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VOLUME 35

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AMERICAN HORROR STORY





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TARTARUS^{MAGAZINE}

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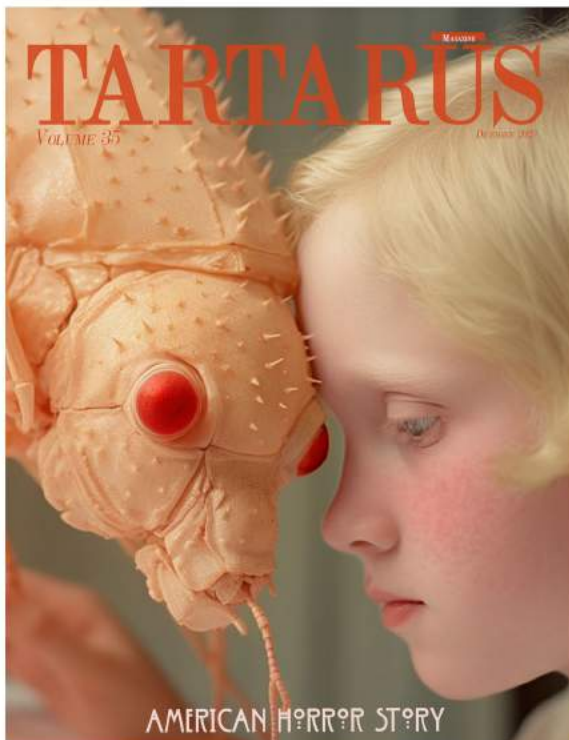
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Nora Kobrenik Photographed by Nora Kobrenik |
Spiritus Sanctus | November 2023

In 2011 American Horror Story premiered on FX and forever changed television, anthology series and how we perceive and view horror.

Horror has ancient origins, with roots in folklore and religious traditions focusing on death, the afterlife, evil, the demonic and the principle of the thing embodied in the person. These manifested in stories of beings such as demons, witches, vampires, werewolves, ghosts and most recently in the human condition. Horror no longer involves only the supernatural. In the day and age we live in the ghouls and vampires are the least of our problems. Cults, murder, pandemics, wars, mental illness and artificial intelligence are only a fraction of things that keeps us up at night. The deteriorating political, economic and social situation in the world right now is something that will rival any

any science fiction and camp fire ghost story.

I was born at the end of the 80's and in my lifetime thus far I have witnessed the Y2K panic, 9/11, natural disasters in the forms of Hurricane Katrina and the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and the subsequent tsunami that claimed the lives of more than 230,000 people. My generation lived through a global pandemic, wars, unprecedented political turmoil and multiple economic crashes. It's going to take way more than demonic possession and zombies to make my generation hide under the covers.

The Volume 35: American Horror Story is often a satirical look at the traditional horror genres. In a surprising twist at least half of the editorials on offering in this book were created with the help of Artificial Intelligence under the guidance of incredibly talented artists. These artists will show you that there's nothing to fear from the things that go bump in the night. Welcome to the issue.

NORA KOBRENIK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND FOUNDER



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PHILIPPE AUDIBERT

PARIS







Delphine-Charlotte Parmentier
Paris

schimmel.





ALFREDO ASAF NIETO PH
SHUTTER ISLAND
JEN RUANE TALK



PRESENTS
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In 1955, 50 percent of all hospital beds in the United States were psychiatric beds, a fact made infamous by Mike Gorman in his book, *Every Other Bed*. In the 1950s, individuals who grappled with extreme forms of mental health disorders were deemed unfit to live independently within the realms of a community and were often committed to mental hospitals, which were also known as mental institutions.

The treatment of mental health disorders consisted of inhumane and barbaric therapies. This includes lobotomies and electroconvulsive therapy. A lobotomy is a surgical procedure where a metal instrument is inserted into the brain and a portion of the frontal lobe was either removed or manipulated. Lobotomies were utilized because it was believed that this type of procedure would cure people of visual and auditory hallucinations, which are symptoms of psychosis. Psychosis is commonly associated with schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. While lobotomies were touted as a miracle cure for mental illnesses, there is no actual evidence that this type of medical intervention is helpful. However, there is evidence that it is actually harmful. Lobotomies have left some people never the same in their emotional states or personalities or have even left patients in comatose or vegetative states.

Some patients who received lobotomies even reported worsening mental states, and some deteriorated to the point that they committed suicide.

Hydrotherapy proved to be a popular technique. Warm, or more commonly, cold water, allegedly reduced agitation, particularly for those experiencing manic episodes. People were either submerged in a bath for hours at a time, mummified in a wrapped “pack,” or sprayed with a deluge of shockingly cold water in showers. Asylums also relied heavily on mechanical restraints, using straight jackets, manacles, waistcoats, and leather wristlets, sometimes for hours or days at a time. Doctors claimed restraints kept patients safe, but as asylums filled up, the use of physical restraint was more a means of controlling overcrowded institutions.

Manfred Sakel, a German neurologist, introduced insulin shock therapy that injected high levels of insulin into patients to cause convulsions and a coma. After several hours, the living dead would be revived from the coma, and thought cured of their madness. This process would

be repeated daily for months at a time, with doctors sometimes administering as many as 50 to 60 treatments per patient. One of the most infamous treatments for mental illness includes electroconvulsive shock therapy. Types of non-convulsive electric shock therapy can be traced back as early as the 1st century A.D., when, according to de Young, “the malaise and headaches of the Roman emperor Claudius were treated by the application of a torpedo fish — better known as an electric ray — on his forehead.”

Drugs had been used in treating the mentally ill as far back as the mid-1800s.

Their purpose then was to sedate patients to keep overcrowded asylums more manageable, a kind of chemical restraint to replace the physical restraints of earlier years. Doctors administered drugs such as opium and morphine, both of which carried side effects and the risk of addiction. Toxic mercury was used to control mania. Barbiturates put patients into a deep sleep thought to improve their madness. Chloral hydrate came of use in the 1950s, but like the drugs before it, it had side effects, including psychotic episodes. ●







A large crowd of people is gathered in front of a building with a prominent red dome. The crowd is seen from behind, looking towards the building. The building has a dark, rectangular base and a large, smooth, red dome on top. In the background, there are some small buildings, a utility pole, and a body of water under a cloudy sky. The text "The Empire" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The Empire

of Red Gold









LIAHBEDEEL LAELEEL













The term “cult” refers most often to a group of people with usually atypical beliefs living in relative isolation from the world. The definition of “cult” remains somewhat expansive. While it’s synonymous with these sorts of often destructive movements and bizarre forms of belief, it can also refer to an ordinary group of people. Cults tend to centralize around one charismatic person—the cult leader—who orders the beliefs, behaviors, and customs of all the other members. Many cults stand in as de facto new religions for their followers, but some are irreligious in nature.

The word “cult” descends from the Latin “cultus,” an ancient word encompassing the concepts of adoration, education, and cultivation. At first, it became a catch-all term for groups devoted to a specific subject. This could be something philosophical and religious or more mundane and material. By the nineteenth century, it evolved to mean an unorthodox group of zealous and eccentric believers.

Each cult has its own distinctive focus, but almost all of these groups share at least some elements in common, such as:

Authoritarian control: Cultism hinges on encouraging maximum dependency. People in the cult must feel incapable of living an

individual life outside the norms of the group. These beliefs often go hand in hand with a worshipful attitude toward the group’s authoritarian leader.

Extremist beliefs: Cult members hold to very dogmatic and extreme beliefs. They also are unable to question these belief systems without fear of reprisal or punishment from the leader or other group members.

Isolation from society: As soon as new members join a cult, other adherents work hard to isolate them from family members and friends. This helps fulfill the mind control aspirations of the leader. It also creates a hive mind of sorts between the new person and the other members.

Veneration of a single individual: Charismatic leaders are often at the center of most cults. Consider the Manson family of the late 1960s. As their name suggests, they adopted the beliefs of their leader, Charles Manson, and fulfilled his requests. The same pattern repeats in almost all other cults, albeit to less violent ends in many cases. ●

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Garments: Mélique Street
Model: Marina Mélique
Creative producer: Ivan Litvak
Photography, Style,
Make Up and Hair by Mélique Street team

ITALIAN HORROR STORIES



ITALIAN HORROR STORIES





What We Do
Photography by Alberto Curi



in the Shadows
terrez & Francisco Lázaro









Creative Direction, Art Direction, Set Design, Graphic Design,
Animation, Retouching Supervisor & Casting: Súper Fuerte
Model: Majo Candela
Production: Macarena Torres
Stylists: Aurora Canós & Marta Cuitavi
Makeup and Hair: Ana Molins
Postproduction: Elian Sánchez & Súper Fuerte
Graphic Design: Pep Sanabra
Creative Copywriter: Karma Cereza
Production Assistant: Chiara Torinos
Art Assistant: Olga Clares
Location: Llum Studios
Lighting Equipment: Alberto Gutierrez (Llum Studios)







































