



“CC” Costume Choreography, 2006
By Diffus

Video link: <http://www.diffus.dk/units/intro.htm>

CC is a set of costumes made to become part of a dance performance. The surfaces of the costumes have the ability to change color with lights and textile prints. Temperature is controlled through a wireless connection. The costume becomes an active part of the performance along with the dancers. I like the idea of integrating garments with a dance performance as long as the choreography handles this effectively. I enjoy dance very much and would not want to see the costumes detract from the actual body movements but if it can be used in a way that would enhance the experience I think this can be an interesting approach.



The Climate dress
By Diffus

The Climate dress is embellished with embroidery made of conductive thread and LED lights. The dress reacts to CO₂ levels in the air surrounding it by lighting up, using a CO₂ sensor and an arduino lillypad microprocessor. It fluctuates between slow light patterns to quick bursts depending on the CO₂ levels. I like that this work addresses the importance of paying attention to the dynamics of our environment and the air we breathe. Perhaps in the future this garment may become something that could help us monitor atmospheric fluctuations due to global warming.

<http://www.diffus.dk/pollutiondress/intro.htm>



Digital Veil

Soomi Park

Soomi Parks idea behind digital veil was triggered by societies fascination with plastic surgery. She created it as an alternative to going under the knife. It consists of a head mounted device that has an LCD screen that sits in front of the face. The image on the screen can be controlled from a computer where you can change the image. I think this work is a great commentary on the serious issues and obsession society has with beauty. The idea of wearing this cumbersome object to alter the way someone looks seems almost as severe as going through plastic surgery although less permanent. I think it can start a great debate about conforming (or not conforming) to beauty standards.

<http://soomipark.com/main/?portfolio=digital-veil>



Walking City, 2006
Yin Gao

Video link: <http://yinggao.ca/eng/interactifs/walking-city>

Walking city, are a set of garments that react to activity happening near them. They seem to mimic breathing making the garments almost alive. Origami folding methods were used mainly in the areas that mimic the breathing movement. I chose this work because I thought they were beautifully designed pieces that happen to have electronic interactive component to them. I also like that the origami style folds work very well with how the garment moves. The design and electronic components were well integrated.



Living Pod
Yin Gao

Video link: <http://yinggao.ca/eng/interactifs/living-pod>

Living pod is a collection of 2 garments that react to light with the use of light sensors. Once light shines on them parts of the garment seems to shy away back inside it's self. Gao was exploring "confrontation and limitation" which can be found around a fashion environment. In this work I like the idea of a shy garment that flinches and hides when it's in contact with light. I like the fact that this work is quiet in nature but says so much in terms of reacting to its environment.



365 knitting clock, 2010
Siren Elise Wilhelmsen

365 Knitting Clock is a knitting time machine. Using a circular knitting method it knits a stitch every hour and my 365 days it produced a 2-meter long scarf. I like how this object has a time-lapse component to it. It is creating a work while it is itself a created object; an appealingly complex idea. Who actually made the scarf in the end? The machine or the fabricator of the machine? It is also a great use for time as it is producing something. Because the clock has a function beside telling time, which it does keep accurately, but in the form of what it is producing. I find this fascinating!

<http://www.sirenelisewilhelmsen.com/work.html>

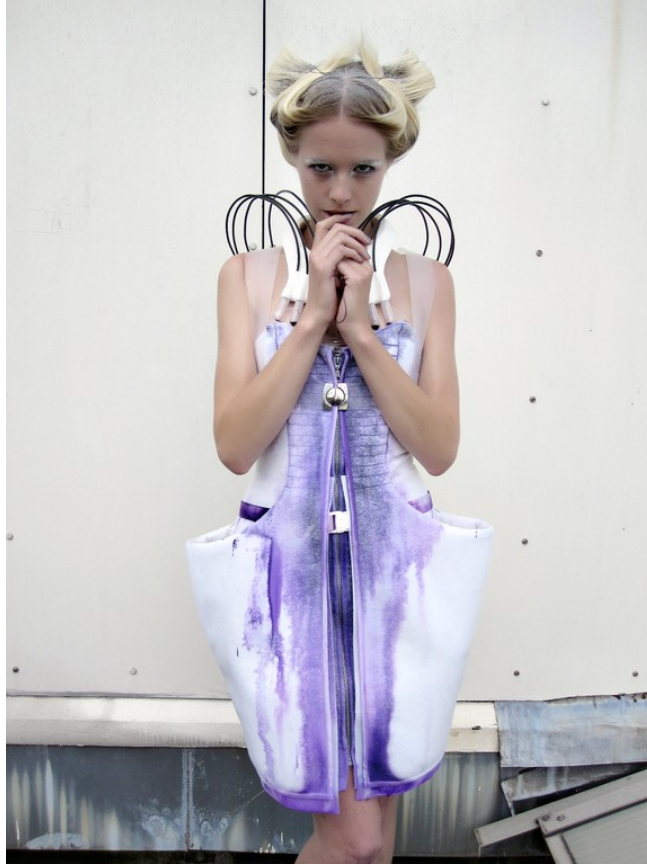


Fragilis, 2008
Anouk Wipprecht

Video link:

http://www.industrialnation.nl/anoukwipprecht/FRAGILIS_page/movie_fragilis_exhibition.wmv

Fragilis is a collection of 2 garments that react to each other's presence. They mimic breathing, shaking, and intelligence with moving light. The garments become aware of each other triggering a visceral reaction through the movements and lights. I like the idea of garments recognizing, communicating and responding to, each other. It's almost creepy! The idea of garments reacting to each other's presence even just discussing them in this manner is quite bizarre. What would they say to each other and what form language would they use?



