

ABSTRACT

A K-pop Pose for Tiny Clothes: Next Level Fosshape

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Autumn 2022 sees the Victoria and Albert Museum awash with Korean culture with the opening of Hallyu! The Korean Wave.

Particularly exciting for K-pop fans will be the chance to see garments worn by prominent 'idols' from South Korea's vibrant music scene, including costumes worn by four-piece girl group Aespa in their visually spectacular Next Level video. Expressing the energy of Aespa's performance and attitude through mannequin poses provided a stimulating costume display challenge, particularly given the diminutive size of the garments and how much mannequin they left exposed.

Lacking time for conventional break and re-shape posing of commercial fiberglass figures, and not wishing to have visible legs with the felted texture of Fosshape, our inventive solution was to combine aspects of these two approaches. Using conventional techniques, Fosshape was moulded over existing fiberglass legs before being cut and reshaped to create the desired pose. With the pose established, a novel approach was then employed, with the visible portion of the leg being coated in resin and finely profiled and finished, before being painted to give the look of fiberglass. The resulting hybrid legs retained the desirable properties of Fosshape, being light, soft enough to be stitched to the torso, and supple enough to be inserted into object shoes. Visually however, these 'next level' legs prove indistinguishable from the fiberglass legs of her bandmates.

BIO

Keira Miller

Keira Miller trained as a costume maker for stage and screen before taking up a post as a Costume Mounting Specialist at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), London, in 2007. She has worked at the V&A ever since, barring a two-year sabbatical where she gained a MPhil in Textile Conservation at the University of Glasgow, winning the Woolmen Silver Medal for her work.

During her time at the V&A, Keira has worked on a string of blockbuster exhibitions, including Mary Quant, Wedding Dresses and the newly opened Hallyu: The Korean Wave. In recent years, Keira has developed a particular skill for mounting garments that stretch, be they fashion or functional sportswear.

