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Path to Satori

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Path to Satori
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“Path to Satori” acts as an exploration of the traditional Japanese aesthetic movement known as Wabi-sabi. Although gaps in culture and language as well as the inherent nuances of the term make it impossible to provide a thoroughly unambiguous translation, the crux of the concept can be simply defined as a search for beauty in the incomplete, imperfect and ephemeral - stemming from the Buddhist “three marks of existence”: suffering, impermanence, and lack of self-nature. While Wabi-sabi is strongly present in many disciplines of traditional Japanese cultural expression, it is not intentional artwork. Aesthetic objects are forces behind this is the processes of human hand, that are creation of a Wabi-sabi - of an old copper pot, a bicycle rusted in the rain, a pair of patched - all fall perception of

With these characteristics in mind, this ensemble of dress was created to emulate the delicate cycle of growth, decay, and regeneration that is essential to Wabi-sabi. The smocking on the linen overdress acts as a method of repair; pleats that could have once been crisp and free-standing now require this cotton thread to stay in place. Of course, alternative, the smocking can be seen as a decorative and structural element which has slowly eroded over time - fabric and allowing for the development of ragged voids (created here by a good beating from a wire brush) - whilst from underneath, a new voluminous growth emerges in the form of ruffled cotton gauze, not unlike graceful layers of oyster mushrooms perched on a decaying tree. Either way, this design is intended to serve as a manifestation of the inspirational potential offered in general by this historic Asian design philosophy, and more importantly, by the challenge of finding style in the decrepit, the distressed, and the transient.