

(INTIMACY GARMENT)



BOND

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Examining the dualism between human and nature, BOND fosters a relationship between the two - balancing oppression and expression of the natural body. The BOND corset-like garment arouses intimacy between the wearer and body, whether it be their own or another.

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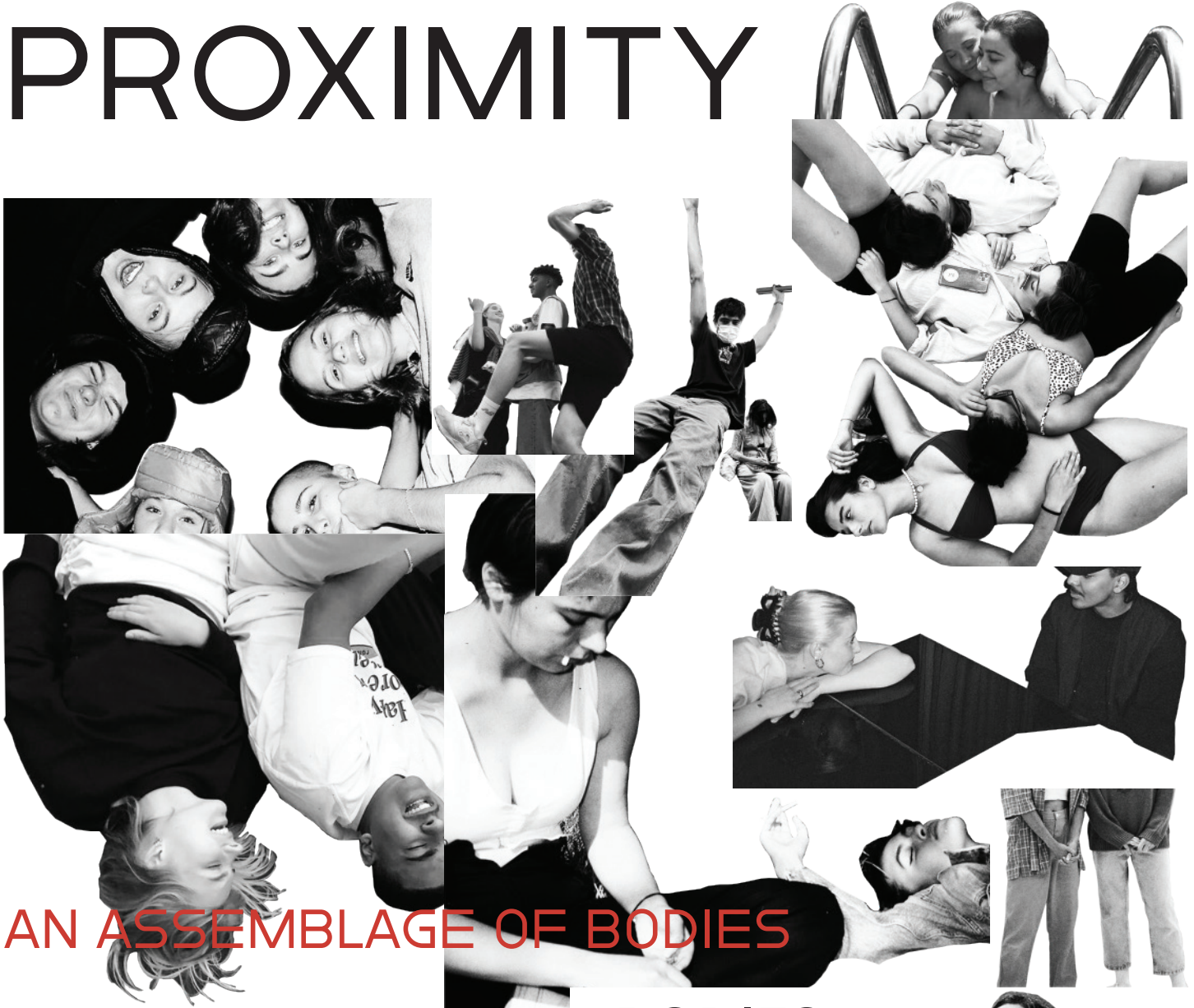
HUMAN RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS ON INTIMACY

DEFINING HUMAN

I began the research process by defining "human" in terms of the capacity people have to make connections with one another. Through observational analysis via image study and personal vigilance, I categorized relationships by the extent of intimacy people express within them.