Dani Ma

MONSTER



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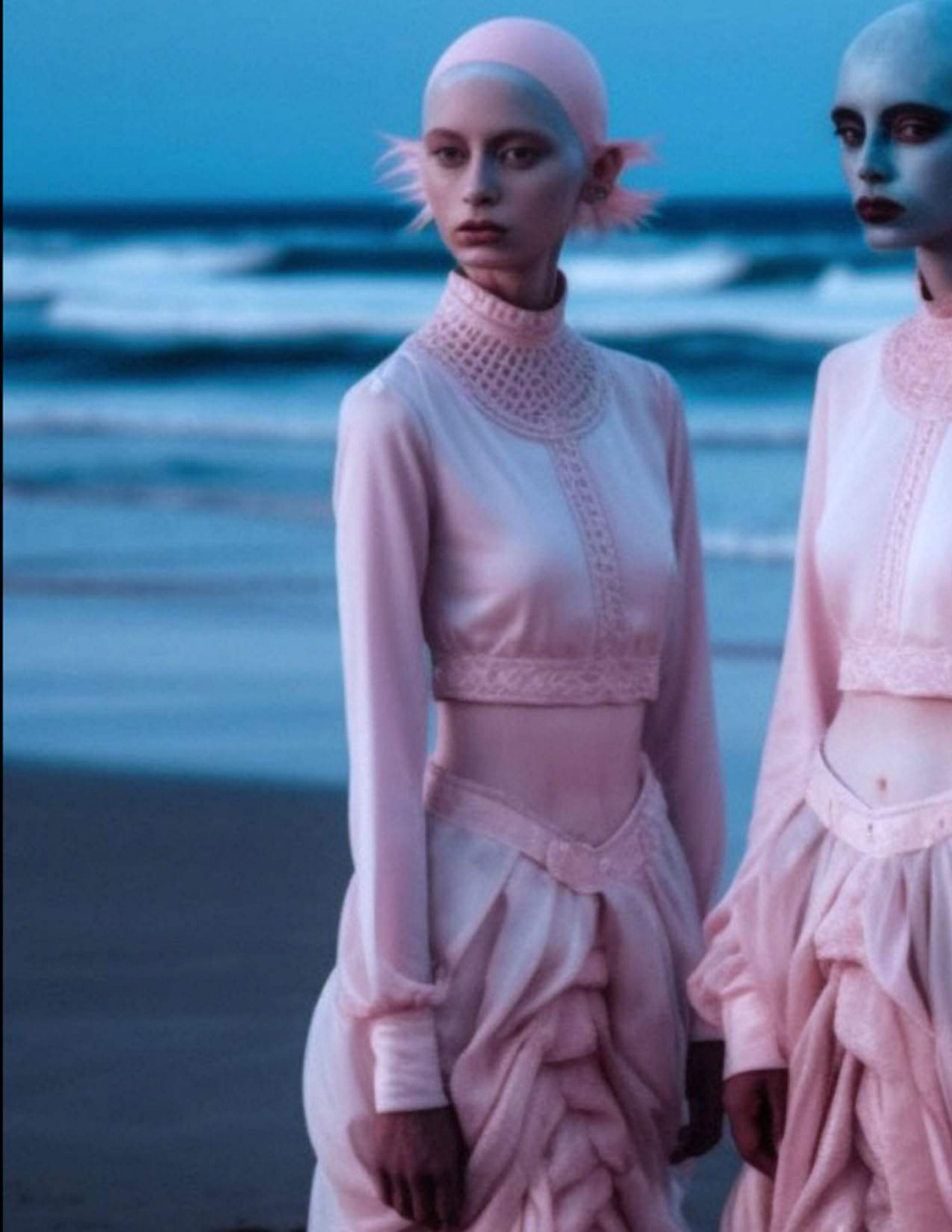
VS ALIENS























