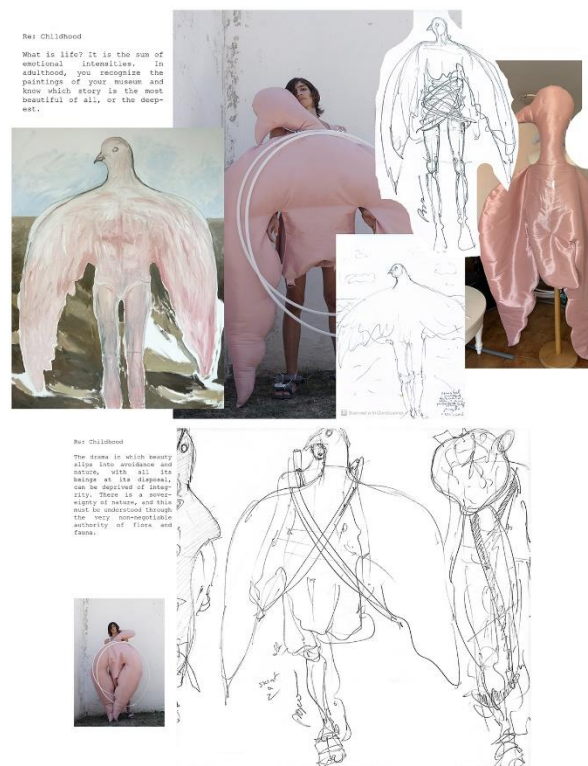


Carmen Emanuela POPA Unveils "Re: Childhood" at London Fashion Week:

A Conceptual Manifesto on the Memory of Innocence and the Ecological Emotion

LONDON, UK — September 2026 — As part of the prestigious London Fashion Week (17-21 September 2026), Romanian designer Carmen Emanuela Popa presents her latest conceptual collection, **"Re: Childhood,"** within the official *Profile Designer* Section.

