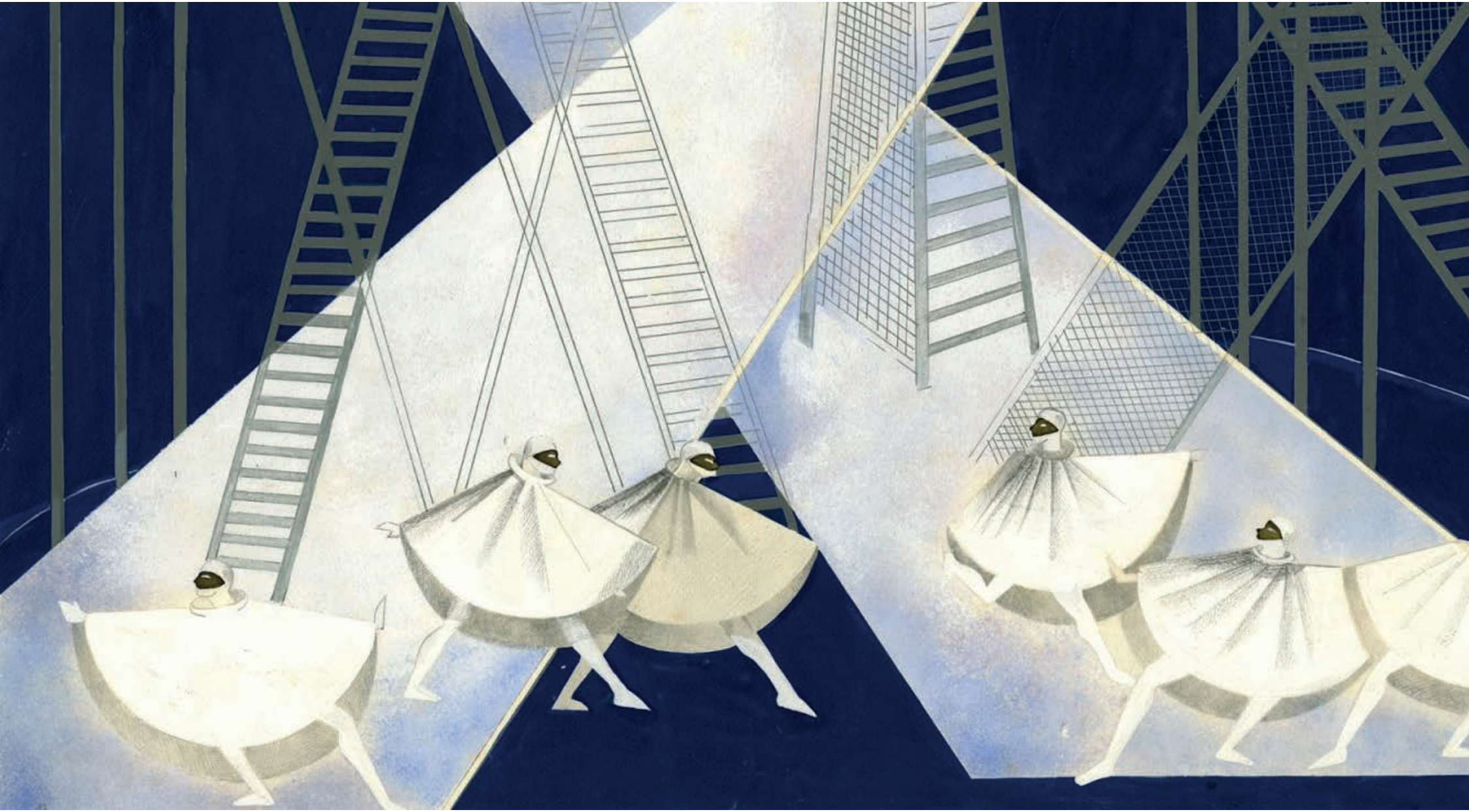
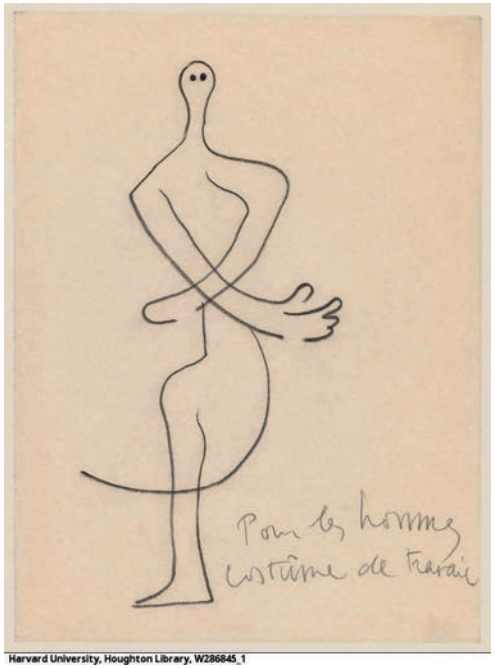
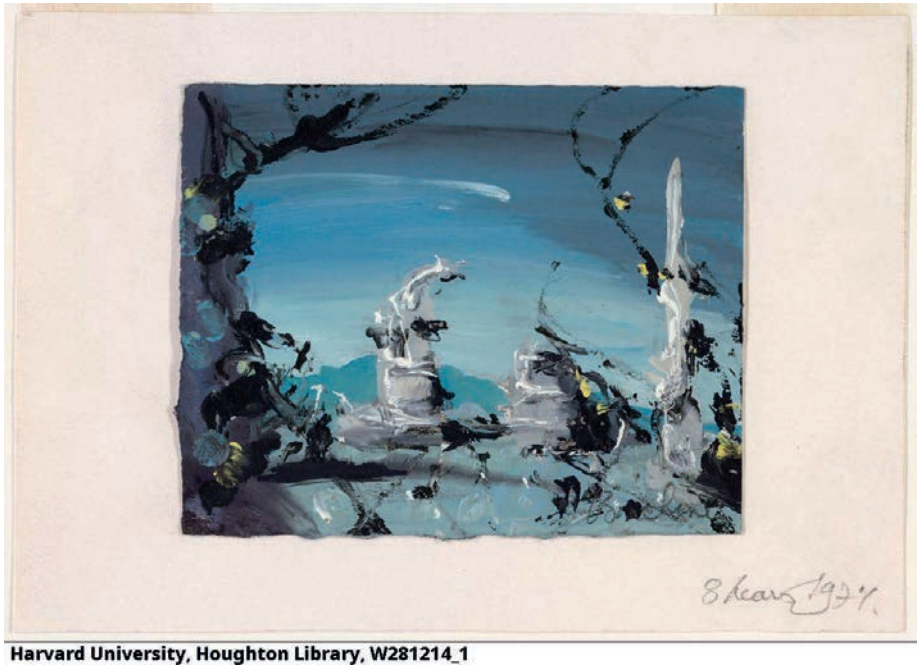