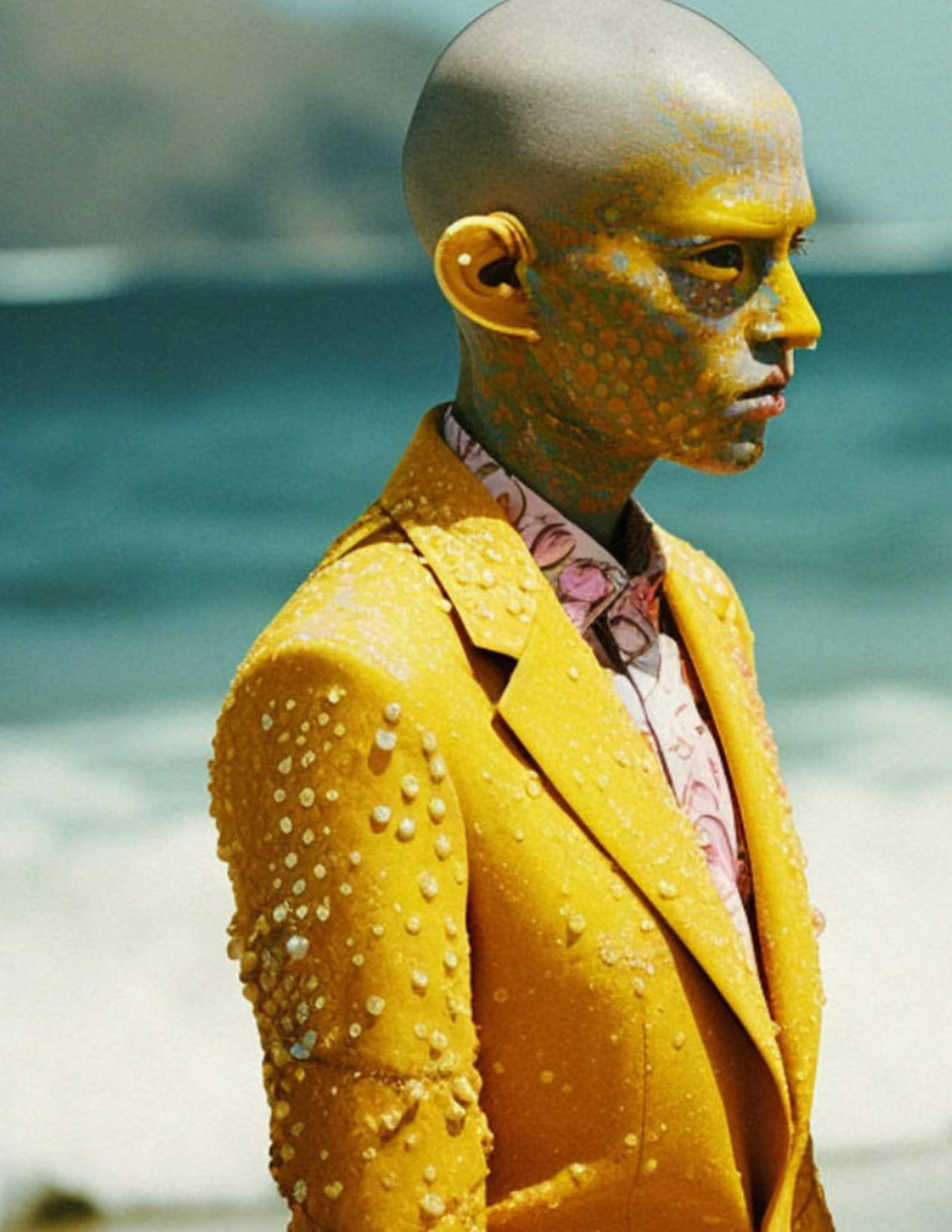












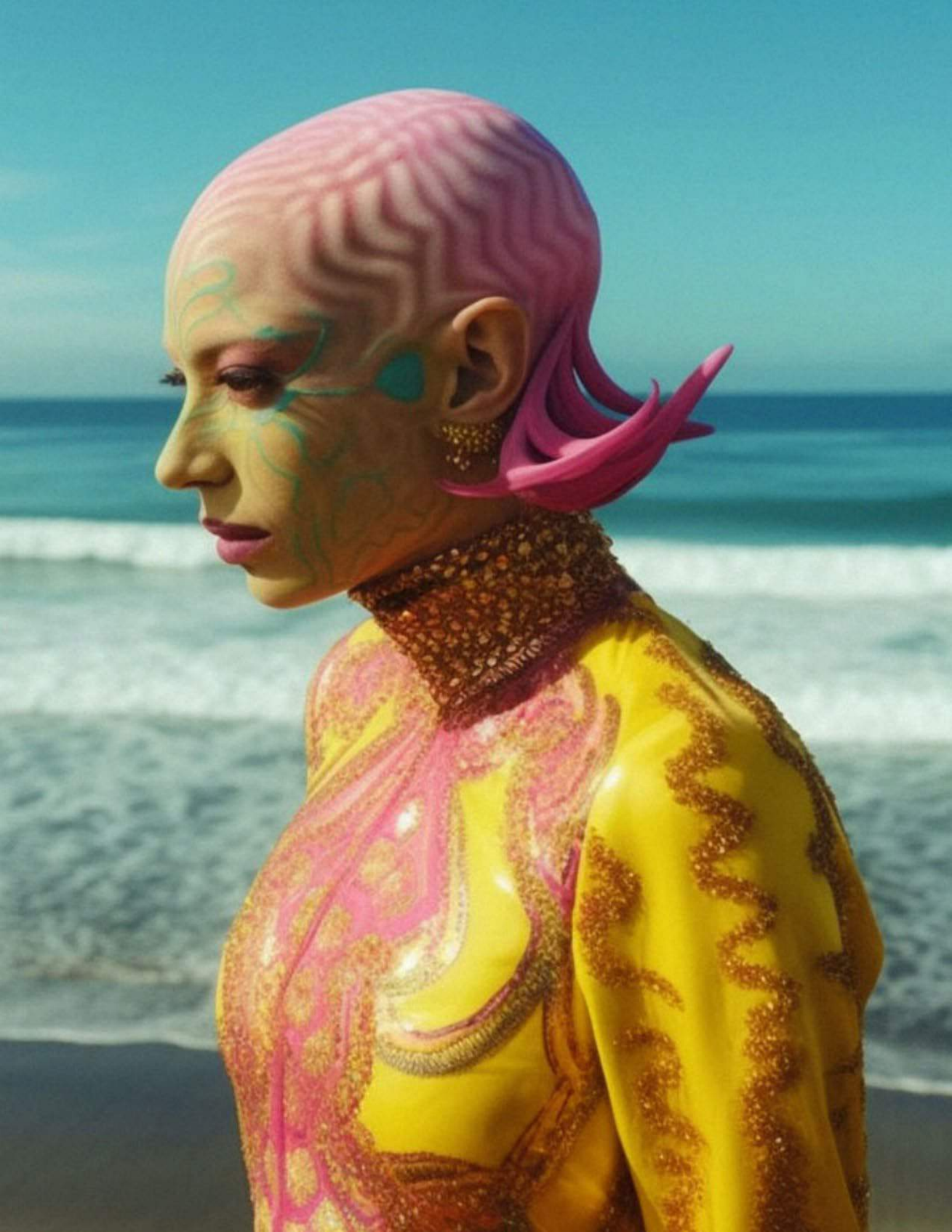














The idea that aliens exist is not a conspiracy theory. It becomes a conspiracy theory only when people believe that a small group — typically government insiders — are hiding information about aliens from the rest of us. The last decade has seen an increase in credible-seeming people stating they have either witnessed UFOs or have evidence the government knows about aliens and is hiding them from the rest of the public. In 2023, a former official at the Pentagon, David Grusch, came forward as a self-described whistle-blower who once served on the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force. He claimed the U.S. had debris from a spacecraft of “nonhuman origin.” One common UFO conspiracy theory, including the one proposed by Grusch, is that the government is hiding remnants of a UFO that crashed into the Earth. One of the first crash coverup conspiracies began in 1947 in Roswell, New Mexico, when reports of debris from a flying saucer were discovered near a military base. The U.S. military dismissed the debris as a weather balloon, not a flying saucer. As the decades passed, conspiracy theorists believed the government knew it was actually a UFO and intentionally hid the truth. It turns out the government was indeed hiding something — it just wasn’t a spaceship filled

with little green Martians. Another common UFO conspiracy theory is that the government not only has the remnants of an alien spaceship, but they also have the occupants in custody. Area 51, located in Nevada, has long been suspected of harboring crashed UFOs and extraterrestrial beings. One scholar described Area 51 as an “open secret” in which people understand the government is doing something but don’t know exactly what. Area 51 is closed to the public, and the nearest public viewpoint is 12 miles away. In the 1980s, conspiracy theorists began promoting the idea that the government had aliens tucked away at Area 51.

Widespread publicity was generated by the Betty and Barney Hill abduction case of 1961, culminating in a made-for-television film broadcast in 1975 (starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons) dramatizing the events. The Hill incident was probably the prototypical abduction case and was perhaps the first in which the claimant described beings that later became widely known as the Greys and in which the beings were said to explicitly identify an extraterrestrial origin. ●















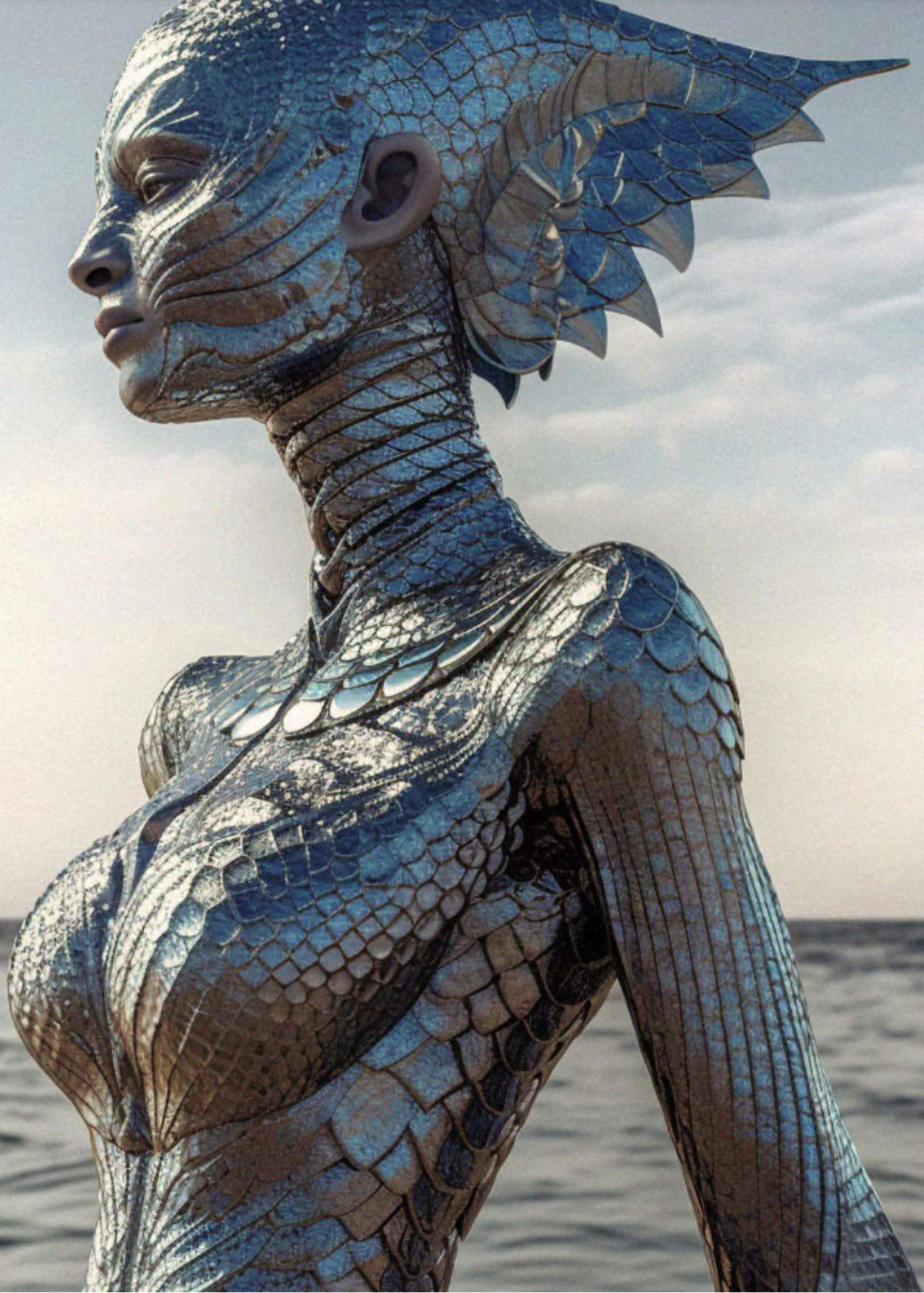














SCALES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
DIANA ISOY
























Scáthach

Photography by Natalie Ina

The Myths of Roanoke by Laurie Silvey































The lost colony of Roanoke is one of the most notorious mysteries in American history; the cryptic clues left at the abandoned settlement and the lack of any concrete evidence make it the focus of wild speculation and theories. In 1587 a small colony was founded on an island off the eastern coast of North America. In the settlement's difficult founding year, its mayor, John White, left for England to request resources and manpower. He returned three years later only to find the settlement empty—his wife, child, and grandchild, the first English child born in the Americas, having vanished. The word CROATOAN and the letters CRO, carved into trees within the colony's borders, were the only signs pointing to an explanation. The leading theory is that the colonists went to Croatoan Island (now known as Hatteras Island). The second most popular theory is that the colonists relocated to the Salmon Creek/Albemarle area. Another theory circles around disease: most encounters between Old and New World peoples usually ended catastrophically for the natives. They often succumbed to European diseases like

smallpox and influenza. But some historians do not rule out the possibility that the colonists also perished from a New World disease. The disappearance of the colonists has also been linked to evil spirits, witches, and monsters. The Croatoans believed that a reptilian devil lurked in the woods of North Carolina, looking to possess people. It made people jealous, paranoid, and violent. The indigenous people also believed in witches and black magic. Some scholars also haven't ruled out alien abduction.

While it is certain that the colonists left the Roanoke Island, no evidence suggests what really happened to the settlers. It remains unclear whether they stuck together, if families went their separate ways, if they chose to live with the indigenous people, if disease or magic played a role or if they were just massacred. The biggest questions of all remain: what happened to the Roanoke Colony? ●