Pseudo Morphs, 2010
Anouk Wipprecht

Video link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R06oTwsABQ0&feature=player_embedded

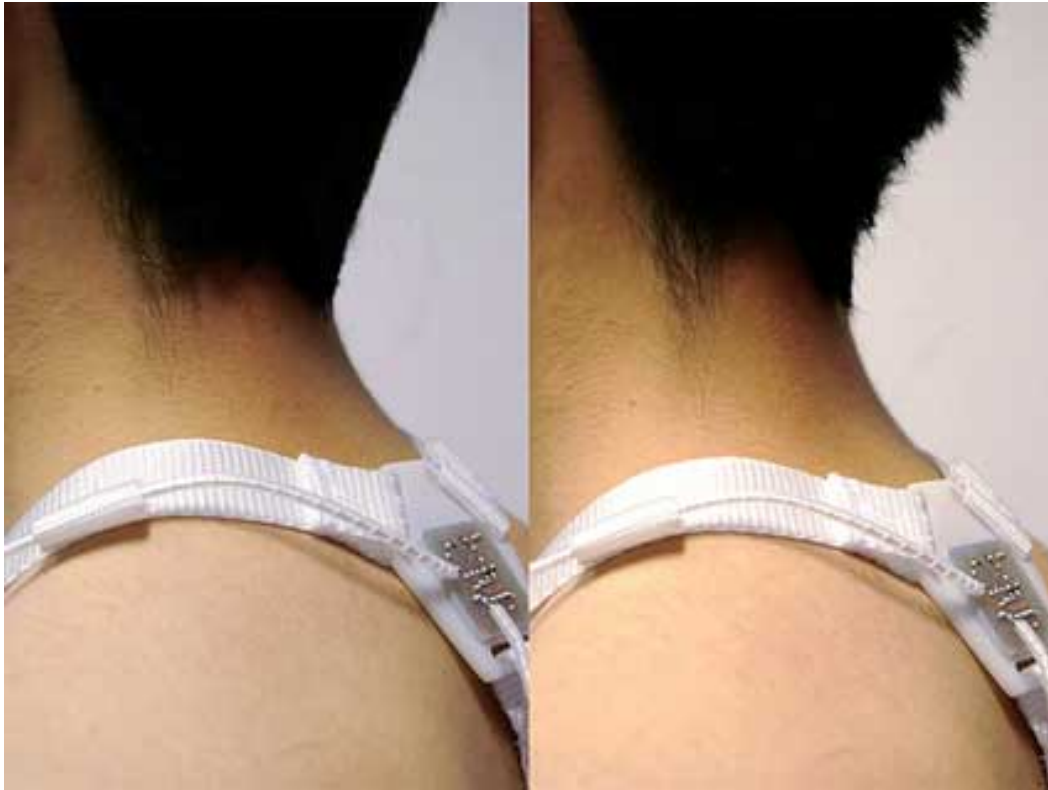
Pseudo morph starts off as a pristine white dress. An attachment made of recycled medical equipment is attached to it. Once the mechanism is turned on, liquid ink runs down the front of the dress. This dyes the dress as it absorbs the liquid. Each piece dyed this way is unique allowing the mechanism to take part in the creation of the dress. This work interests me because of the idea of having the dye on the dress haphazardly alter it permanently. I also think it has a great performance aspect to it that can offer many creative options in publicly showing the piece.



Audio activated dress
Heidi Kumao

Video link: <http://vimeo.com/23980391>

The Audio activated dress detects the surrounding sounds and visually displays them on the dress similar to a VU meter on a stereo. I like the idea of measuring the sound in your environment, particularly the sound of people. I'm wondering what it would be like wearing this dress on a bus or a crowded public space where the shared space is sometimes invaded by people who speak extremely loud. We always talk about personal space but what about personal sound space? If people were aware of the volume of their voices through seeing it displayed on a garment would they change their tone or volume?



Alertness enhancing device, 2008
Suzanna Hertrich

Alertness enhancing device explores the human loss of their inner animal instinct. Hertrich plans to explore this device in effort to hone our alertness to danger. The piece consists of a wearable device that straps on to your back. The device sends small electrical shocks up your spine to create goose bumps and raise the hair in the back of your neck. This helps alert you of possible danger. How can we enhance our instincts to be more like animals? Through evolution we have lost most of our animal instincts that alert us of oncoming danger. Human fears and risk assessment seem to be directed towards situations that are least likely to happen like terrorist attacks and plane crashes. So does this mean our natural instincts to detect danger are completely off? This work is very relevant to our lives at the moment but it also feeds the over reaction and paranoia from the media about terrorism. Here is something intriguing about this piece from the ideas implanted and the idea that we need to be more aware of our instincts.

<http://www.we-make-money-not-art.com/archives/2008/02/alertness-enhancing-device.php>