

I am am I

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Clothing is our second skin and suggests both intimacy and protection simultaneously. As our second skin, clothing is often seen as a projection of who we are or want to be. Within my creative research I am interested in the relationships between two larger ideas such as these dichotomies between clothing and identity. An additional connection that is examined in this piece is the desire to share, confess or expose oneself, yet anonymously.

There are several confessional websites and blogs that allow contributors to anonymously submit their deepest secrets, fears or desires to a broad community. Women in particular often communicate personal information about themselves to form a sense of community or bonding and as a way to rationalize or accept the feelings that they have. The quote “I AM” was an entry in an anonymous confessional website. This simple statement was one of defiance, and at the same time, one of deep vulnerability. I presumed that this woman was at once stating her sense of self yet also questioning that fact at the same time.



After finding this simple yet obscure statement online, I began to imagine the inherent contradictions as physical manifestations within the dress. This dress was created utilizing a laser cutter with three different shades of grey silk charmeuse. The shades of grey represent the fact that the statement has layers of interpretation and that no meaning is necessarily distinct. The form and construction of the dress is simultaneously exposing and obscuring the figure. The dress is at once elegant as it is ugly suggesting the duality of purpose that is part of everyone’s personality. The garment forms a less obvious circular motion that loops in on itself much like the tense negotiations of emotional indecision.

Consistent designer/artists that inspire my own negotiation with image and identity would be Rei Kawakubo, Hussien Chalayan, and Yohji Yamamoto. Tracey Emin’s work has also proven to be influential as text and confessions play a significant role in her art practice.