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Photography by
Ajuma Odawo



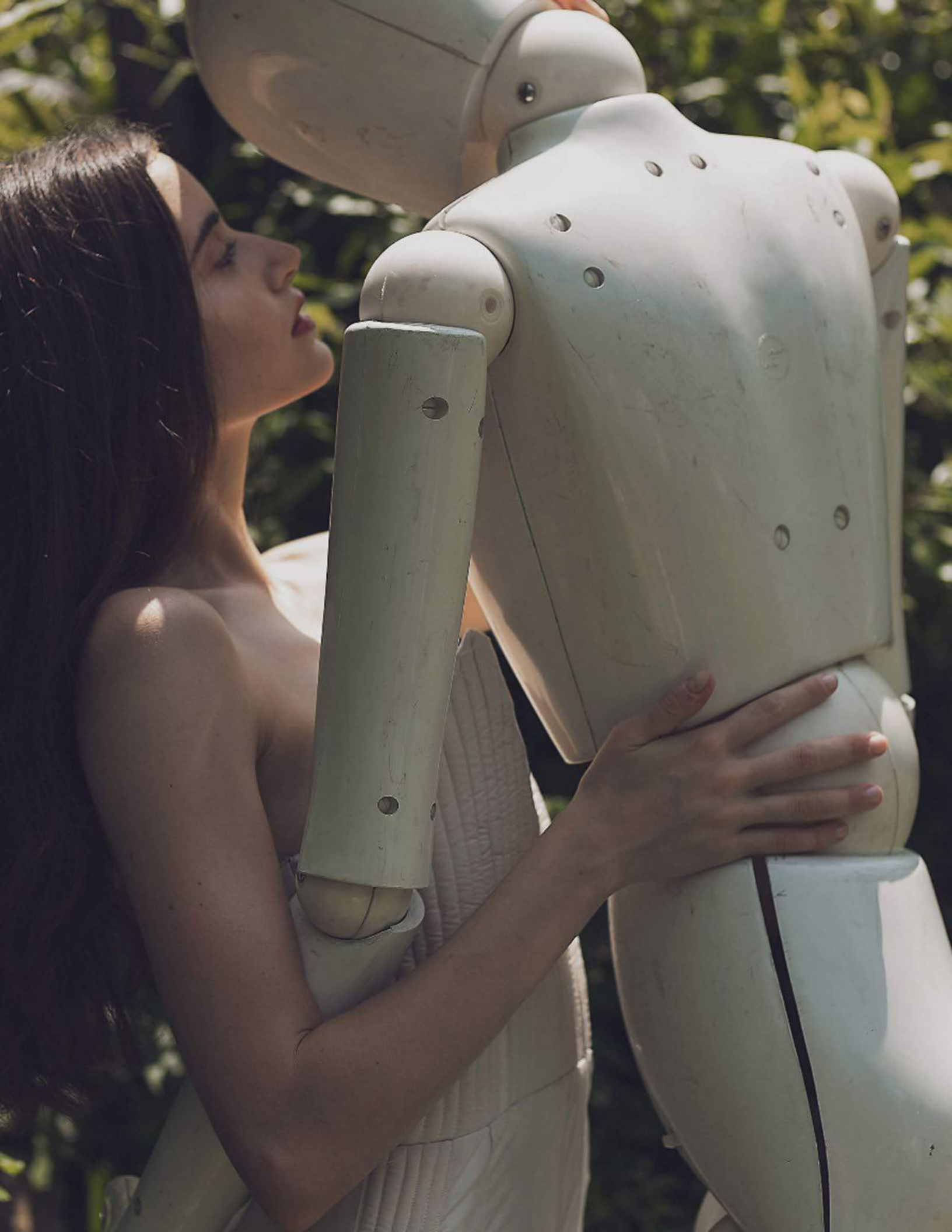


















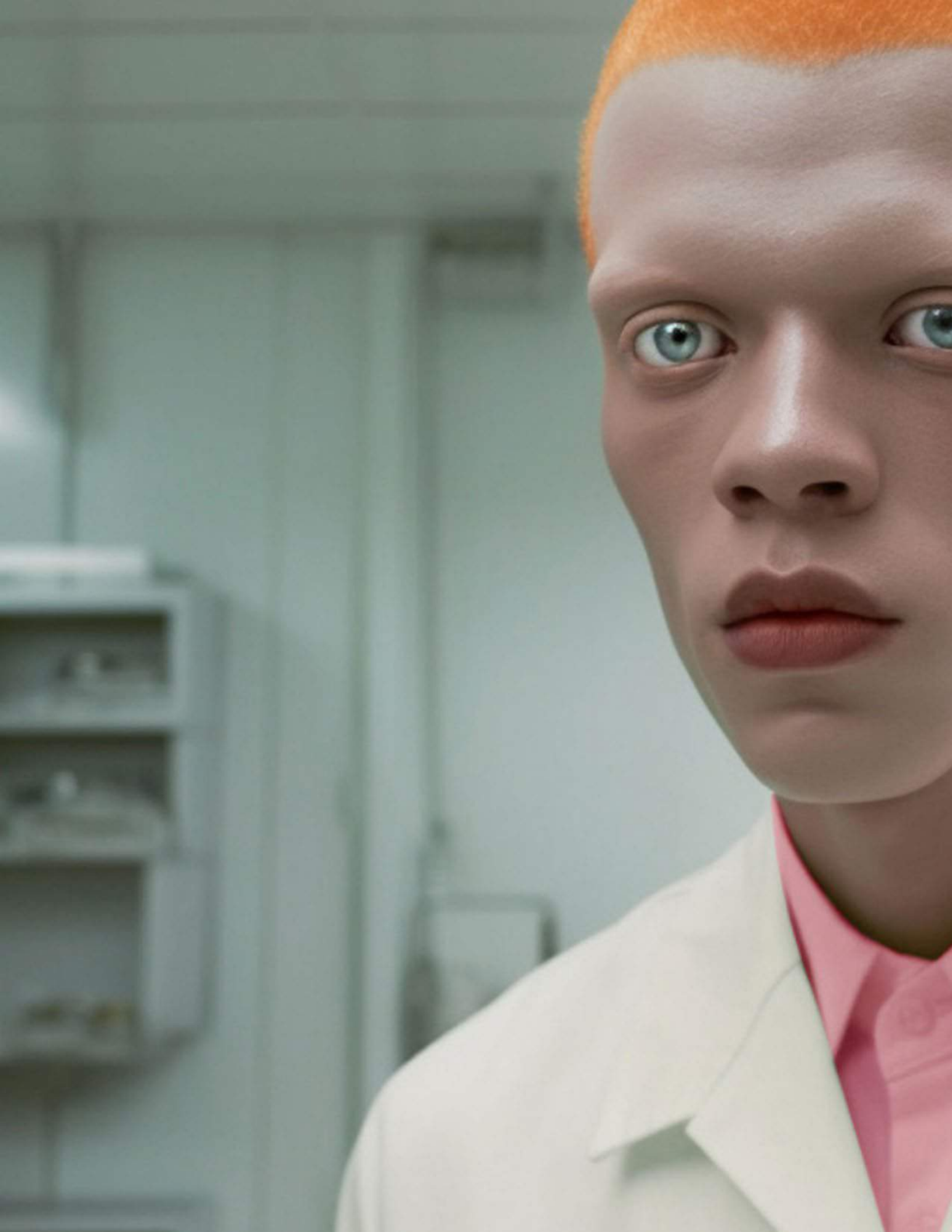




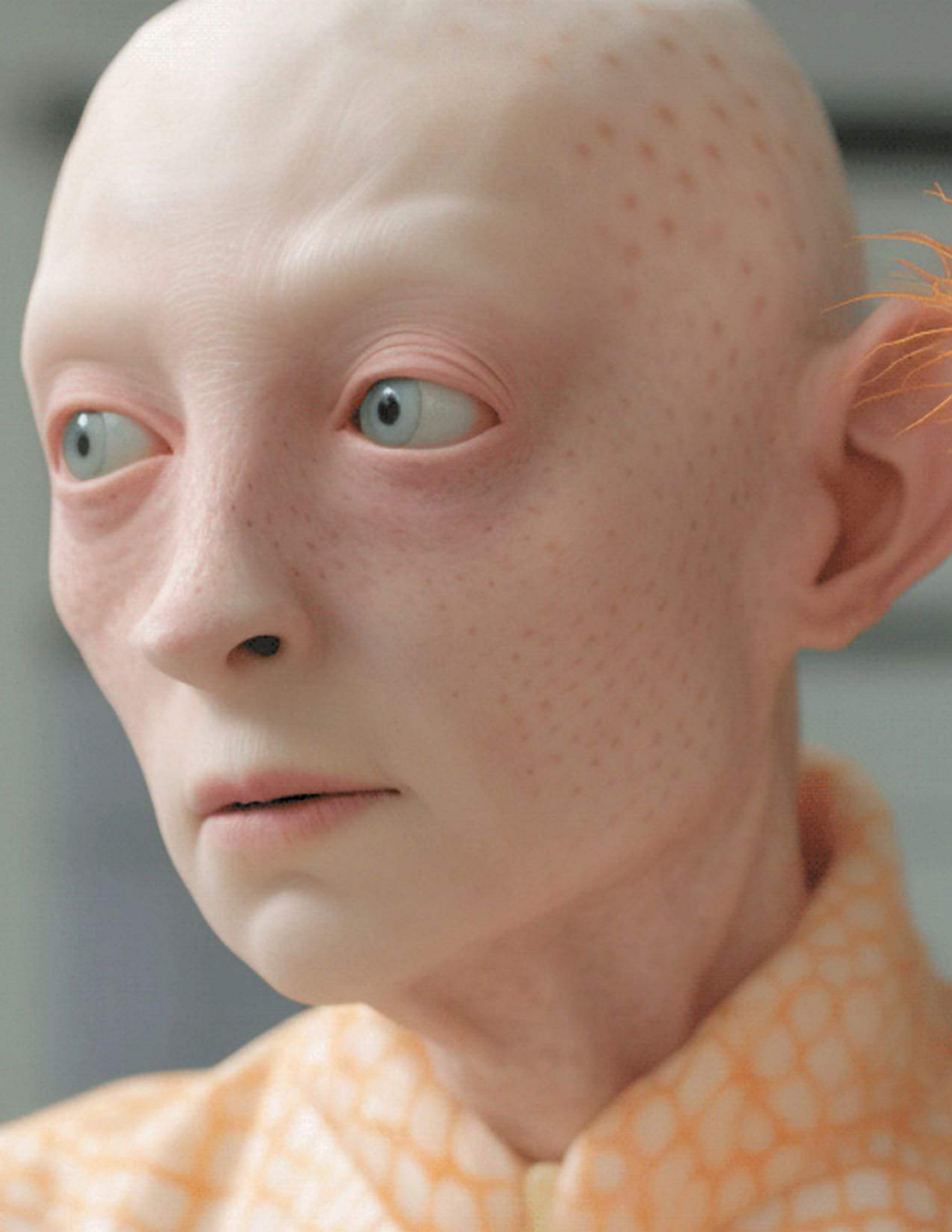
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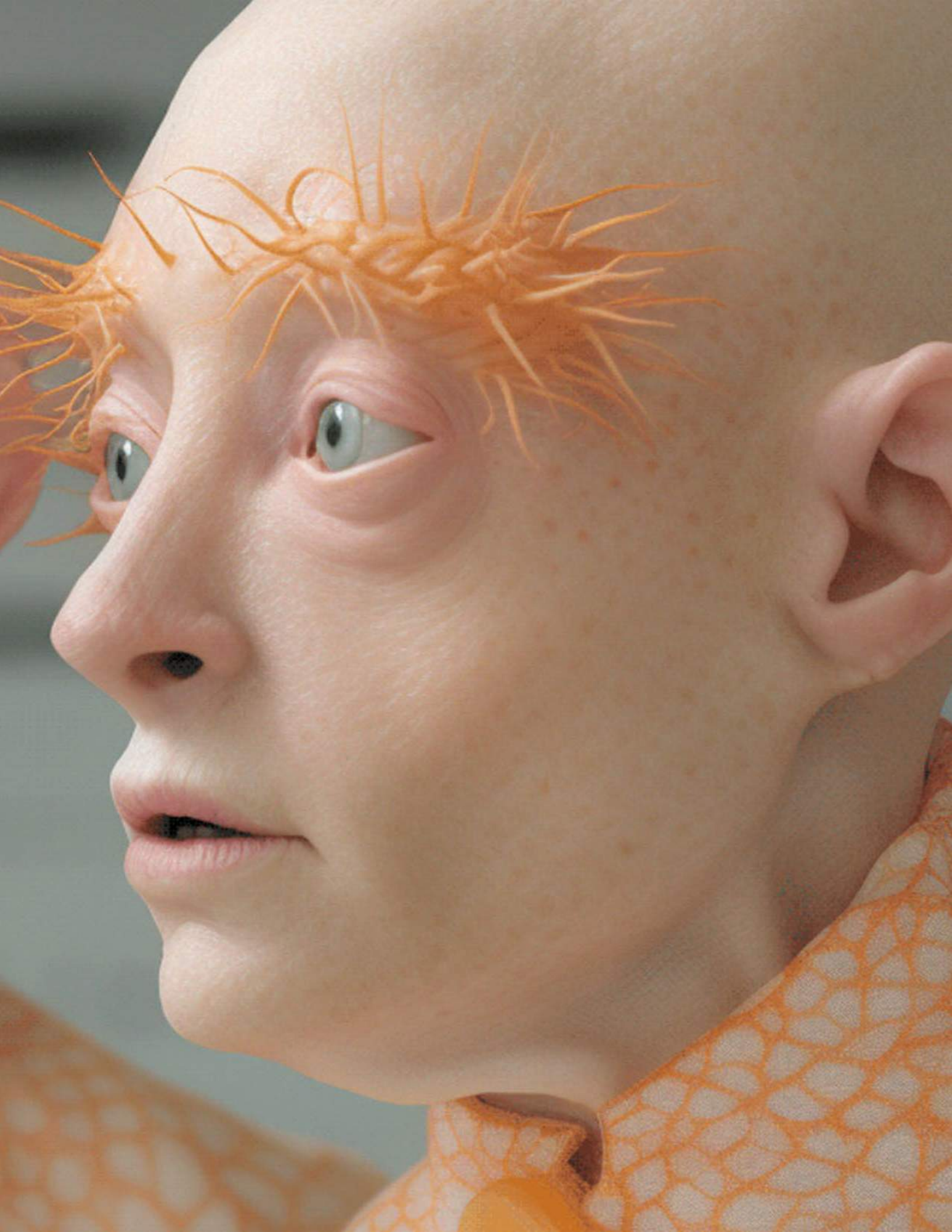


PRESENTS
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Stephen Hawking once noted that Earth is a "fragile planet," and if humanity does not find an alternative place to live - somewhere in space - we could be doomed. It is less of a rapture prediction than a reminder that resources are finite, there are greater forces than ourselves in the universe, and that we as a civilization trend on the self-destructive side of things. Humans have a macabre fascination with end of the world theories. Are we the architects of our own demise or cosmic pawns in a game we can't control? Here are the top four evidence-based apocalyptic theories:

Scorched Earth - Want an apocalypse theory that's effectively a sure thing? Opt for the sun-as-red-giant scenario. As noted by Universe Today, in approximately 5.4 billion years the sun will start fusing helium and rapidly expand across the orbits of Mercury, Venus and potentially Earth. But humanity will be gone long before this happens, since our star is steadily increasing in both luminosity