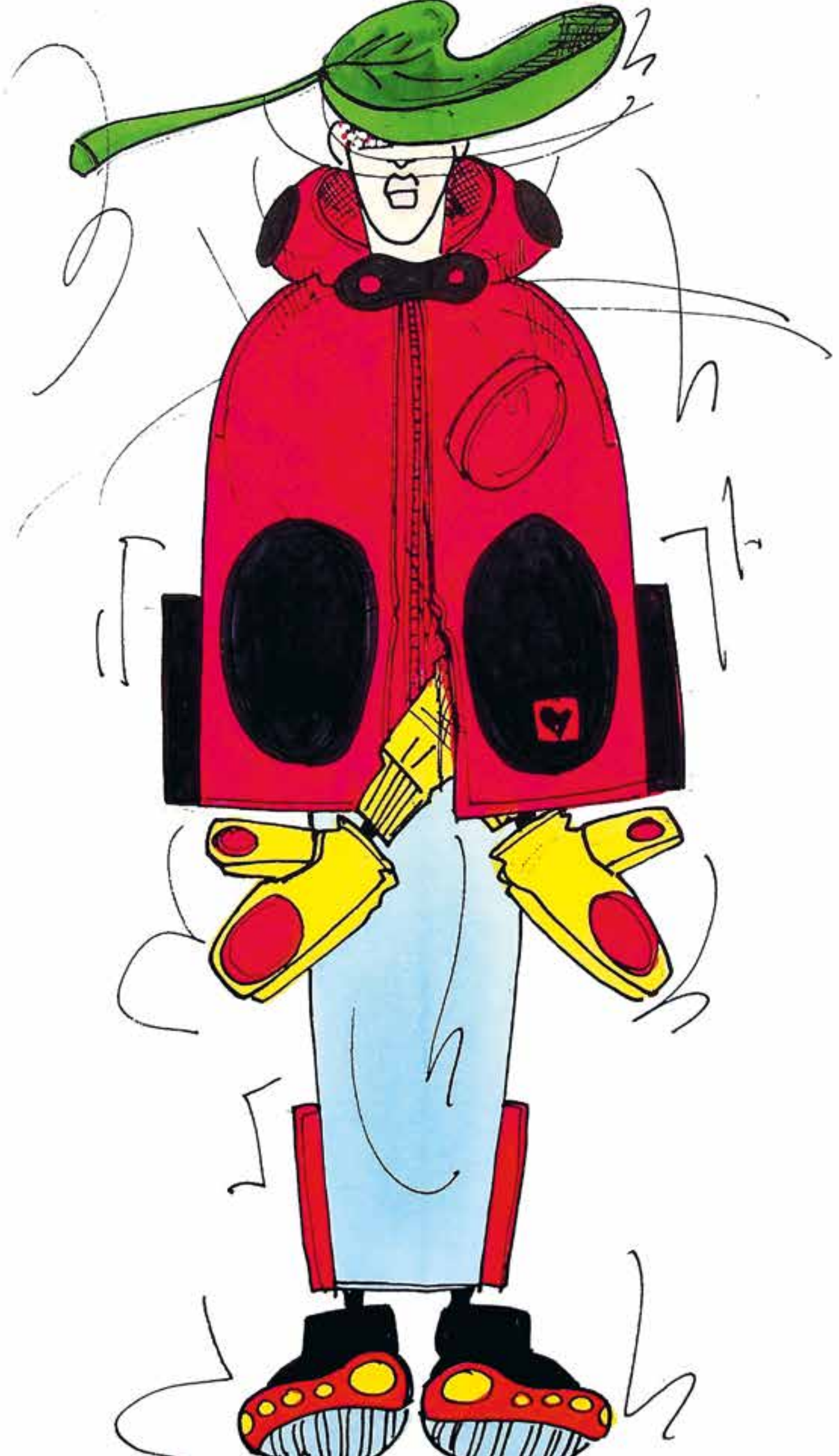


Handwritten text on a white rectangular section of the character's body, including the words "Play My Game" and "Doom".

Handwritten text on a white rectangular section of the character's body, including the words "PLAY MY GAME" and "Doom".



