

XU ZHANG SPRING/SUMMER 2023

BREATH IN OCEAN



Xu Zhang was born in Inner Mongolia, China. He earned the MA Menswear degree from London College of Fashion in 2022. Xu has four years of menswear design experience in the made-to-measure and ready-to-wear brand. Working in a leading and national-award-winning brand in China, Xu had participated in various projects and collaborations with the Woolmark Company, Copenhagen Fur Company, and Mercedes Benz.

The new menswear label - Xu Zhang, that focuses on researching the seriousness and liveliness of ready-to-wear. The bold and futuristic aesthetic, the fluid spirits and new techniques form from Xu Zhang's DNA. He is embracing masculinity and futuristic by softening material structure using laser cutting – giving the wearer the flexibility and freedom with their movement.

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The second season "Breath in Ocean" is to explore Creative Director Xu Zhang's personal feelings about water and ocean. Continuing the techniques of AW22, SS23 is an extension of the research of the human body's interaction with water.

"Designing this collection is like a healing process for me. I always open my imagination that when I jump into the ocean, I feel like I can breathe more completely and purer, my mind is free."

Growing up in northern China, Xu dreamed to swim in the ocean during his entire childhood and finally got experience of the sea when he travelled in Brighton, UK. Xu understands this experience as an all-round deconstruction experience, "When my body jumps into the sea, and the sea water surrounds me, it is easy for me to enter my inner world and focus on my thoughts. I can forget about the limitations of this society, don't care it anymore." In the ocean, Xu can feel the disappearance of gender/identity/body boundaries, that's what he wants to present for this season.

In SS23, Xu has never stray far from exploring the futuristic and masculinity. There's a lot of laser-cutting wave shapes and kirigami patterns with blue and green colour palette, fabrics like eye-catching enamel vegan leather to present a touch of light just like in the water.

For press inquiry, please contact: Jennifer pr@studiobay.co.uk

For wholesale inquiry, please contact: Jennifer xu@studiobay.co.uk

Website: www.xuzhang.co.uk

Instagram [@xu.zhang_](https://www.instagram.com/xu.zhang_)

TikTok [@xuzhang_official](https://www.tiktok.com/@xuzhang_official)