Timo Rissanen, Endurance, 2009

In the course of a few generations our relationship with clothes has changed. For our grandparents, mending and altering clothes was part and parcel of owning clothing. Lack of skills may be a contributing factor, but for our generation it is simply easier and relatively cheap to replace a damaged garment. Furthermore, why repair something that will be out-of-date shortly anyway?

The garments by Rissanen address two areas where fashion designers can have an impact. On one hand, the aim is for these garments to engage the wearer for a long time, through incorporating craft techniques into contemporary garments, and through originality in design. The designer’s thought processes are explicit in the garments, initiating an ongoing relationship with the wearer. On the other, the garments are designed and made to allow later alteration and repair. Visible repair or alteration would not compromise the garments aesthetically, and surplus fabric is designed into the garments to facilitate these activities.

Credit: Image courtesy of the artist

MEDIA:
Rug tank: silk mesh, reclaimed feathers
Ripped leggings: reclaimed cotton/elastane jersey
Shirt: linen, cotton crochet yarn