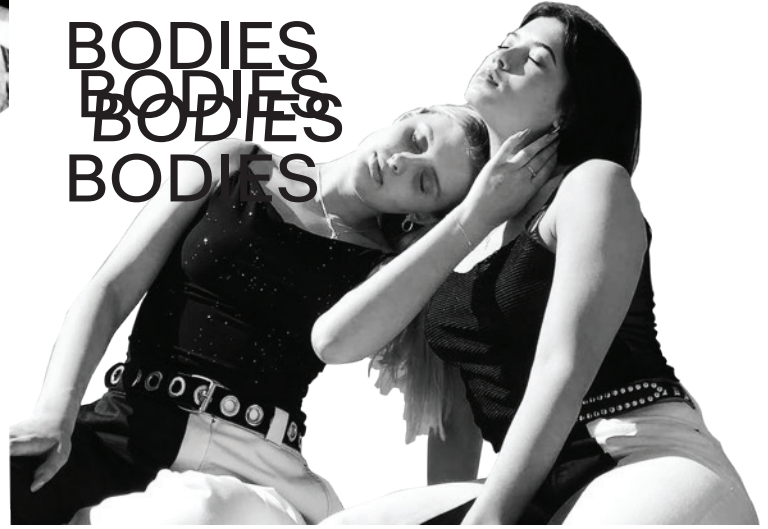
INTIMACY AS PROXIMITY



AN ASSEMBLAGE OF BODIES

After defining "human" in terms of capacity for connection, I began thinking of intimacy as a means of strengthening human connections and relationships. I first established intimacy as a physical proximity—the physical closeness of our body to another person's body indicates the strength of our relationship with them.