RUSSIAN THEATRICAL DESIGNS /
Methods of cataloguing

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W286995_1



Harvard University, Houghton Library, W286845_1



Harvard University, Houghton Library, W281214_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W289299_1

Set and costume designs from the 20th century's Ballets Russes 1909-1929

At its core is a significant collection of original art commissioned for the Ballets Russes.

Company forged a new aesthetic that continues to influence the visual and performing arts.

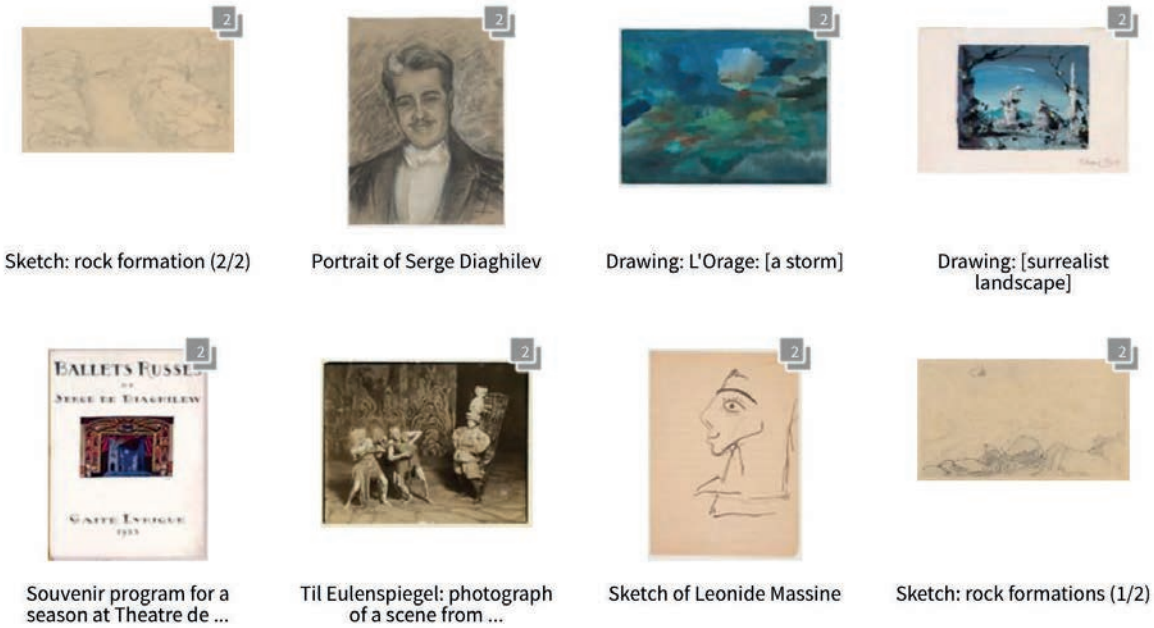
The majority of designs are by Russian-born artists, other nationalities who contributed designs to the Ballets Russes are well represented.

The collection mirrors the artistic movements prevalent in the theater during the early 20th century:

-nationalistic and folk-influenced
-cubist and constructivist
-neo-romantic designs
-orientalist designs
-abstract impressionism
-realism

679 images makeup the collection

679 results



The collection can be sectioned by default into different categories. I choose the Costume Design category.

Subject

- Costume design (351)
- set design drawings (159)
- Stravinsky, Igor, 1882-1971, American, Russian (102)
- Sketches (74)
- Benois, Alexandre, 1870-1960, Russian, Russian (69)
- Watercolor, pen and ink, and pencil on paper (55)
- pencil on paper (52)
- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616, English (50)
- gouache on paper (47)
- Watercolor and ink on paper (43)
- Portraits (42)
- Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolay, 1844-1908 (38)
- watercolor on paper (32)
- watercolor and pencil on paper (31)
- Fokine, Michel, 1880-1942, Russian (26)
- Massine, Léonide, 1896-1979, Russian (24)
- Gouache and pencil on paper (21)
- Nijinsky, Waslaw, 1890-1950 (21)
- Lopukhov, Fedor Vasil'evich, 1886-1973 (20)

