

Steeped In History: The Costume And Prop Designs Of Petra Storrs

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Londoner **Petra Storrs** is not just a set, prop, and costume/fashion designer— she's an artist who collaborates with performers to transcend ideas beyond the ephemeral and into a sturdy cult of fantasy. The **"reflective mirror dress"** she designed for Paloma Faith, for example, not only sharpens the singer's playful theatrical identity, but further investigates this concept of "the gaze". In *Dazed and Confused Magazine*, Faith elaborates on the intention, "Obviously, as a performer, I am normally the observed, but I wanted to flip that dynamic around and make the audience the focus." Storrs response, of course, was to whip up a garment that literally does just that.

But it's not just creative camaraderie that gets Storrs' juices flowing— she also finds inspiration from everyday objects and history, or everyday objects that hold history such as . . . tea.

Camellia & the Rabbit, her latest design endeavor (collected here), involves performance artist **Rachel Snider**, who uses "tea as a central motif/metaphor" and a narrative "like sea shanties" to interweave "historical facts and stories of tea"— thus, evoking our own personal relationship to this British afternoon tradition.