BODIES
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AS FAMILIARITY

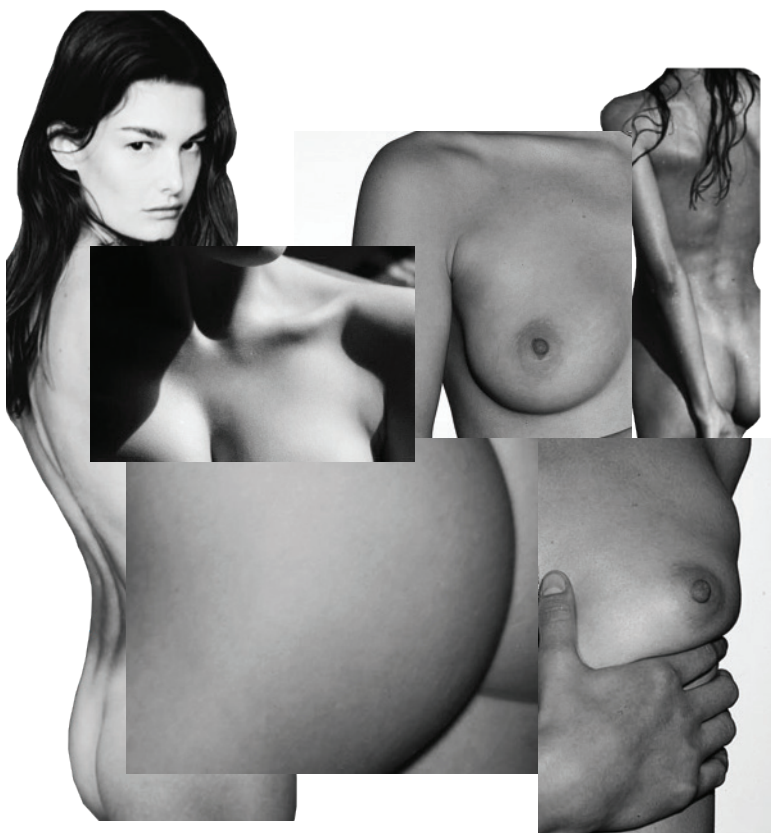


A MEMORIZED
COMFORTABILITY

CLOSENESS
CLOSENESS
CLOSENESS

I then started conceptualizing intimacy as a means of unseen closeness. Intimacy does not solely rely on physical closeness, but operates in terms of a memorized feel and closeness with a person, and/or their body. For the scope of the project, I prioritized emotional closeness within the definition of intimacy.

NATURE



HUMAN



I reevaluated the previously defined parameters of "human" and based the definition of human and nonhuman on their individual relationships to the body. The human relationship to the body maintains that it must be guarded, regulated, and restricted. The nonhuman, or natural, perspective on the body is that it should be liberated and cherished in its form.

(SECTION.02)

INTIMACY AS OPPORTUNITY

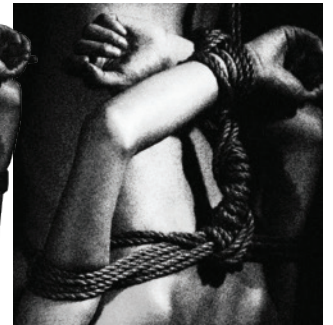
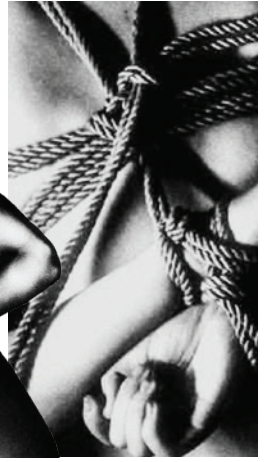
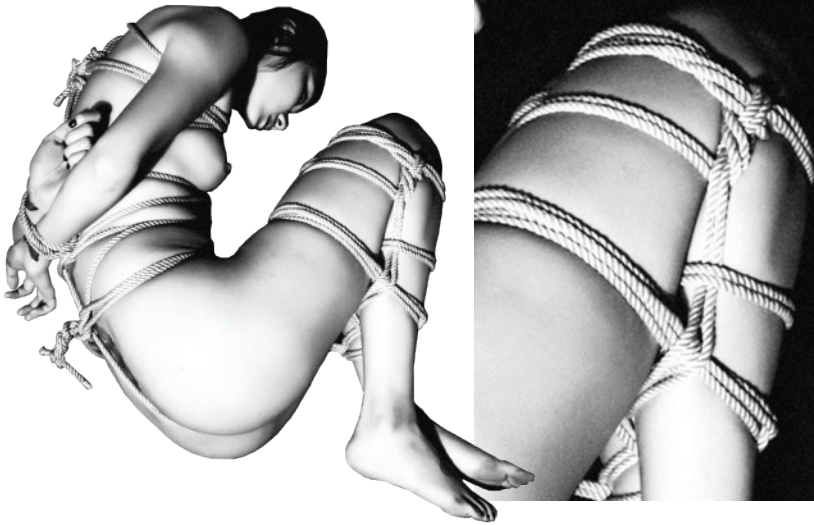
INVITING INTIMACY

I looked for activities that invite intimacy for opportunity, and found applying and taking off clothing to be a commonplace activity that creates the space for intimacy between human and body. Though this action involves close physical contact, it lacks the required focus and attentive commitment to foster a meditative kind of intimacy, denying the chance at a natural appreciation for the body.



Since clothing is something that is regularly applied and taken off, people do not take much thought into the everyday process of it. There can also be a collaborative aspect to clothing, as certain types or occasions call for assistance for the items to be removed or put on.