Author / Creator

- Goncharova, Nataliia Sergeevna, 1881-1962, Russian, Russian (55)
- Bakst, Leon, 1866-1924, Russian (55)
- Soudeikine, Serge, 1883-1946 (42)
- Pogedaieff, Georges A. de, 1897-1971, Russian (39)
- Benois, Alexandre, 1870-1960, Russian, Russian (31)
- Bilinsky, Boris, 1900-1948 (31)
- Larionov, Mikhail Fedorovich, 1881-1964 (27)
- Golovin, Aleksandr IAkovlevich, 1863-1930, Russian (24)
- Stravinsky, Igor, 1882-1971, American, Russian (24)
- Exter, Alexandra, 1882-1949, Russian, Russian (23)
- Komisarjevsky, Theodore, 1882-1954 (22)
- Berman, Eugene, 1899-1972 (22)
- Anisfeld, Boris Israelevich, 1879-1973 (21)
- Bouchene, Dmitri (20)
- Cocteau, Jean, 1889-1963, French (17)
- Dobujinsky, Mstislav Valerianovich, 1875-1957 (16)
- Korovine, Konstantine, 1861-1939 (15)
- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616, English (12)
- Stravinsky, Vera (11)
- Nikolai, Carlotto Ehrenfried, 1810-1849 (8)

Form / Genre

- drawings (642)
- Sketches (12)
- Photographs (8)
- paintings (6)
- Theater programs (5)
- Manuscripts (3)
- Porcelain (2)
- Portraits (2)
- Etchings (2)
- Prints (2)
- collages (1)
- Busts (1)

351 costume design images

I decided to take the first 100 images of the collection with the default option of "relevance". This allowed me to have different images from the plays that where done and more diversity.

Filters

Sort by

- Relevance
- Date-newest
- Date-oldest
- Author
- Title

Show o

Online

Date

From

1900

351 results

Pavillion d' Armide: costume design: Gardes ...

Pavillion d' Armide: costume design: [king ...

Le Festin divertissement: costume design: L' ...

Cleopatra: costume design: Serviteur du ...

Le Carnaval: costume design: Valse noble

La Peri: costume design: Peri

Sadko : costume design : [figure in blue]

Sadko : costume design : Silver Fish

Sadko : costume design : Mermaids

Dieu Bleu: costume design: La Fiancee

Sadko : costume design : Silver Fish

Le Dieu Bleu: costume design: Baiaderes avec ...

It was important for me to look up the meaning of the different ways of categorizing in order to spark ideas for the methods.

sorting |
arrange systematically in groups;
separate according to type.

taxonomising |
concerned with classification;
an ordered arrangement of groups or categories;
orderly classification according to their presumed natural relationships

classifying |
arrange (a group of people or things) in classes or categories according to shared qualities or characteristics.

captioning |
provide (an illustration) with a title or explanation;
shows when, what, and where it was taken, found, or executed

framing |
form or articulate (words);
construct (something) by fitting parts together or in accordance with a plan;
the underlying constructional system or structure that gives shape

recontextualizing |
place or consider in a new or different context

adding |
to include as a member of a group
to serve as an addition

subtracting |
to take away by or as if by deducting

stretching |
to extend in length
to enlarge or distend especially by force

compressing |
to press or squeeze together & reduce in size, quantity, or volume;
pressed together or into a smaller space

hijacking |
take over (something) and use it for a different purpose;
unlawfully seize and force it to go to a different destination

subverting |
to overturn or overthrow
pervert or corrupt

exaggerating |
to enlarge beyond bounds or increase especially beyond the normal

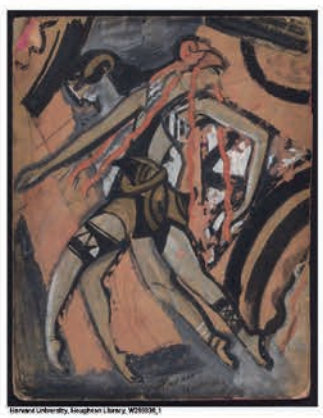
TAXONOMY /

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W278869_1

Set design?
The only image still included on the costume design category

ABSTRACT/

The images are more artistic and are the only ones that involve the background with the design



PORTRAITS/

Images that pay special detail to facil expressions, details, makeup and hair.

SKETCHES/

SKETCHES/ rough

SKETCHES/ different angles

SKETCHES/ geometric figures and outlines

SKETCHES/ very detailed

SKETCHES/ multiple characters

SKETCHES/ a character study

GROUP DESIGNS/

PARTNERS/

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W281934_1

2 cockatoos
Harvard University, Houghton Library, W240072_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W271641_1