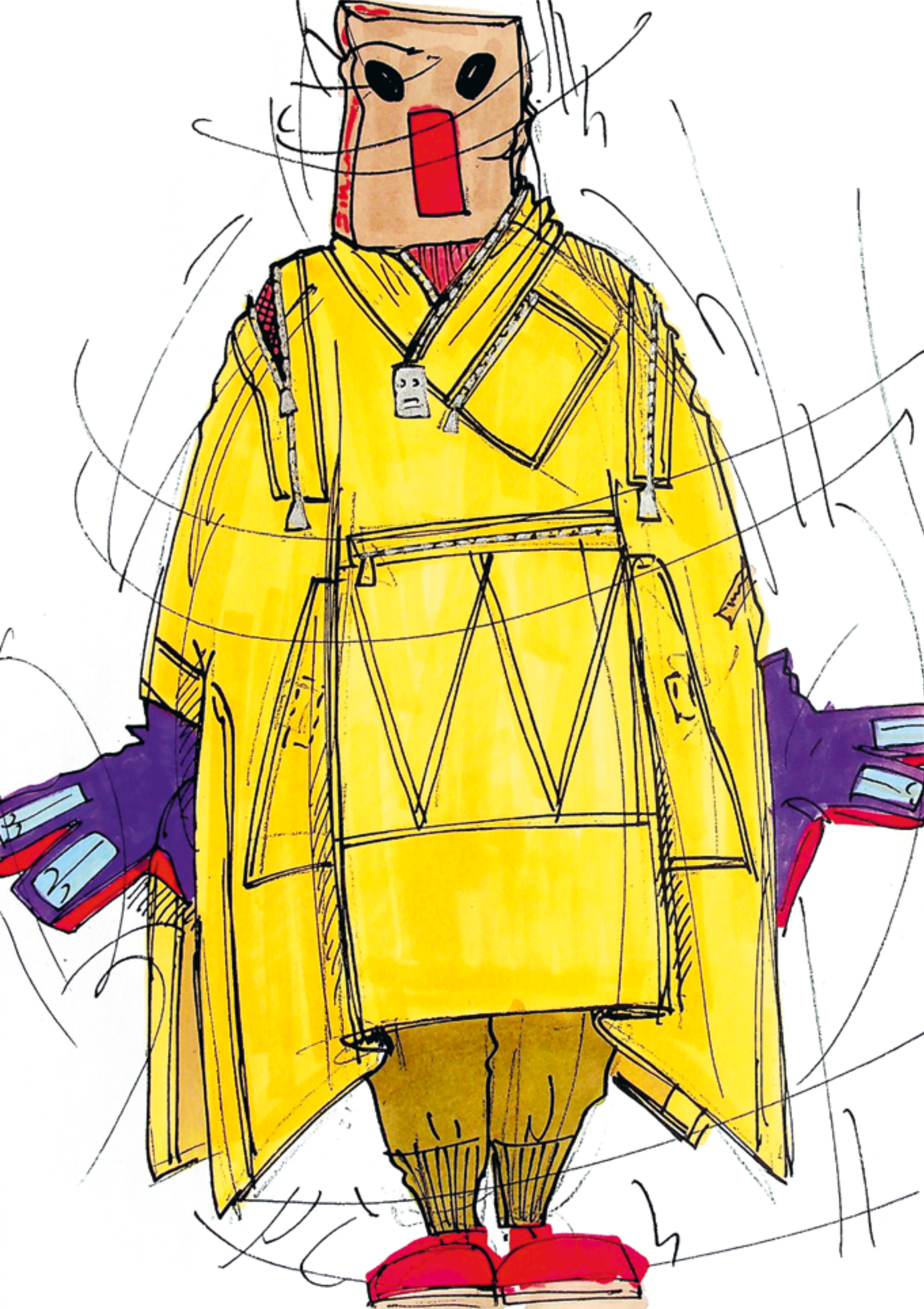
W.&L.T. — WILD & LETHAL TRASH
AUTUMN-WINTER 1997-1998
AVATAR



AW

1998-1999

BELIEVE



AW 1999-2000

NO REFERENCES

In 2000, I decided to end my contract with Mustang. I literally walked away from everything I had built with W.&L.T., and Mustang continued the label without me. I was not allowed to do any commercial collections under my own name for five seasons. I created the collections *NO REFERENCES*, *GENDER?*, *DISSECTIONS*, *STARSHIP EARTH* and *REVOLUTION*, but they were never sold.