SHIBARI BONDAGE



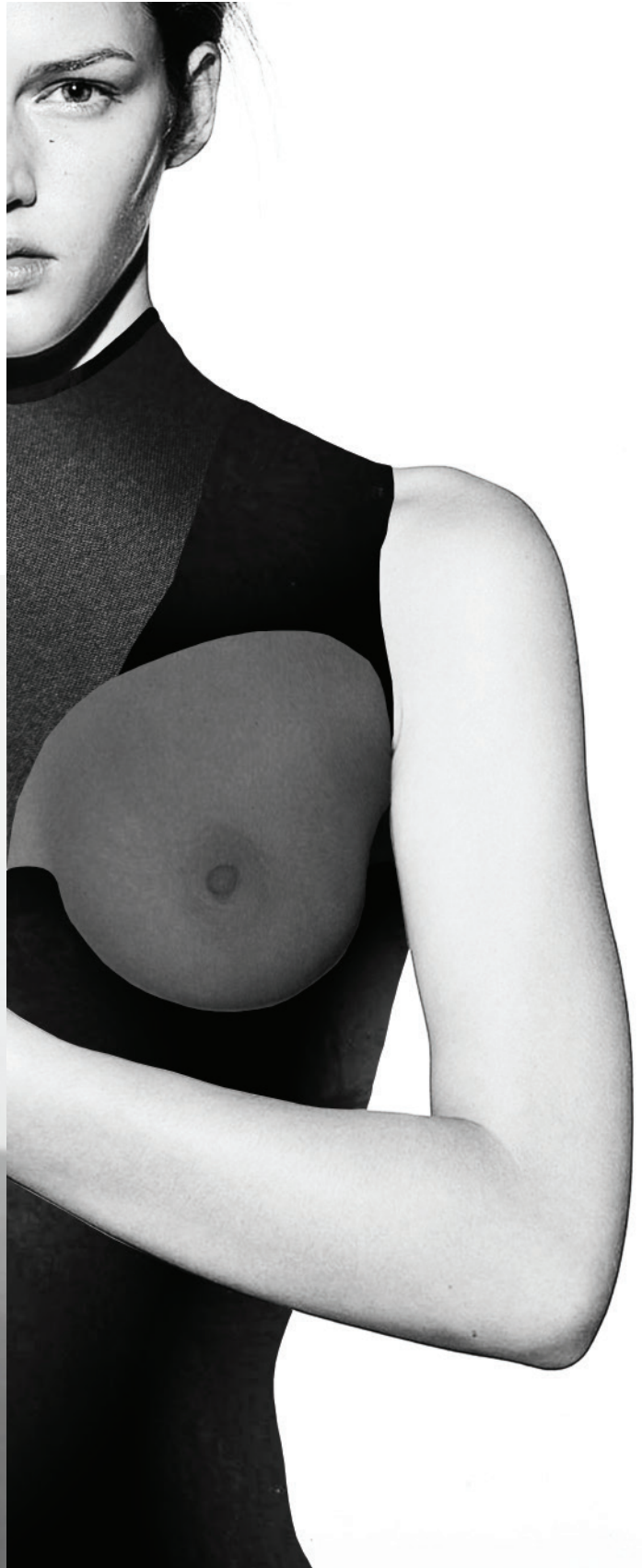
Taking into consideration the human and nonhuman perspectives of the body and intimacy, I started researching activities that are meant to stimulate intimacy between a person and their body. Shibari is a form of rope bondage that deviates from the standard conception of BDSM practices. Shibari values include mindfulness, mental stimulation, intention, and connection, between all participants. Western rope bondage emphasizes sex as the end goal of the experience, while shibari emphasizes the experience of rope tying and untying as the ultimate goal.