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ geometric

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ black background

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ monotone

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ monotone/ blue

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ monotone/ green

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ monotone/ brown

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed/ red colour

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed/ purple colour

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed/ pink colour

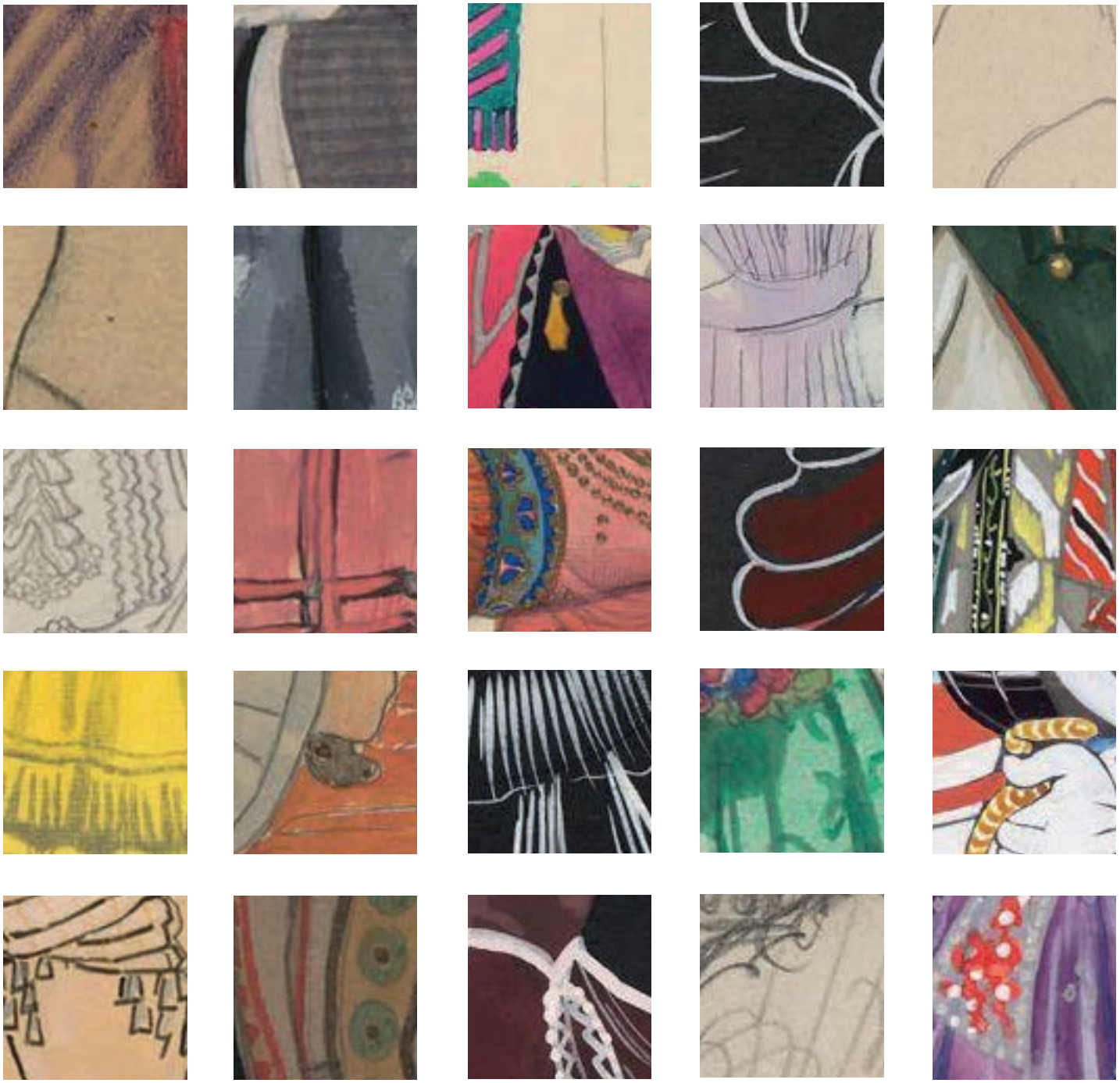
SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed/ green colour

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed/ blue colour

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed/ brown & black colour

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed/ black & white

SINGLE CHARACTERS/ very detailed/ yellow colour



Looking at the images I realized there are a lot of textures that reminded me textile illustrations. So I decided to categorize the images according to the textile qualities they have.

STRETCHING /

Just like the designs, textiles also have a name, reference number, composition and origin. Information I added to this new colection.

84/351

textile samples of the ballets russes

Boris Anisfeld • Léon Bakst • Alexandre Benois • Nicola Benois • Boris Bilinsky • Dmitri Bouchène • Mstislav Doboujinsky • Alexandre Golovin • Natalia Goncharova • Konstantine Korovine • Mikhail Larionov • Georges de Pogédaieff • Nicholas Roerich • Serge Soudeikine • Pavel Tchelitchev

solid colors

1.

Petrouchka | Officer
1947
olvwork177217

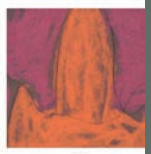
2.

Les Papillons |
woman in blue dress
Bakst, Leon, 1912
olvwork203797

Till Eulenspiegel |
Marchand
Jones, Robert Edmond,
ca. 1916, olvwork287932

3.

4.



5.

Death of Tarelkin |
Policeman
Exter, Alexandra, n.d.
olvwork291035

6.

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

7.

8.

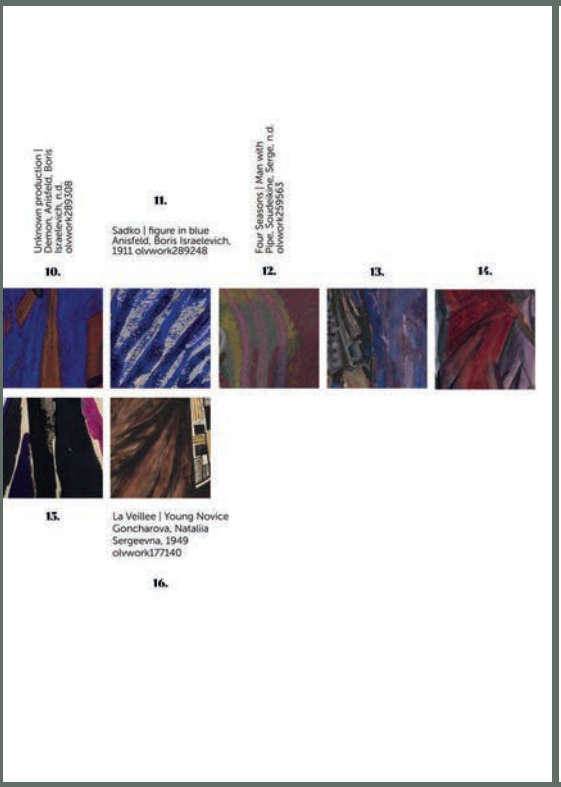
9.

