

## A Study on Anansi

Hormazd Geve Narielwalla's latest work, "A Study on Anansi", draws inspiration from two sources: Savile Row tailoring patterns and traditional African Anansi tales to create a new body of work.

His work originates from sets of bespoke patterns, which belonged to former customers, now deceased, from a by-gone era. The patterns, which have recorded a history of intimate dialogues of customer measurements and fittings over a lifetime, no longer have any practical use to the cutter and are often discarded.

Luring these fragile pieces of parchment out of their original context becomes an artistic journey through the creases and careful folds, along finely traced pencil marks and measurements. Opportunities are created by giving these pieces of discarded paper a chance to breathe, simply in the act of extracting, giving them a new lease of life as art objects.

"A Study on Anansi" is a celebration of a popular character from West African and Caribbean folklore brought to life using the discarded patterns. "Anansi", the trickster, is the wise and clever Earth God. Many aspects of his stories have trickled through to Western society and into children's stories, super-hero characters and fictional literature. In some versions of the stories Anansi created the sun, moon and all the stars. This attribute of the stories makes it through into Narielwalla's work where Anansi dances, teases and entertains himself with his most prized creation, the sun.

Creating bespoke clothes for the rich and powerful has made Savile Row iconic but in this evocative work Narielwalla is showing us tailoring patterns, as they have never been seen. The patterns are reinterpreted and resurrected; the lives of people measured through tailoring are brought back to life as works of art through even older tales from another world.

Media: Mixed 80cm X 60cm

Edition of 20 each

## Artist

Hormazd Narielwalla studied Fashion Design at The University of Wales, Newport specializing in menswear. He was then offered a scholarship to study on the Masters Of Arts in Fashion Communication from The University of Westminster. It was during his MA and researching in Savile row did he develop his love for Patterns and began using these tailoring blocking in his art work. After leaving Westminster he went to work for the prestigious military tailors Dege & Skinner and with their association, he produced a limited edition book (his first) titled, 'Dead Man's Patterns'.

His work on Dege & Skinner's archive and currently his second major piece of work is writing and artistically communicating the memoirs of Michael Skinner – Ex Master cutter and current Chairman of Dege.

Hormazd has also, only recently been offered the International Scholarship to read on a doctorate of Philosophy at London College of Fashion. His area of focus is – 'Tailoring is a learned discipline as well as an Art' and will be working closely with Military tailors and the archive at 'The National Army Museum', particularly looking at uniforms worn in The British Raj.

'A Study on Anansi' is his first major display. He has used scans, photography (by James Moriarty), his own sketches and digital composition to create a set of playful artworks that have a traditional look and appeal.

2/10/2009  
London