and heat: In just over 1 billion years, a 10 percent increase to heat energy will trigger a runaway greenhouse effect. Two and a half billion years more and the sun boils our oceans, melts the ice caps and turns Earth into a second Venus.

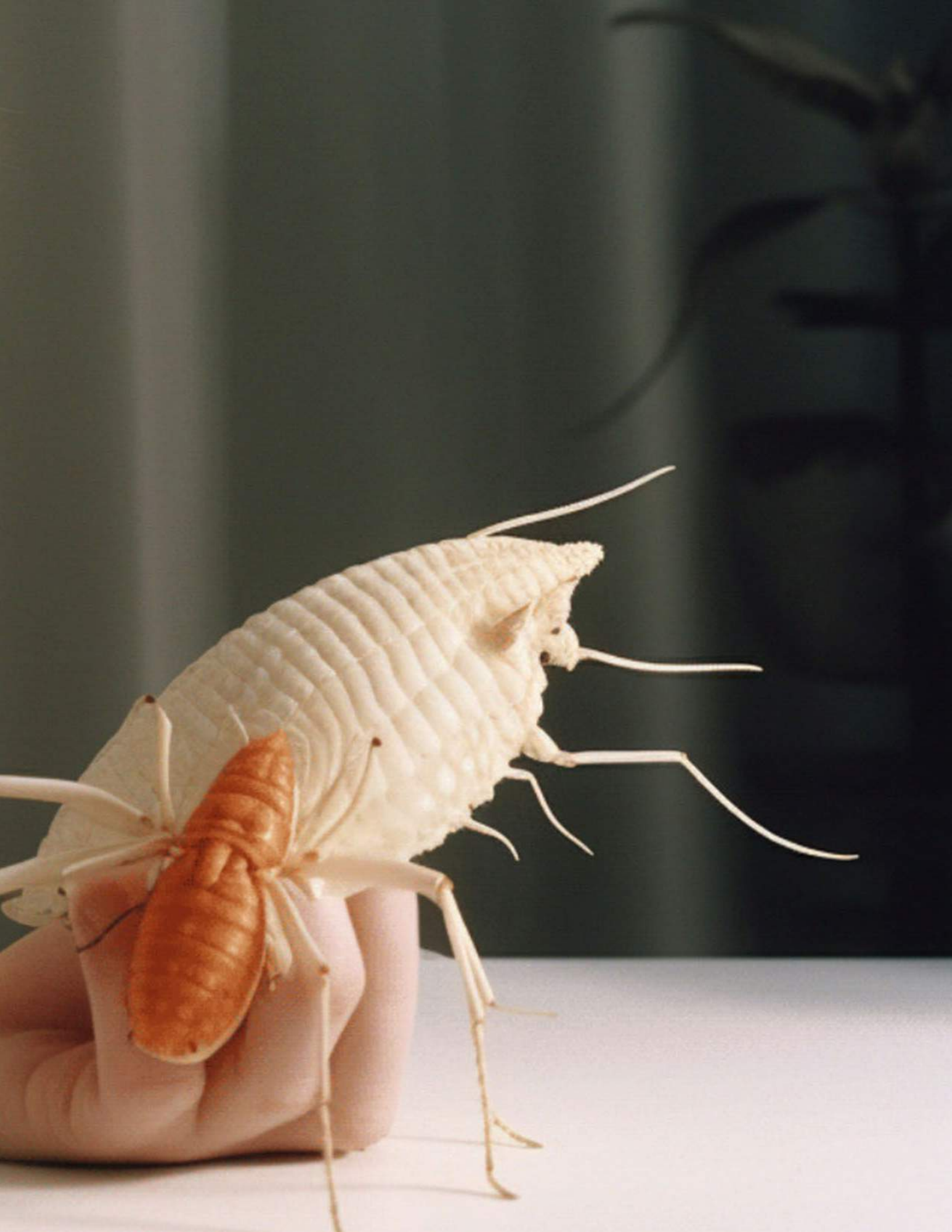
AI Apocalypse – Robotics and AI is becoming more advanced by the moment and with it come the fears. Author Isaac Asimov called it the "Frankenstein Complex" — fear that intelligent machines will rise up and destroy their human overlords. This idea is a perennial favorite in pop culture: James Cameron's Terminator saga remains a cinematic highlight of the above. But it's not a sure thing. Done right, super-intelligent computers could be our best ally against other signs of the apocalypse — as noted by ScienceAlert, "an intelligence of such power could easily combat most other risks in this report, making extremely intelligent AI into a tool of great potential."

Zombie Apocalypse - zombie scenarios are popular end of the world theories in both novels and television, but chances are we won't see any walkers, shamblers or brain-eaters in the near future. For a disease to transition from "annoying" to "end of the world," it needs four key characteristics:

Incurable - Like current strains of Ebola, there's no way to "cure"













the illness, simply survive.