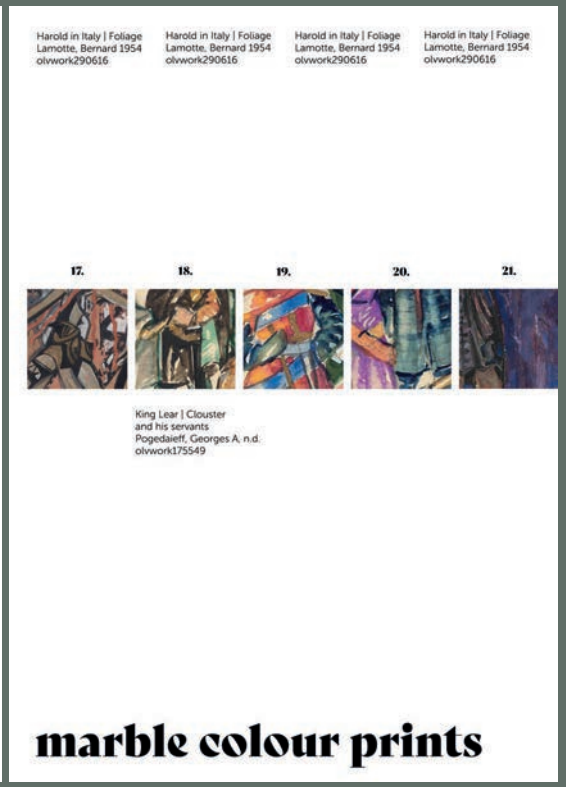
Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

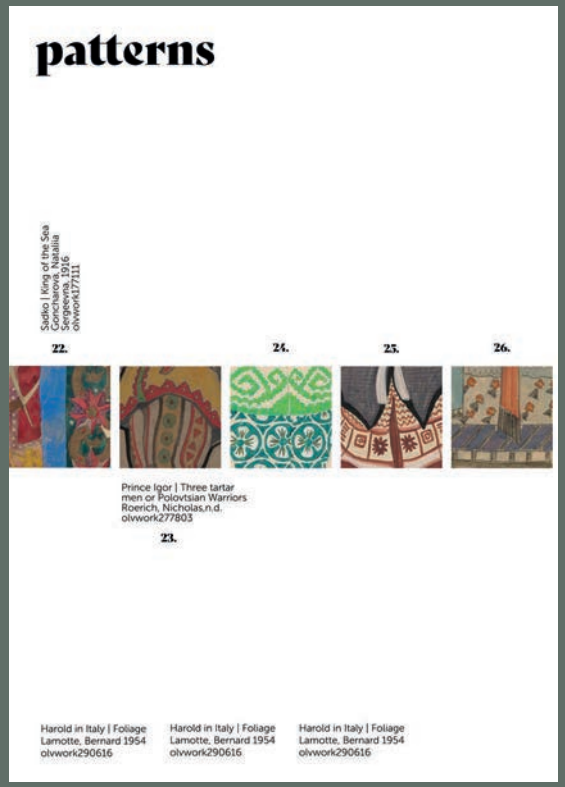
Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616


Unknown production | Demon, Anisfeld, Boris Israelevich, n.d. olvwork289388
10.
11.
Sadko | figure in blue Anisfeld, Boris Israelevich, 1911 olvwork289248
Four Seasons | Man with Pipe, Soudeikine, Sergei, n.d. olvwork259563
12.
13.
14.
15.
La Veillee | Young Novice Goncharova, Nataliia Sergeevna, 1949 olvwork177140
16.


Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
King Lear | Clouster and his servants Pogedaieff, Georges A. n.d. olvwork175549
marble colour prints


patterns
Sadko | King of the Sea Goncharova, Nataliia Sergeevna, 1916 olvwork177111
22.
24.
25.
26.
Prince Igor | Three tartar men or Polovtsian Warriors Roerich, Nicholas,n.d. olvwork277803
23.
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616

28.
Sadko | Sadko Goncharova, Nataliia Sergeevna, 1916 olvwork177113
27.
29.
Apres-Midi d' un Faune | Nymph 1912 olvwork281105
30.
31.
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
Harold in Italy | Foliage Lamotte, Bernard 1954 olvwork290616
prints

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

33.

Rape in the Seraglio |
Aga, Dobuzhinskii,
Rostislav 1925
*2004MT-0011

32.

34.

35.

36.

37.

Madelon
Komisarjevsky,
Theodore, n.d.
olvwork259670

38.

Unknown production |
Clown, Soudeikine,
Serge, n.d. olvwork259557

squares & stripes

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

geometric prints

39.

40.

41.

Othello | woman in red
dressExter, Alexandra, n.d.
olvwork286995

43.

Rape in the Seraglio |
Premiere Danseuse
Dobuzhinskii, Rostislav,
1925, olvwork287914

Rape in the Seraglio |
2me Danseuse
Dobuzhinskii,
Rostislav 1925
olvwork287911

42.

Rape in the Seraglio |
Chavalier Arthur
Dobuzhinskii, Rostislav
1925, *2004MT-0011

39.