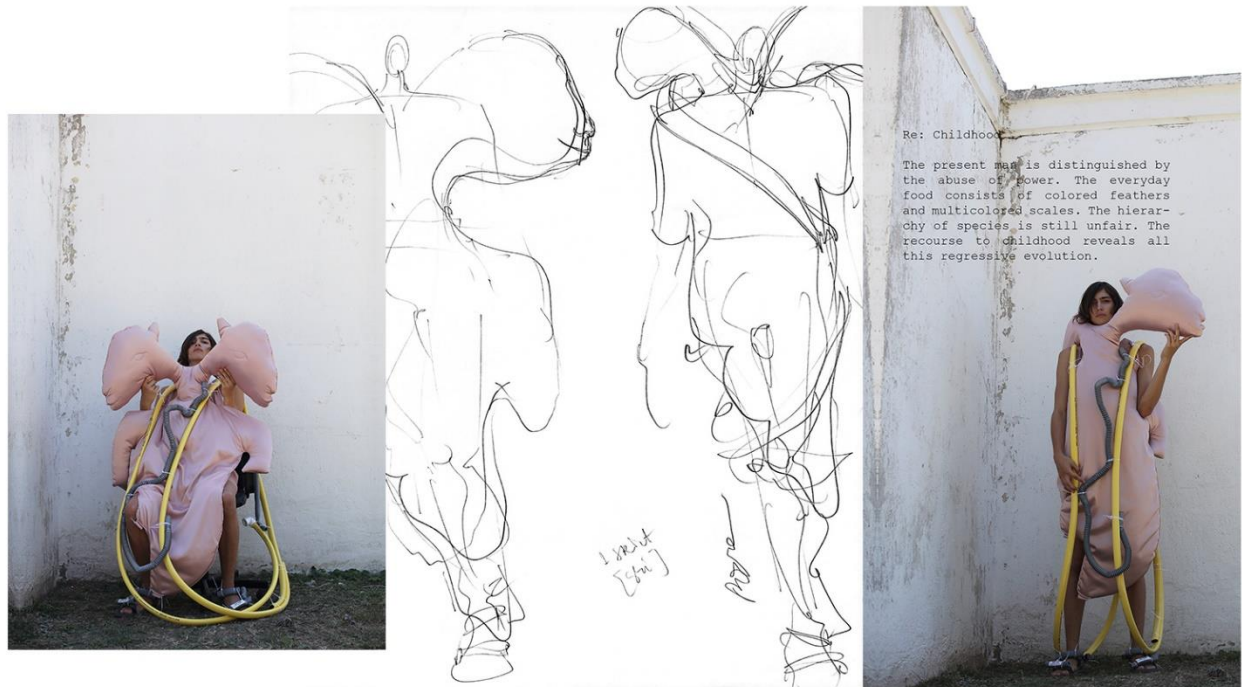


The emergent designer explores the profound relationship between the original experiences of early life, affective memory, and adult reality. Carmen Emanuela Popa's creative process establishes itself as a radical manifesto of humanistic resistance. "Re:Childhood" marks a strategic shift of perspective: from the collective and external geopolitical traumas investigated in previous acclaimed projects like "War Melt", toward the fragile, intimate topography of internal psychological space.

"Re:Childhood" does not conceptualize childhood as an exercise in passive nostalgia, but rather as an active archaeology of the primordial self. In a hyper-disciplined society that imposes rigid self-defense mechanisms and urban conformism upon the adult, affective memory remains the only uncontaminated, pure territory. The designer proposes a deconstruction of adulthood's formal rigidity to release primal states of freedom and

innocence. Garments shed their strictly utilitarian or decorative functions, metamorphosing into "emotional armor"— protective structures designed to safeguard the purity of consciousness against ongoing social alienation.

Through avant-garde silhouettes and a deeply reflective artistic language, Carmen Emanuela Popa challenges the contemporary viewer to reconnect with their inner purity, offering a striking counter-narrative to the chaotic pace of today's world.



The collection is an extension of the painting project that investigates sequences from the incorruptible memory of childhood, where the symbolism of everything we come into contact with acquires a hyperbolic dimension of overwhelming emotional intensity. Those sensations and feelings have remained intact and are instantly activated by any contact with present-day images or simply appear through cognitive or sensory memories. The zoomorphic world is a benchmark of largely defenseless existence, of innocence, and the dialogue between human and animal must evolve on a spiritual level. The message of the collection refers precisely to this tandem between ecological emotion and respect for living beings. – Carmen Emanuela Popa

From a curatorial perspective, the collection's visual discourse is articulated through a complex and provocative hybrid materiality, defining the designer's artistic trajectory:

Antithetic Fusion of Materials: Groundbreaking combinations of rigid, waterproof technological fabrics—symbols of urban barriers and the restrictive structures of adult life— with soft, organic textures that evoke the vulnerability and plasticity of the childhood universe.

Continuing the research from collections such as HUMANS, SKIN, and INSIDE, where the epidermis functioned as a projection screen for inner states, "Re:Childhood" integrates embossed compositions and three-dimensional plastic-industrial inserts. Each garment becomes a wearable art object, inscribed with the delicate, dynamic reflections of memory.

The collection's morphology relies on oversized volumes and a rigorous deconstruction of minimalist tailoring. This structural approach liberates the body from the rigid anatomical constraints of conventional design. By infusing a contemporary sportswear dynamism, Carmen Emanuela Popa translates physical freedom of movement into a literal manifesto for the liberation of the spirit. Silhouettes become monumental yet remain profoundly dynamic, capturing the image of urban entities carrying their ancestral baggage not as a burden, but as a sovereign form of cultural resistance.

Her artistic and professional trajectory is grounded in an interdisciplinary approach to fashion, understood not only as a system of clothing, but as a medium for investigating identity, the body, cultural memory and contemporary forms of artistic expression.

She holds a PhD in Visual Arts and Fashion Design from the National University of Arts in Bucharest, where she defended her doctoral thesis, *"From the Garment to the Contemporary Art Object"*.

Alongside her artistic practice, Carmen Emanuela Popa has developed international collaborations and participated in exhibitions and cultural projects, including projects connected to the interpretation and activation of intangible cultural heritage.

Her current practice continues to develop through an open dialogue between fashion and contemporary art, with an increasing emphasis on crossdisciplinary artistic research and the creation of works situated beyond the conventional boundaries of fashion.

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