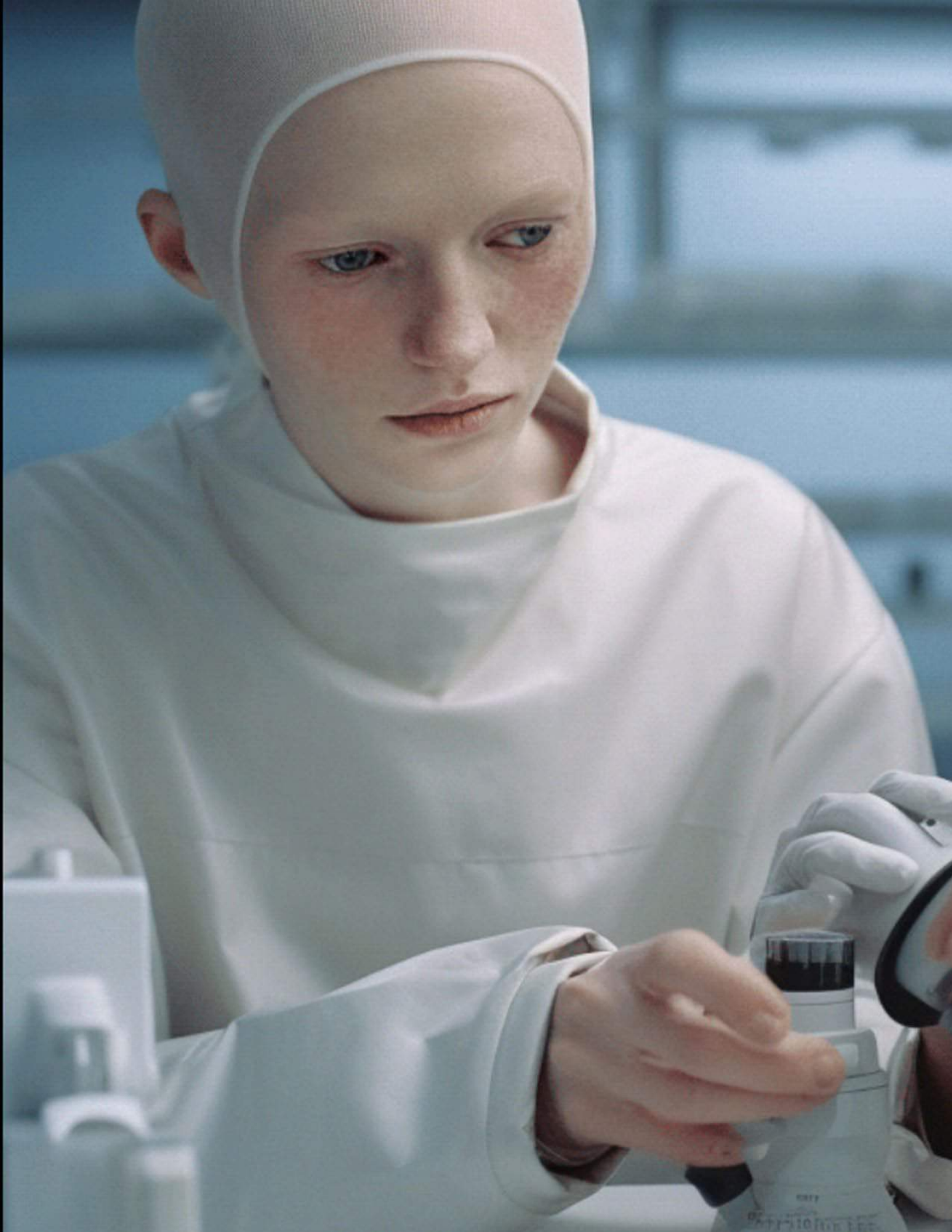
Almost always fatal — Diseases like rabies almost invariably kill unvaccinated human beings. If an unknown pathogen with this kind of mortality rate emerges, we're in trouble.

Easily transferable — If the illness can spread like common colds, there's virtually no way to stop new infections from happening.

Long incubation period — Diseases such as HIV that allow massive windows of time for new victims to become infected fall into this category.

Super-Violent Volcanoes - According to Science Magazine, there's a repeating

apocalyptic problem every 100,000 years — supervolcanoes. These volcanoes start with collapsing underground calderas that produce eruptions of more than 450 cubic kilometers of magma. For reference, the Mount St. Helens explosion in 1980 released just 0.25 cubic kilometers of magma. Worst-case scenario? In addition to large-scale destruction near ground zero, the ash lifted into the atmosphere blocks the sun and drops global temperatures by five to ten degrees Celsius for a decade, while ash on the ground kills all plant life. ●