40.

textiles

Sheherazade | La Sultan Bleue (Blue Sultan)
Bakst, Leon, 1922
olvwork282819

Marriage | Bride
Soudeikine, Serge,
1944
olvwork259569

Unknown production | female
oriental dancer
Bilinsky, Boris, n.d.
olvwork279185

silk & chiffon

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

33.

Rape in the Seraglio |
Aga, Dobuzhinskii,
Rostislav 1925
*2004MT-0011

32. 34.

35. 36. 37.

Madelon
Komisarjevsky,
Theodore, n.d.
olvwork259670

38.

Unknown production |
Clown, Soudeikine,
Serge, n.d. olvwork259557

squares & stripes

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

Harold in Italy | Foliage
Lamotte, Bernard 1954
olvwork290616

geometric prints

39. 40.

41.

Othello | woman in red
dressExter, Alexandra, n.d.
olvwork286995

43.

Rape in the Seraglio |
Premiere Danseuse
Dobuzhinskii, Rostislav,
1925, olvwork287914

Rape in the Seraglio |
2me Danceuse
Dobuzhinskii,
Rostislav 1925
olvwork287911

42.

Rape in the Seraglio |
Chavalier Arthur
Dobuzhinskii, Rostislav
1925, *2004MT-0011

39.

40.

textiles

Sheherazade | La Sultan Bleue (Blue Sultan)
Bakst, Leon, 1922
olvwork282819

Marriage | Bride
Soudeikine, Serge,
1944
olvwork259569

Unknown production | female
oriental dancer
Bilinsky, Boris, n.d.
olvwork279185

silk & chiffon

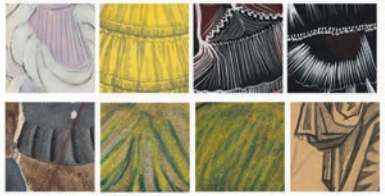
Persephone | Attendant 1
Stravinsky, Vera, n.d.
olvwork278884

textures

drapes & pleads

Persephone | woman with a green wreath and pink dress, Stravinsky, Vera n.d.
olvwork278883

Four Seasons | Man with Yellow Hair
Soudeikine, Serge, n.d.
olvwork259564



Les Papillons | woman in a green-yellow dress
Bakst, Leon n.d.
olvwork277344

Four Seasons | Three Boys
Soudeikine, Serge, n.d.
olvwork259566

Unknown production | bearded man in green and yellow robe
Bilinsky, Boris, n.d.
olvwork279246

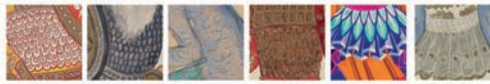
La Legende de Joseph | Potiphar's Wife 1914
olvwork281116

Boutique Fantasque | The Tarantella
Derain, Andre, 1919
olvwork271646

embroidery & lace

Coq d'Or | Commander Polkan
Goncharova, Nataliia Sergeevna, 1937
olvwork172922

Oiseau de Feu | Guerrier
Goncharova, Nataliia Sergeevna, ca. 1926
olvwork177970



Coq d'Or | Second Prince
Goncharova, Nataliia Sergeevna, 1937
olvwork172906

Pavilion d' Armide | king and queen
Benois, Alexandre, 1909
olvwork271748

Petrouchka: costume design | man in top hat and blue cloak n.d.
olvwork177227

fur & feathers

buttons & ornaments

Prince Igor | Yaroslavna
Korovine, Konstantine, 1922
olvwork277350

Unknown production | dancer
Korovine, Konstantine1927
olvwork277353

Coq d'Or | Oriental Warrior
Goncharova, Nataliia Sergeevna, 1937
olvwork283830

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W291035_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W289242_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W282819_1

While analyzing the items, I realizied that a lot of them resemble lette sapes. So I recontextualized the collection as an alphabet, putting together the images that looked like certain letters. I was succefull categorizing 70 items.

RECONTEXTUALIZING /

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W291035_1

Aa

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W287932_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W277542_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W276864_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W278883_1

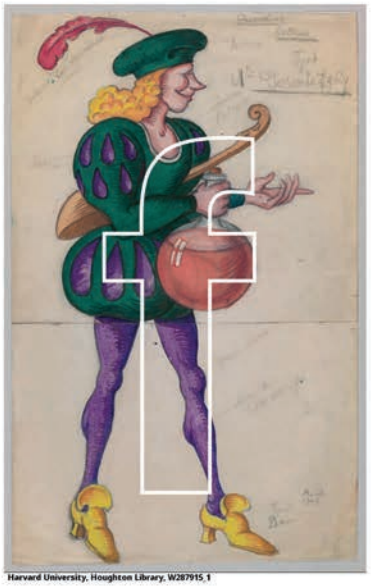
Harvard University, Houghton Library, W259577_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W289305_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W203776_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W287928_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W177140_1


Harvard University, Houghton Library, W287915_1

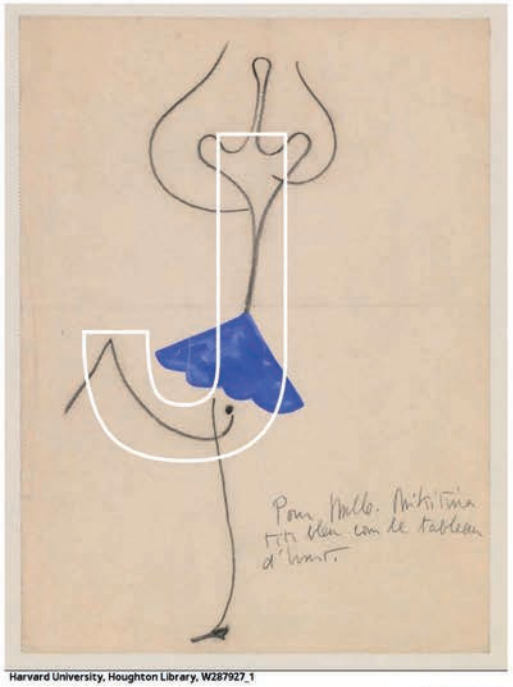
Gg

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W172906

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W282819_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W177217_1

