



A woman cries,
she wipes off the tears with her hands
and then licks her fingertips.

Self-Birth is a short film by fashion designer and artist Dipetsa and musician Xtos that sets to explore new modes of intimacy and connection. Filmed on location in Greece, it turns its focus on maternal water and the process of finding intimacy and love from within. The piece is concerned with healing, self-healing, and overcoming world wounds. It is also a new take on the 'Wetness' performance from the Dipetsa presentation at last season's London Fashion Week, but seen through the lens of today's social distancing climate—it thus becomes an exercise on affection and connection in the absence of touch.

Water is examined as a vital force of life and rebirth that allows for introspection, and ultimately, self-reconnaissance. Floating on water is represented here as an act of transcending.

All white and gold, the collection evokes the dress of a modern priestess. Wetness imprints on the clothes through the signature artisanal technique that Dipetsa has developed, the Wetlook which mimics the folds of wet fabric, reminiscent of classical sculpture.

The pieces and movement oscillate between vulnerability and strength: skin is celebrated in a state of decorated nakedness. Swimwear is also introduced in the SS21 collection, a take on the signature 'breastfeeding corset' these pieces can be seamlessly worn over and under-water.

Female craftsmanship is further honoured in an entirely hand-embroidered golden corset and skirt using materials traditionally used in Greek orthodox priest wear. Deadstock and vintage fabric are used throughout the collection, and production is from solely local and women-owned manufacturing places.

The performers' bodies are adorned with semi-precious such as amethyst, selenite, citrine, lapis lazuli and moonstone, which recall votive offerings, the treasured jewels found in ancient Greek tombs. These hand-carved gems are the outcome of research into the healing and mythological properties of crystals and their use in ritual. The golden and silver jewels are also taking inspiration from themes surrounding the birth of Venus and metamorphosis in contemporary and ancient Greek culture, presenting roughly carved seashell shapes that appear to have smooth anthropomorphic elements growing on their skin like breasts and pregnant stomachs.