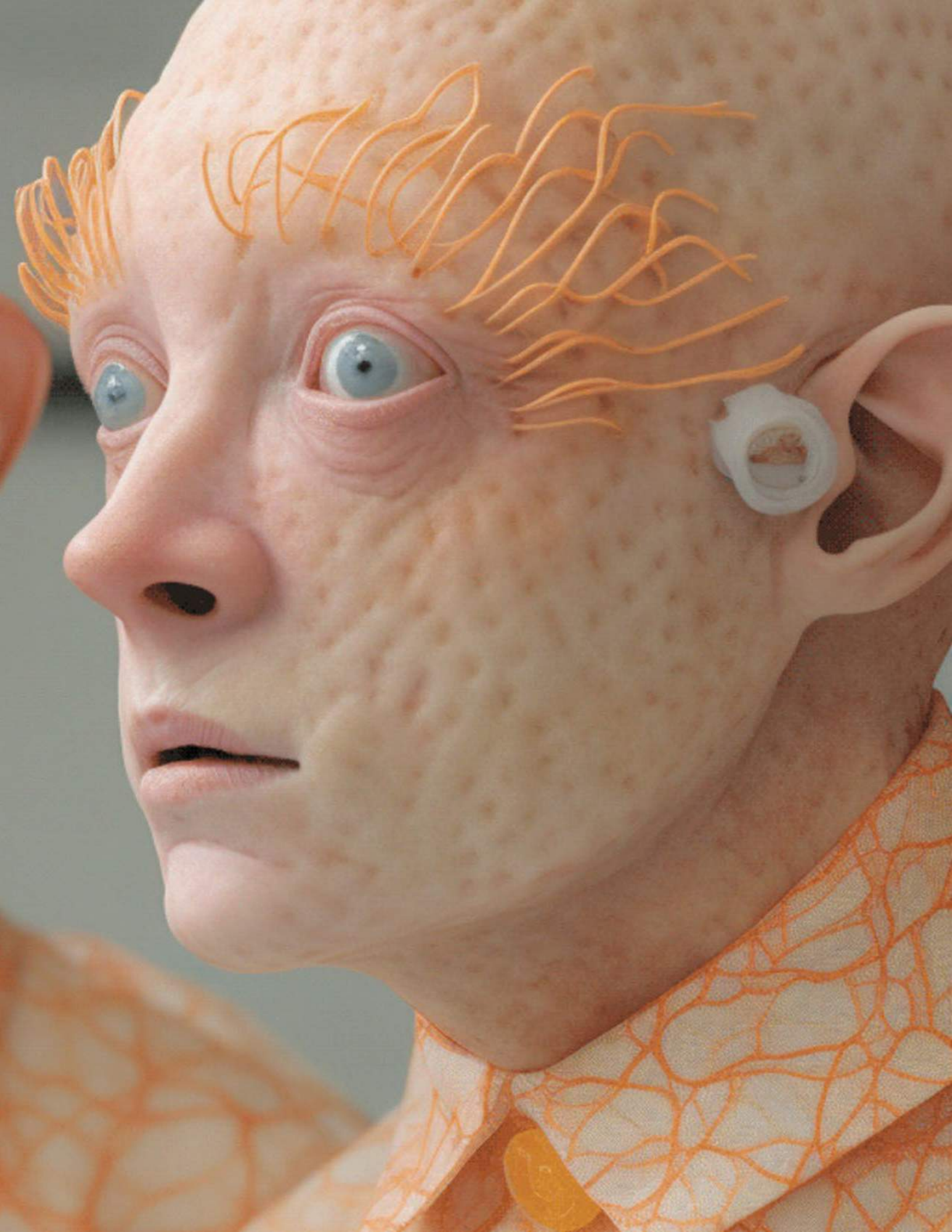


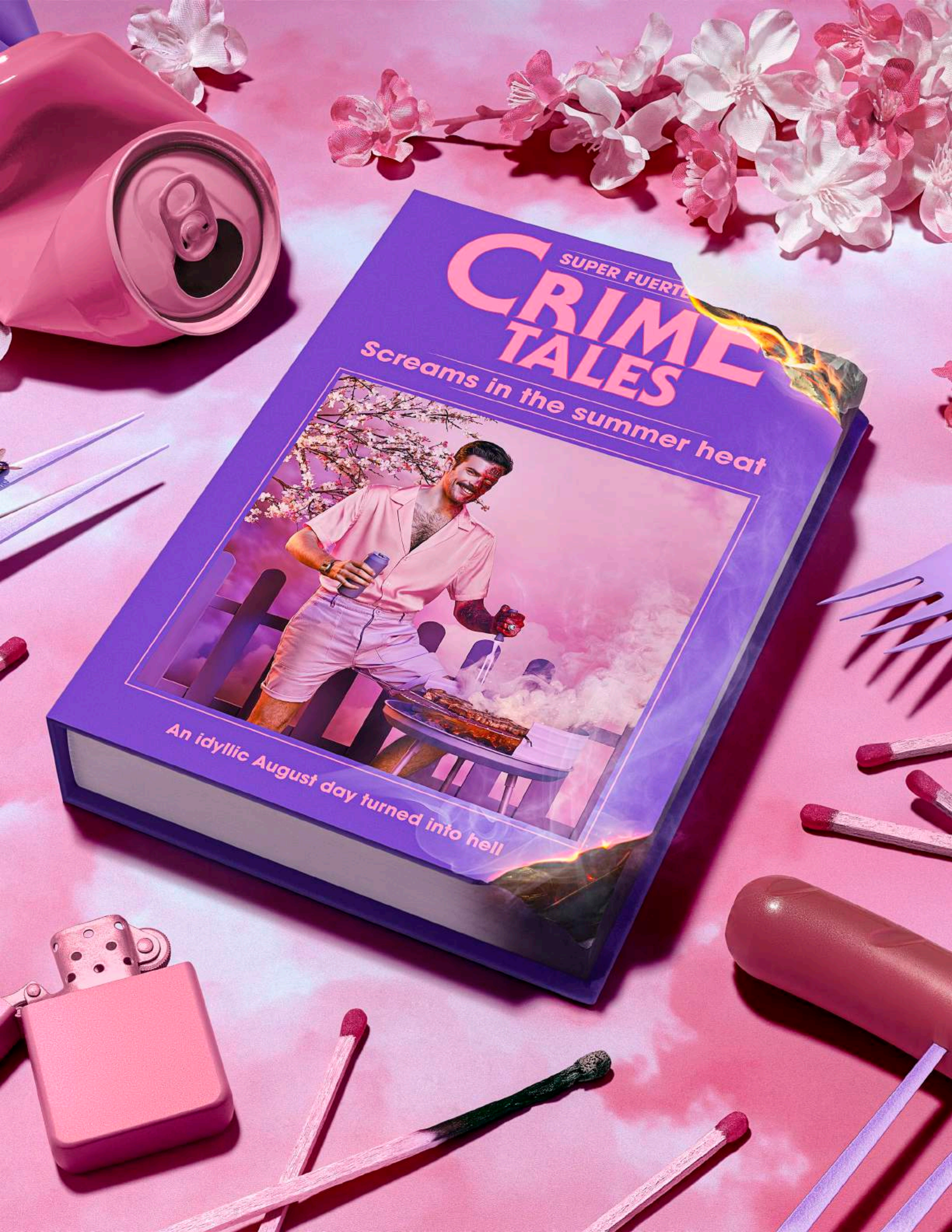








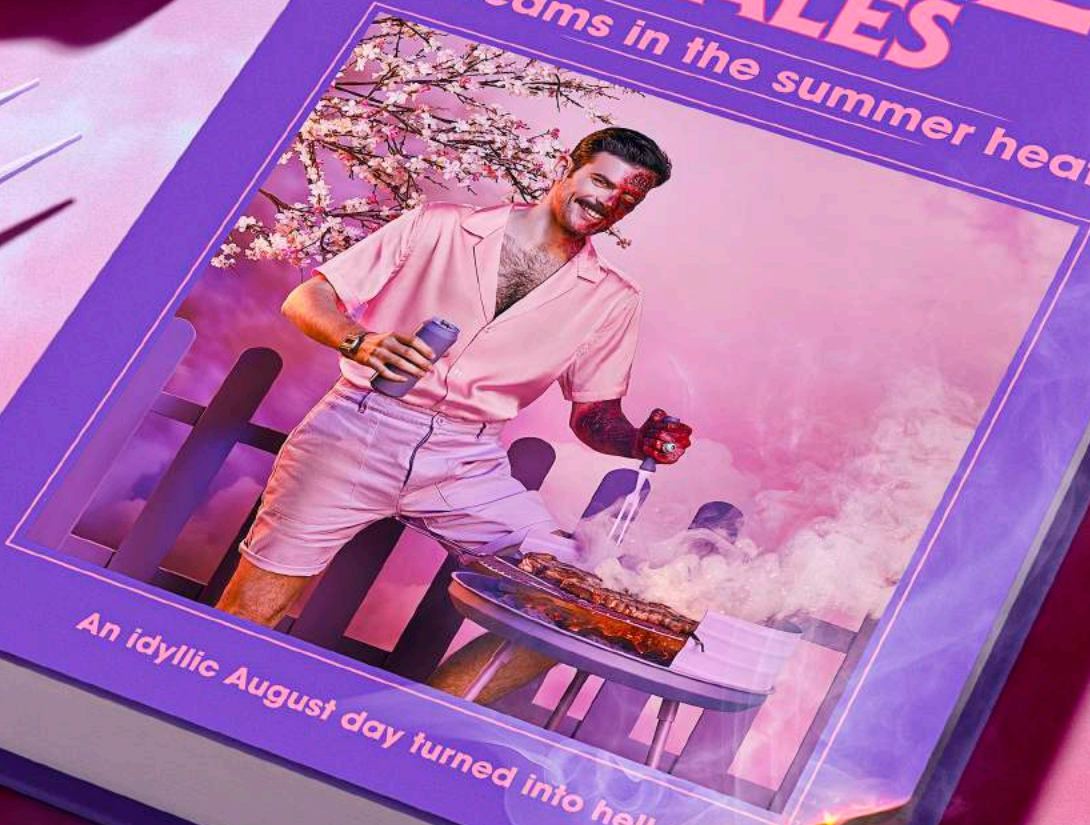




SUPER FUERTE

CRIME TALES

Screams in the summer heat



An idyllic August day turned into hell







CRIME TALES

SUPER FUERTE'S

Blood on the ice rink

Was not easy to be number 1



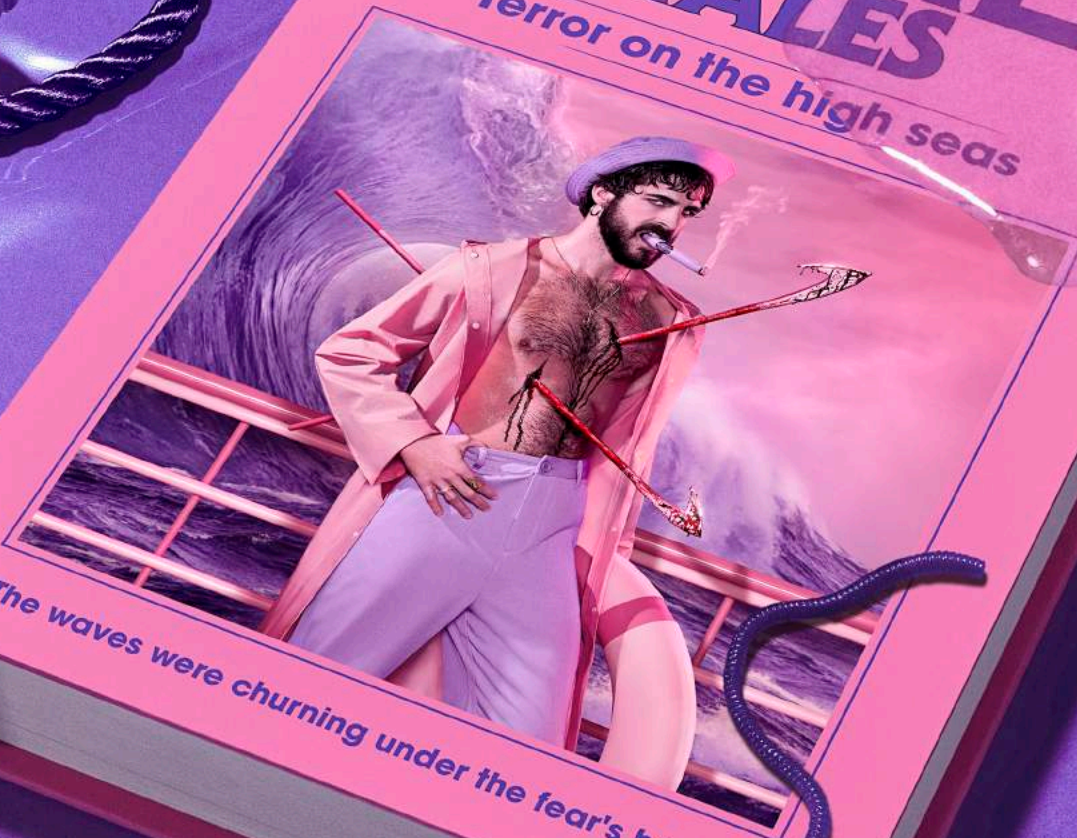






SUPER FUERTE'S
**CRIME
TALES**

Terror on the high seas



The waves were churning under the fear's breeze





CRIME TALES

Creative Direction, Art Direction, Director of Photography, Set Design, Set Construction, P

Barbecue, Scissors, Ice Saket, Sailor & Queen Photography: Llum Studios Still Life Photo

Models: Helios Roser, Annie Parfene (5.0 Models Management), Elvira Valero, Álvaro Madri

Ice Skater, Sailor & Queen MUAH & FX: Santi Giménez

Ice Skater, Sailor & Queen MUAH & FX Assistant: Olga López

Barbecue & Scissors Makeup FX: Anastasiya Shvandyreva Barbecue & Scissors MUAH: Ga

