

The Anatomy of Identity

Emily J. Pascoe, Montclair State University, USA

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The pathway that each garment takes into a consumer's wardrobe has the potential to negatively impact the environment. The environmental degradation resulting from production, care, and disposal of textiles and apparel is substantial. However, the function of the final product makes this plight justifiable. Clothing fulfills a plethora of desires. Among other purposes, a key feature of dress is its ability to visually represent its wearer. An individual's plight to present themselves, especially those who are actively constructing their identities, drives consumption.



The formation and presentation of identity is variable. Individuals often reference their peripheral self in respect to their core self. The core self is a person's attitudes and beliefs developed, and continually developing, since birth. The peripheral self is the spectrum which a person can change, and consistently changes to suit their current environment. The manner that the core and peripheral self are displayed is managed through their outward appearance.

The human body is a platform for both of these rates of expression. It is subject to alteration based on how an individual wishes to display their identity. Approaching design with the intention for it to fulfill a facet of the peripheral self, by using a closed-loop system methodology, or the core self, using a biodegradable system methodology, would ideally result in less environment strain and still satisfy the need for personal presentation.

This garment was designed within the framework of both of these systems, and was inspired by the skeletal and muscular structure of the human body.

The garment was constructed in two parts. The synthetic segment is a cream colored polyester remnant. The strips of fabric, backed by mesh, allude to the striations found in human muscles and also permit flesh to be visible when the garment is worn. The placement of the fabric references the division between the human muscle structures along the center front of the body. The simplicity of the base garment's silhouette contributes to the strong shapes of the complementary pieces. The polyester was sewn with polyester thread, and utilizes polyester closures.

The natural segments are constructed with light yellow raw Indian silk remnant. This fabric was selected for its texture and rigidity. The silk was used to construct shapes mimicking the hip bone and rib cage. Supporting these shapes are horsehair and fiberfill remnants enclosed within the facings.

Visible hand stitches were used to attach the different materials. These stitches can be easily removed to facilitate disassembly, recyclability or biodegradability.



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