Ii



Harvard University, Houghton Library, W287927_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W277350_1

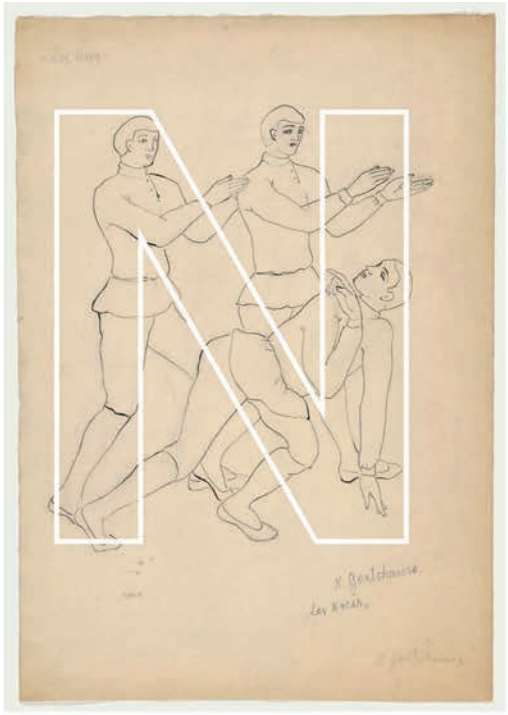
Harvard University, Houghton Library, W286995_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W203878_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W290616_1

Kk Ll

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W175560_1



Harvard University, Houghton Library, W259566_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W277530_1

O

O

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W177070_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W281105_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W277846_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W177113_1

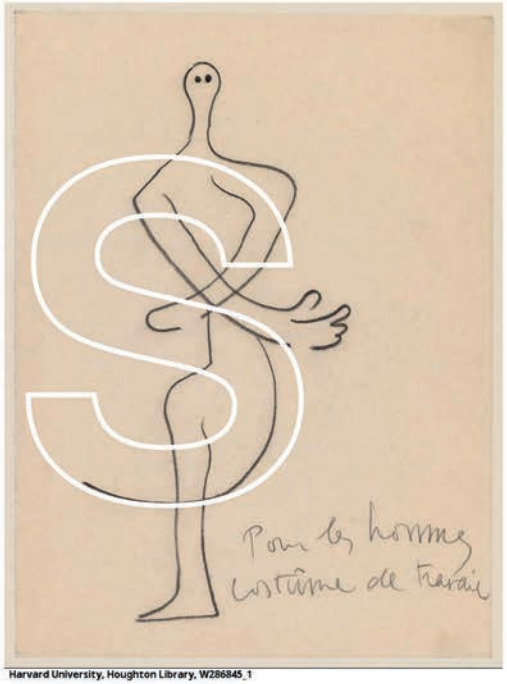
Harvard University, Houghton Library, W279195_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W289338_1

Ss

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W259564_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W289242_1



Harvard University, Houghton Library, W286845_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W279204_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W278874_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W280507_1

Uu Vv

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W289336_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W278875_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W259569_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W286853_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W281208_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W259670_1

Zz

Harvard University, Houghton Library, WS38330_1

GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH HIJACK /

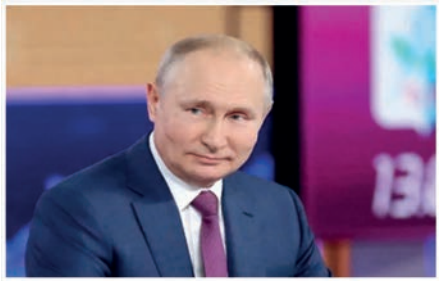
I decided to play with the meaning and how the collection looked radically by searching the title of the items on google images, substracting the word -costme design-, while adding the words -Rusia (the origin of the collection- and -2022-, to see how the collection would look like almost 100 years after.

I took the first image that appeared on the search.

A lot of the images that came up were news related, many about the Rusia-Ukraine conflict

Therefor, I decided to divide the items in news-like categories

POLITICS/



POLITICS/ Rusia politics

POLITICS/ British politics

WAR/ updates on strikes

WAR/ territory

WAR/ anti-war rallies

WAR/ refugees

WAR/ war crimes

HISTORY FACTS/

SPORTS/

ADVERTISEMENTS-SELLS/

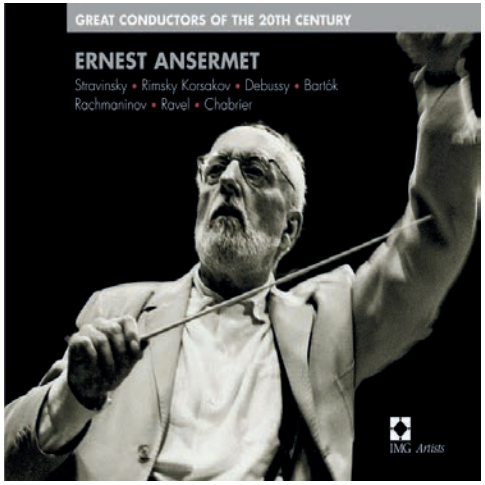
Krieg in der Ukraine 5
Neue Zürcher Zeitung
Superhelden und Schurken entfalten Schlagkraft im Internet
Der Krieg in der Ukraine ist auch ein Gefecht der Narrative – sogenannte Memes zeigen aufstrebende Underdogs und gefallene Bösewichte