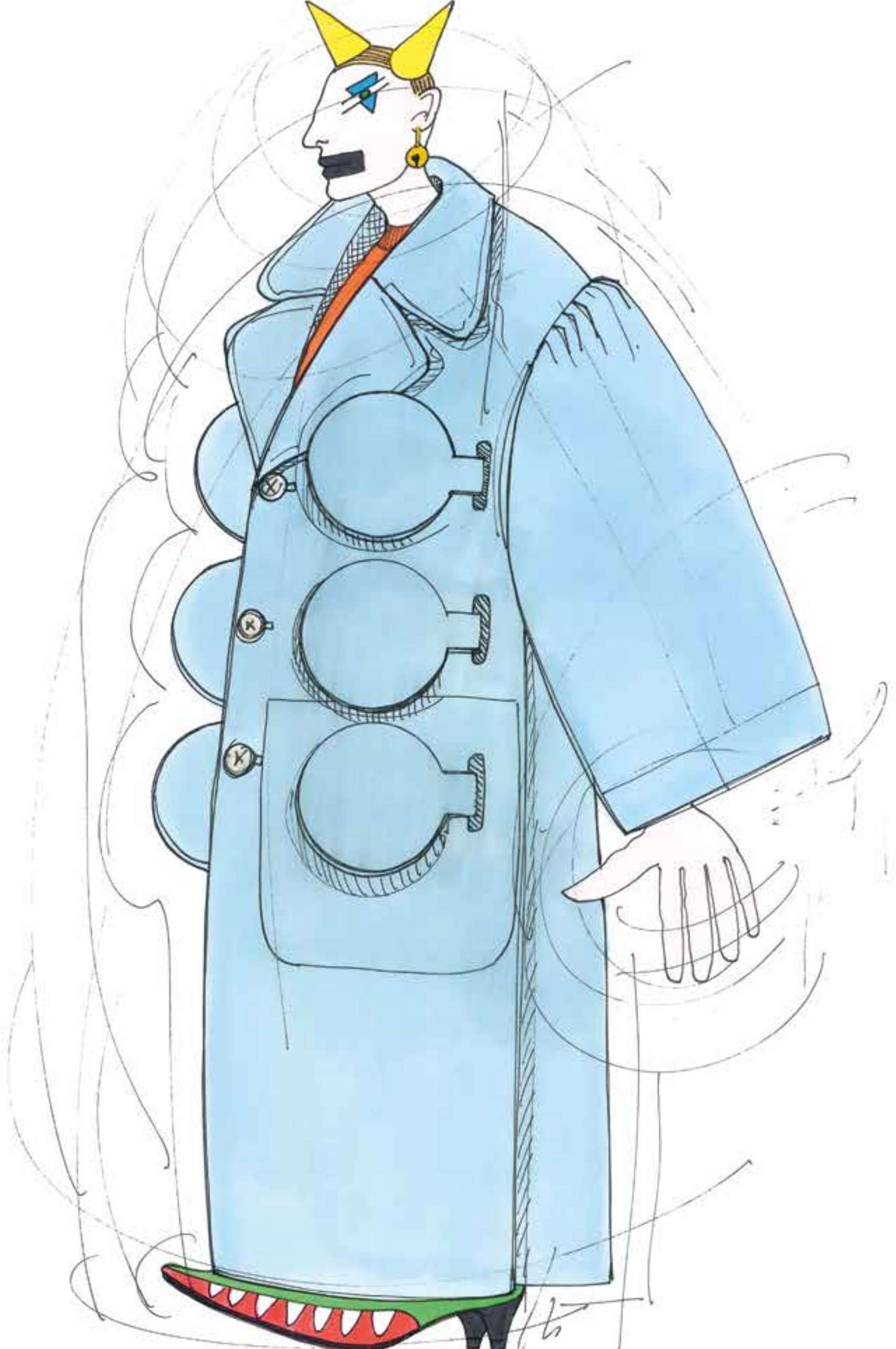
AW
2001-2002

REVOLUTION



**SS
2025**

**I HAVE SEEN
THE FUTURE...**



WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
SPRING-SUMMER 2025
I HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE...





© RONALD STOOPS

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
ELECTRIC EYE
SPRING-SUMMER 2016



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WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
WOEST
AUTUMN-WINTER 2016-2017



© RONALD STOOPS

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
WHY IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING-DESK?
SPRING-SUMMER 2017



© RONALD STOOPS

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
ZWART
AUTUMN-WINTER 2017-2018



© RONALD STOOPS

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
OWLS WHISPER
SPRING-SUMMER 2018



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WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
WORLDS OF SUN & MOON
AUTUMN-WINTER 2018-2019



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WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
WILD IS THE WIND
SPRING-SUMMER 2019



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WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
WOW
AUTUMN-WINTER 2019-2020



© RONALD STOOPS

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
WITBLITZ
SPRING-SUMMER 2020



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WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
W.A.R. - WALTER: ABOUT RIGHTS
AUTUMN-WINTER 2020-2021



© ERIK PEREN

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
MIRROR
SPRING-SUMMER 2021



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WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
FUTURE PROOF
AUTUMN-WINTER 2021-2022



© RONALDSTOOPS

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
NEON SHADOW
SPRING-SUMMER 2022



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WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
OTHERWORLDLY
AUTUMN-WINTER 2022-2023



© EROBENLOMMELEN

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
WIRWAR
SPRING-SUMMER 2023



© NICK SOLJAND

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
WE NEED NEW EYES TO SEE THE FUTURE
AUTUMN-WINTER 2023-2024



© YVEL TEMMINCK

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
DAWLEETOO
SPRING-SUMMER 2024



© NICK SOLJAND

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
BANANA WINK BOOM!
AUTUMN-WINTER 2024-2025



© RONALDSTOOPS

WALTER VAN BEIRENDONCK
I HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE...
SPRING-SUMMER 2025

COLOPHON

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for
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