

# RE-FORMING THE CHASUBLE: LINKS BETWEEN HEAVY METAL CLOTHING AND PRIESTLY GARMENTS



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# KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the connections between metal clothing and religious garments?
- In what ways are metal clothing styles transgressive?
- How might battle jackets be better understood as a type of chasuble?
- Can the role of the metal musician and fan be likened to those of religious participants?



Amy, Bloodstock Festival, UK, 2014  
Photo by Jon Cardwell



Gary, Bloodstock Festival, UK, 2014  
Photo by Jon Cardwell

# Heavy Metal Armour



## A Visual Study of Battle Jackets

THOMAS  
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# METALHEAD COMMUNITIES

'No sub-genre divisions seem to impair an overwhelming sense of community of all metalheads'

- Anna Baka, *The Forming of a Metalhead*, 2015

'Invoking a reference group enables certain individuals to emphasise their insider status as members of an esoteric, subterranean scene through self-exclusion from a larger category of uninitiated "outsiders" '.

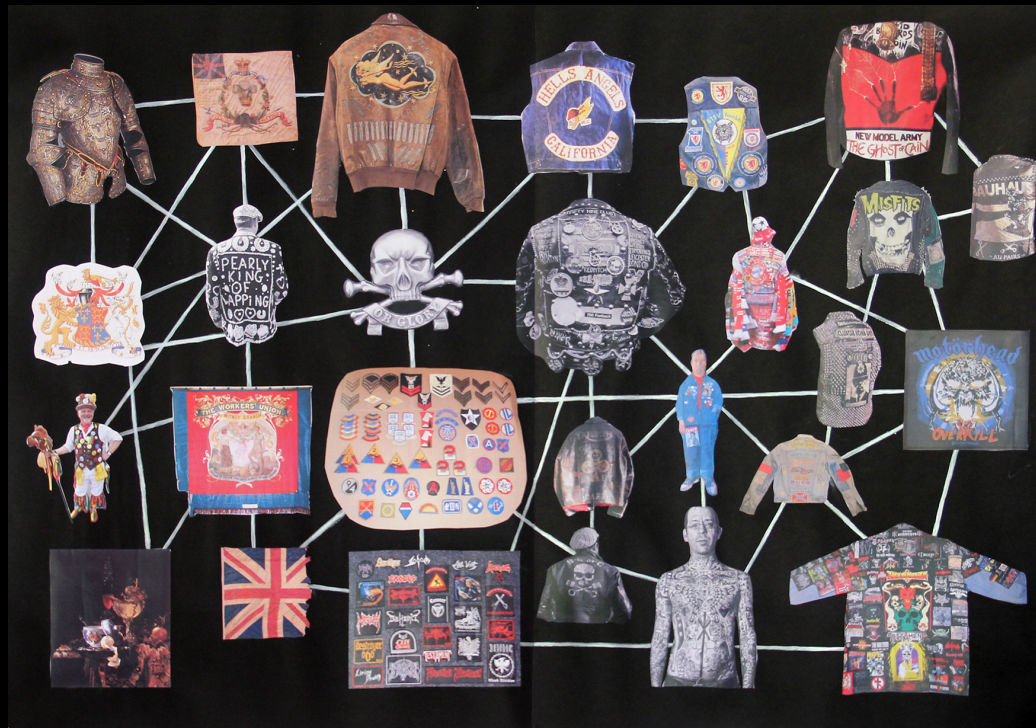
- David Muggleton, *Beyond Subculture: The Postmodern Meaning of Style*, 2000

# INSIDERS/OUTSIDERS



Tom Cardwell  
Installation of jacket and fan photos, London, 2017  
Dimensions variable

# METAL CLOTHING — SIGNIFYING TRANSGRESSION



Battle Jacket Map, collage on paper, 59 x 84 cm, 2015.  
Collage by Tom Cardwell



# TRANSGRESSIVE IMAGERY

Metal imagery and texts regularly aim to shock or offend non-metal audiences (Allett, 2013; Bardine, 2015; Kahn-Harris, 2004, 2006).

The visual representation of these in terms of the jacket or t-shirt can act as a kind of 'shibboleth' (Cardwell, 2022).

Jacket displayed on  
@battlevest\_wargallery Instagram  
page, created by @bodom\_beast87



# BATTLE VESTS AND HERALDRY



Heraldic tunic from the house of Orange-Nassau,  
1647, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



Jez, Sonisphere Festival, UK, 2014.

# CHASUBLES AND DECORATION

Chasuble (1510-1533) made from the coffin pall of Robert Thornton, Abbot of Jervaulx. V&A Museum, London.



# PRIEST AS MEDIATOR

*Mediator*, oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm,  
2017. Painting by Tom Cardwell



# BATTLEVEST AS CHASUBLE — AN 'AEGIS OF METAL'

Long battle vest from @patchesandvests  
Instagram page



# BATTLE JACKET AS PERFORMATIVE GARMENT



Metallica's James Hetfield often wears his battle vests to perform



Moshpit photo from research by Linday Bishop featured on undelete.news



# SUMMARY



Left to right: *Iron Maiden*, watercolour on paper, 38 x 26 cm, 2015. Painting by Tom Cardwell. Chasuble (1510-1533) made from the coffin pall of Robert Thornton, Abbot of Jervaulx. V&A Museum, London. *Mediator*, oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm, 2017. Painting by Tom Cardwell. Long battle vest from @patchesandvests Instagram page.

# THANKS!

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