

## SHINING BRIGHT: GIVENCHY'S LATEST CLEVER COLLABORATION

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*Givenchy by Riccardo Tisci in collaboration with Benjamin Shine. Photo courtesy of Givenchy*

British artist Benjamin Shine trained as a fashion designer, rather than a fine artist. And it shows - Shine crafts his hyper-realistic portraits not with paint, but with tulle, pleating, pressing and sculpting kilometres of nylon netting into one-of-a-kind artworks. 'My idea is to "paint" entirely with fabric,' says Shine, confessing then when he first began to experiment with the technique, 'I had no idea if it would work. I wanted to depict Rembrandt, because he was the master of light and shade, so I scrunched, pleated and pressed a piece of black tulle to form the portrait. After about 200 hours of hard work I was massively relieved to see it come to fruition. It was a big hit.'

It was also just the start of a series that has seen Shine immortalise everyone from Hollywood royalty like Elizabeth Taylor to Topshop mogul Sir Phillip Green. Generally, these have graced canvasses, or even gallery walls - as with his monumental *Hands of Time* (below), showcased during London Design Week in 2012.



*Benjamin Shine, Hands of Time, 2012*

But as of today you can wear that art on your sleeve - or rather, scrawled across your chest. Shine has collaborated with Givenchy creative director Riccardo Tisci to create unique pieces re-interpreting the crypto-religious Madonna and Child prints of the spring/summer 2013 Givenchy menswear collection, the entire print created from bunched, scrunched and smushed tulle applied to utilitarian sweatshirts. Each image is made by manipulating a single piece of tulle.

Of course, Givenchy has been a big fan of an embellished sweat for many a season - winter 2011 saw sweaters with embroidered garlands, chiffon panels and satin appliqués, while spring's men's mainline come in printed silk-satin and gazar. But to date the remit has been ready-to-wear. Shine collaboration, by contrast, is offered on a strictly made-to-order basis from the Givenchy haute couture ateliers - 'moving pieces of art' is the house's tagline. Well, isn't that what haute couture should be all about?