

AKINA TSUTSUMI

Royal College of Art – MA Fashion

London College of Fashion – BA Womenswear (First Class Honours)

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About ME

Functional & activewear designer with experience in technical garment construction, performance outerwear, and functional fabrics. Skilled in pattern cutting, CLO3D, and Adobe suite, Strong focus on detail precision and consumer-centered design. Background in both fashion and performance sportswear, with projects exploring snow apparel adaptability, Gorpcore aesthetics, and outdoor gear innovation.

IT Skill:

- Design Software
- Adobe Creative Suite: Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere Pro
- Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)

- 3D & Digital Tools
- CLO3D, Rhino, Cinema 4D, Blender, Reaper

- E-commerce Platforms
- Shopify

Language:

- Japanese (Native)
- Mandarin Chinese (Native, Pass HSK Level 6)
- English (intermediate, IELTS 6.5)
- Korean (beginner level)

Hard Skill:

Sportswear & Activewear construction / Pattern Cutting / Performance fabrics & material / 3D simulation / Material Innovation & Experiment / Digital & Dubbied Knit / Sampling / Sewing / Spec Sheets / Flat Drawing

FASHION INDUSTRY WORK EXPERIENCE

DINGYUNZHANG (CHINA-SHANGAI): Design Assistant

November 2023 - February 2024

- Collaborated with the Creative Director on co-branded design projects with global sportswear leaders, contributing research, sketches, and prototype development for performance-driven sportswear and outerwear.
- Supported sample development process, liaising with pattern makers and material suppliers to ensure prototypes met functional and brand standards.
- Researched outdoor gear construction methods (benchmarking Arc'teryx finishing) to inform seam placements, detail positioning, and garment durability.

NO NAME(START-UP FASHION BRAND)(CHINA-SHANGAI): Design Assistant

July 2023- September 2023

- Developed CAD technical packs and specifications that enabled smooth communication with factories and accurate prototype execution.
- Explored innovative fabric treatments and special construction details to enhance both function and aesthetics.

POSTER GIRL (UNITED KINGDOM-LONDON): Design Internship

May 2022- August 2022

- Delivered accurate patterns and fittings that ensured 20+ garments met runway and commercial production standards.
- Created technical drawings and documentation for factory production, supporting the launch of SS23 e-commerce line.

SEEING Co.,Ltd (JAPAN-TOKYO): Design Internship

July 2020- August 2020

- Created product line sheets and technical specifications used by cross-functional teams to streamline development and merchandising.
- Applied Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to translate design intent into clear production-ready documents.

RETAIL WORK & OTHER EXPERIENCE

Dr. Martens SEIBU SOGO(JAPAN-TOKYO): Sales Assistant	November 2020- December 2020
Customer insight + merchandising + brand knowledge	
Baroque Japan Limited HENGLONG(CHINA-TIANJIN): Sales Assistant	April 2019- September 2020
Handled cashiering, styling, and customer consultations	
SIA SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL ART(CHINA-SHANGHAI): Teaching Assistant	July 2023- September 2023
Guided students through portfolio development and fashion school applications	

MEDIA

i-D FASHION

Featured by i-D in 'MA Fashion Class at 2025 Refuses to Dress Quietly'

BFC Graduate Preview 2025

Selected to represent RCA in the British Fashion Council's digital platform

O2 WEEK-END

RCAxIFF perfume collab project reported (2025)

FASHION UNITED/ HYPEBEAST/ SHOW studio

Published and Reported runway

VINGT SEPT MAGAZINE

Reported by the magazine

When with you Magazine issue IV

Magazine cover and collab with the photographer

AWARDS

Cordwainers Footwear Awards (2025)	The Stuart Weitzman Awards for the Beat MA
Shima Seiki Student Competition (2025)	PRIZED
French Fashion Awards 2025 (Sportswear Category)	PRIZED
IFF x RCA Fragrance Project – Shortlisted, 2024	SHORTLISTED
The Rapid Slow Project	FINALISTED
Real Leather. Stay Different International student competition 2022	SHORTLISTED