ENTERTAINMENT/ graphic

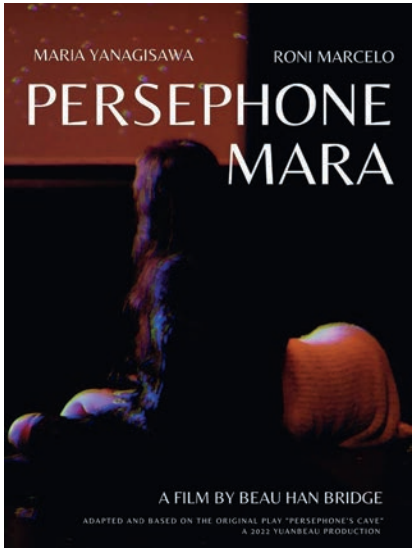
ENTERTAINMENT/ theater

ENTERTAINMENT/ celebrities

ENTERTAINMENT/ music

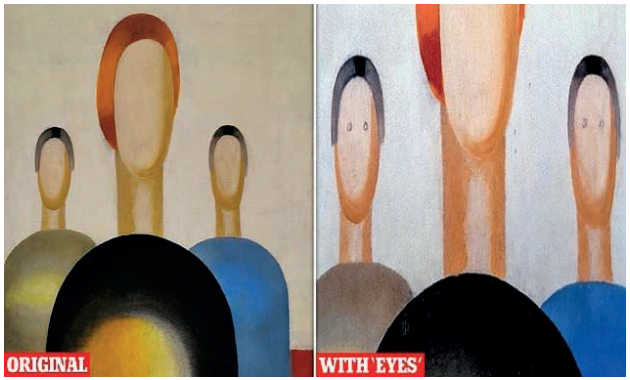


ENTERTAINMENT/ cinema & films

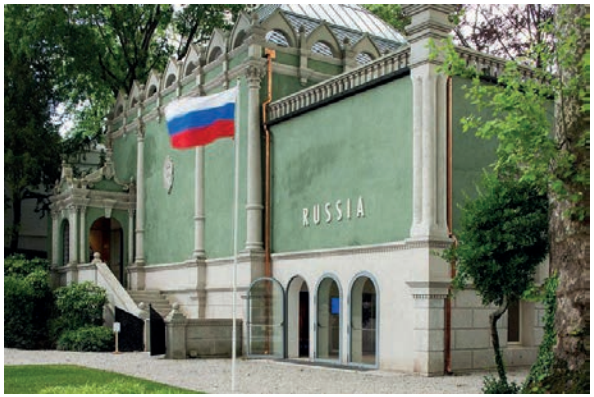


ENTERTAINMENT/ books

ENTERTAINMENT/ art /news



ENTERTAINMENT/ art /events



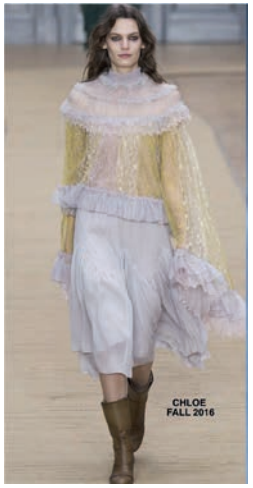
ENTERTAINMENT/ art /sculptures

ENTERTAINMENT/ art /objects

ENTERTAINMENT/ art /paintings

RECONTEXTUALIZE /

I wanted to see how the costume design collection would look like if it was designed in 2022. So searched the title of the items on google images, adding the words - 2022 fashion-. These are the images that first came up next to the original costume design



Harvard University, Houghton Library, W175549_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W177070_1

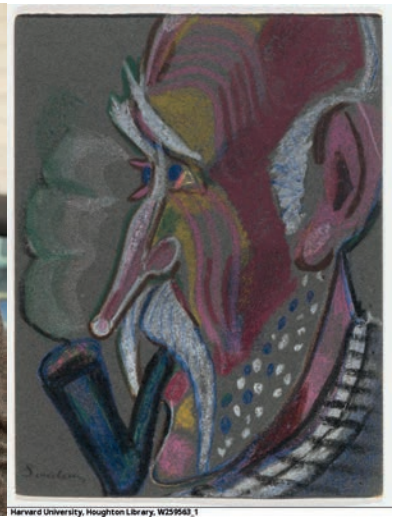
Harvard University, Houghton Library, W177067_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W177217_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W177113_1

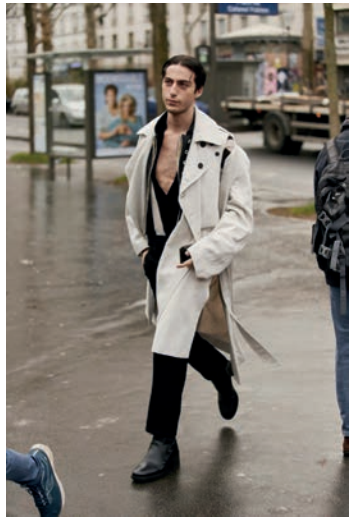
Harvard University, Houghton Library, W259577_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W259557_1



Harvard University, Houghton Library, W259563_1

Harvard University, Houghton Library, W277344_1



Harvard University, Houghton Library, W277803_1