Stylist: Aurora Canós

Graphic Design On Props: Josep Prat Sorolla

Ice Skater, Sailor & Queen Retouch: La Retocadora

Barbecue & Scissors Retouch: Súper Fuerte

Still Life Retoucher: Ruben Tresserras

Barbecue & Scissors Photography: Llum Studios & Francisco Lázaro

roduction, Copy & Casting: Súper Fuerte
graphy: Llum Studios
gal & Carol Schievenin

la Philippe



NGELO  LAMBROU



KATH STO



ARINE DRY





hellen van berkel

HEARTMADE PRINTS



MUAMUA





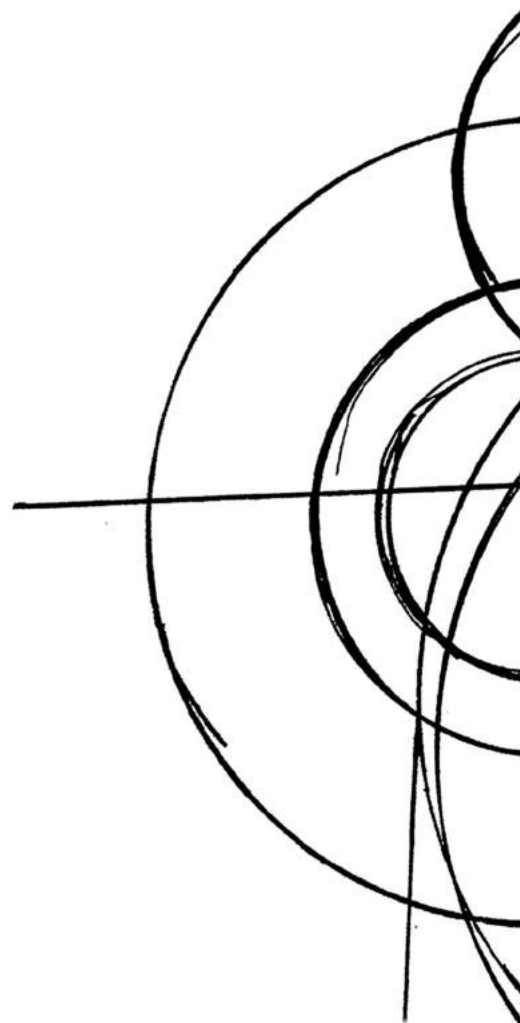
Nora's *Deities*




2.



1.



1. The Row Clarabella dress
2. Saint Laurent tote
3. Visit: Playa Del Carmen MX
4. Food for thought: Xaak MX
5. Alma Berrow art
6. Toteme wrap one piece
7. Dior visor
8. Parque Los Fundadores
9. Banana ice ream

 @eleanorkobrenik



3.

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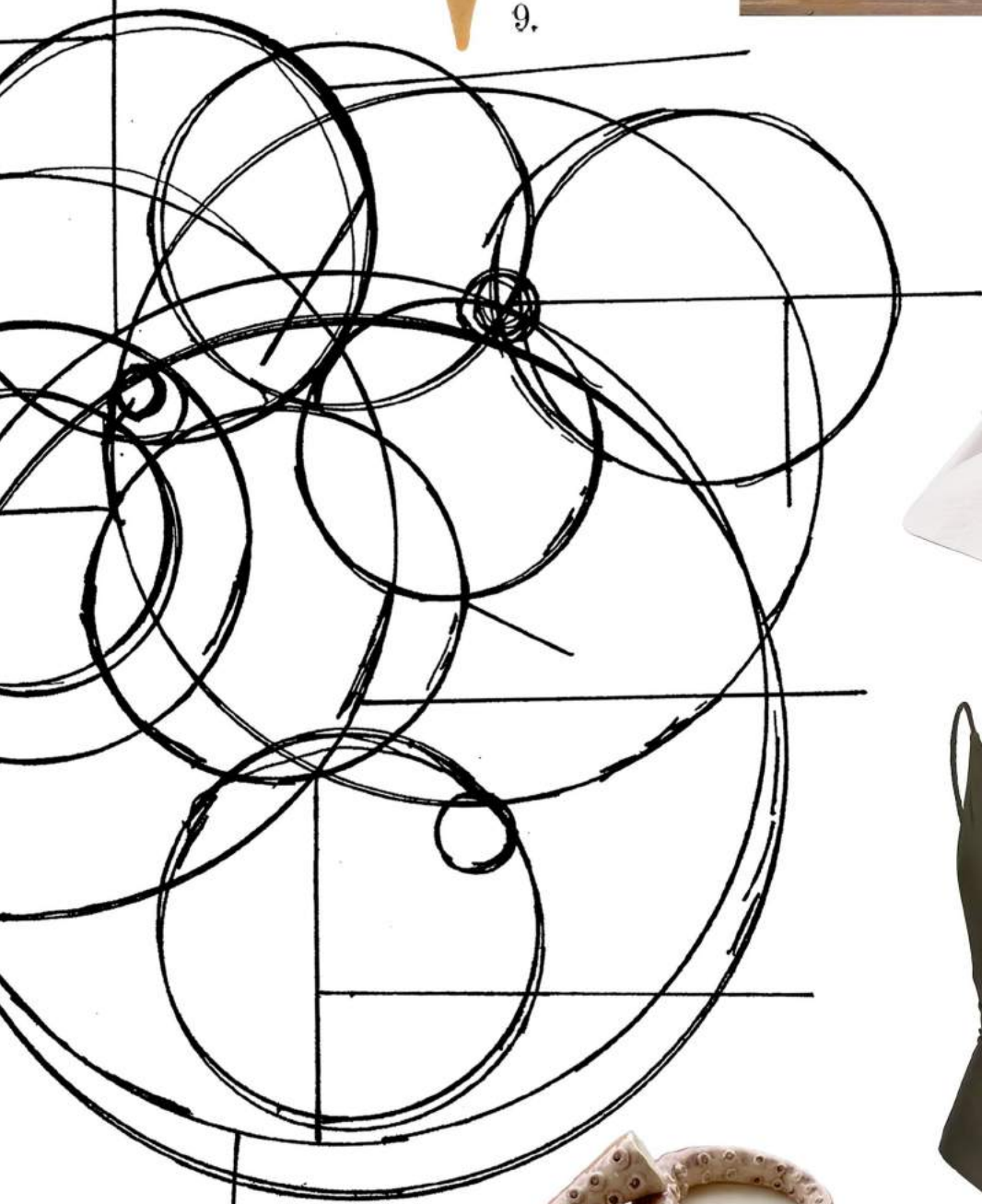
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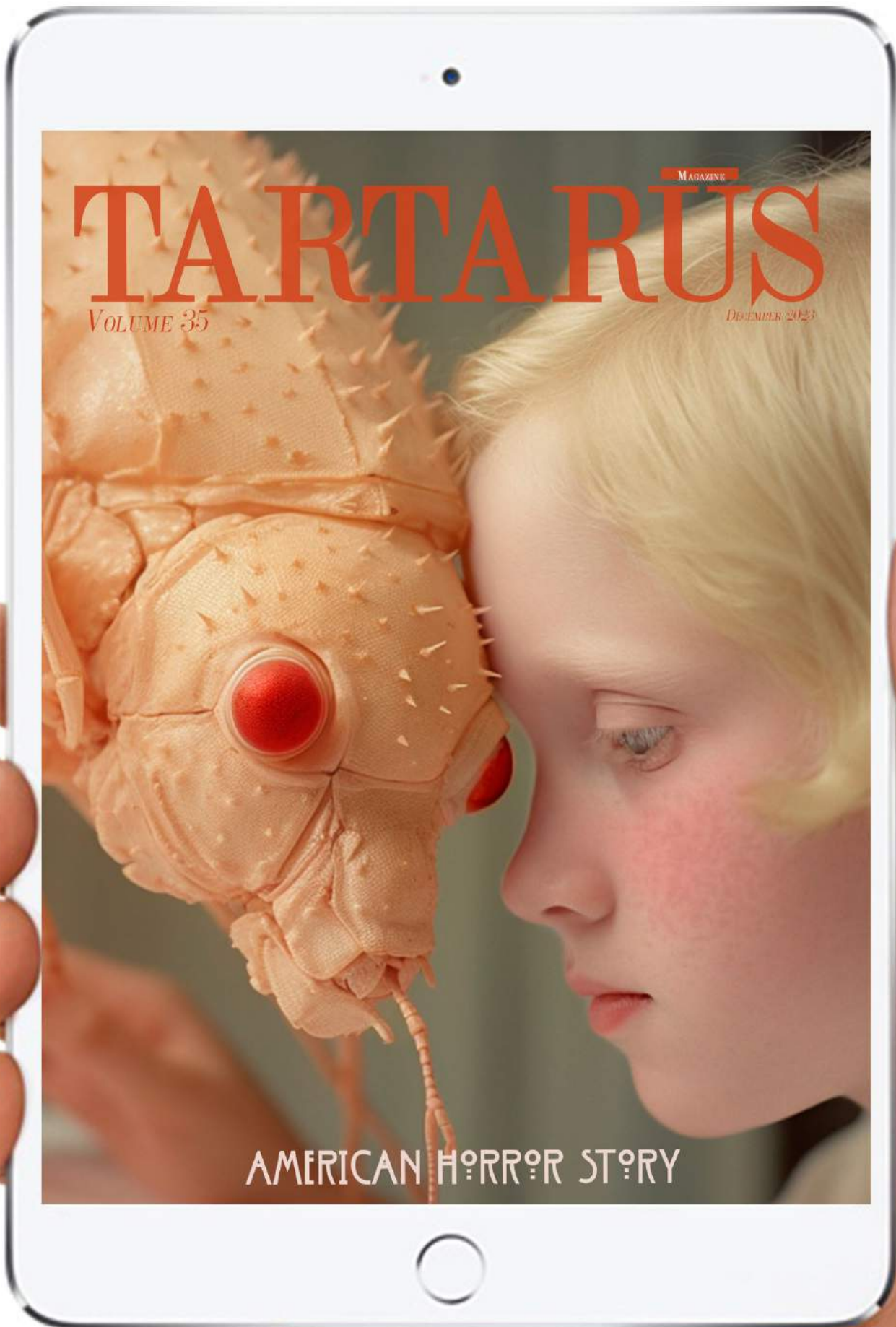
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