

# PONDER.ER

SS22 COLLECTION

**LOVE FOR SPEED**



PONDER.ER SS22 collection “LOVE FOR SPEED” once again draws inspirations from the standard concept of masculinity, the qualities and behaviours associated with men. The collection focuses on the “masculine adventurousness”, how the manbox encourages men to engage in risk-taking activities that are often related to speed, power and sometimes a permission to harm themselves/ others. These acts of recklessness and liberation are digested through different perspectives, and interpreted with the brand’s signature style of liquifying and twisting known structures and concepts.

Auto racing serves as a starting point for the collection, elements of the sport can be seen through the collection’s unique textiles, colours and garment details. A combination of smocking and print have been utilized throughout the collection which results in not only a strong graphic impact, but also ties in with the brand’s core culture of distorting familiar forms. The ideas of panelling and insertions are heavily developed; in the area of knitwear, we can see handknitted structures being incorporated into different pieces, while the element of sheerness has been further experimented. Intricate knitted structures have been applied to traditional auto racing garments such as bodysuits and overalls.

## **PONDER.ER SS22 Presentation Concept**

In this short film, we see a group of boys and girls seeking dominance and glory through sets of (some might deem as) reckless and adventurous behaviours. The film resonates with the theme of the collection; the complex relationship between gender and speed. The film asks questions regarding the glorification of masculine adventurousness and the possibility of seeing romance in the acts of struggles and violence.

## About PONDER.ER

PONDER.ER is the brainchild of creative duo Alex Po and Derek Cheng. The pair met whilst studying at the prestigious Central Saint Martins in London, with both BA collections being selected to showcase at the Press Show. Po then went on to further sharpen his skills and vision at the Royal College of Art specialising in Men's knitwear.

With a common interest in exploring the world of Menswear through an alternative approach, the creative partnership was formed in 2019 with the intention of challenging gender stereotypes and raising questions against social norms. PONDER.ER, a gender fluid label was born to expand and reinterpret the contemporary Men's wardrobe through dissecting and reconstructing ideas inspired by traditional Menswear, found objects and everyday experiences in urban cities.

## Designer Profile

**Alex Po** graduated from Central Saint Martins in 2016. His BA collection, inspired by the 1930s Men's swimsuits and the 1970s Men's disco suits won the Alcantara Sponsorship Award and was showcased at the annual Press Show. While studying Po interned at Simone Rocha, Charlie Allen Bespoke and Christian Wijnants. Upon his graduation, Po continued his studies at the Royal College of Art specialising in knitwear, challenging the different possibilities of combining Menswear with knit. He was chosen to work with Botto Giuseppe for an exhibition in Pitti Filatti in 2017. Po received incredible feedback from the industry with his MA collection in 2018, his work has received press coverage from both online and print publications including Vogue, HERO Magazine, 1 Granary and more.

**Derek Cheng** is a Central Saint Martins graduate whose BA graduation collection was included as part of the institution's 2016 Press Show. The collection titled "Objects of Hong Kong" pays tribute to Cheng's homecity, celebrating local cultures and exploring relationships between garments and social changes. The collection was featured on Vogue, HIGH-SNOBIETY, WGSN/INSIDER and more, Cheng was also selected as one of the CFDA+ graduates in the same year. During his studies, he had gained work experience with 1 Granary, Aitor Throup, Nicomede Talavera and Ximon Lee.

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