(SECTION.03)

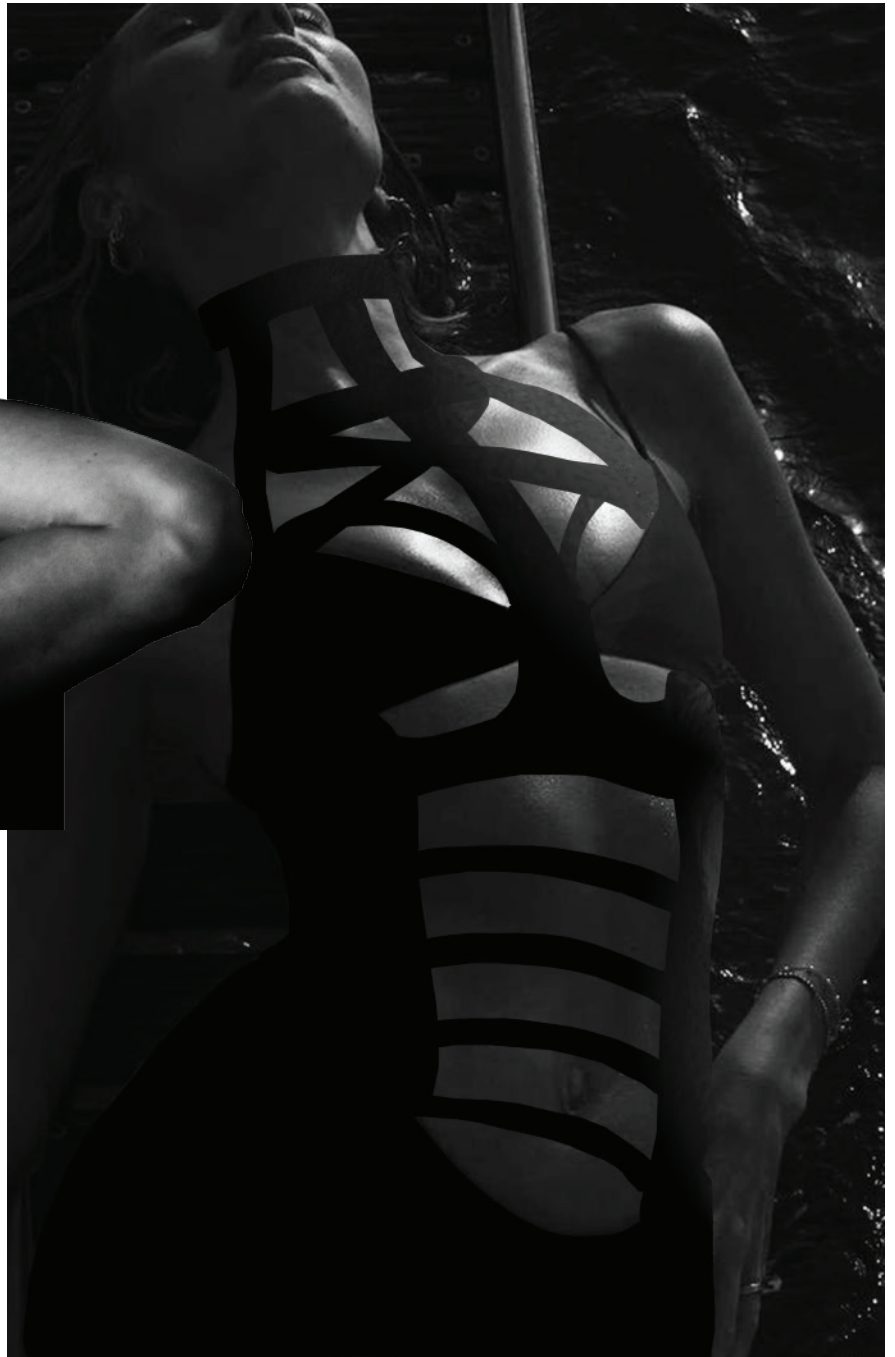
DESIGNING FOR
HEIGHTENED
INTIMACY

INTIMACY WEAR

I began designing a clothing garment that would emphasize and foster intimacy between human and body, and toying with the human and nonhuman perspectives of the body. I started drawing basic forms that would express restriction as well as liberation, with the overall goal of goading intimacy between a person and a body. My initial designs reiterated the bondage aesthetic of shibari, but lacked the mental concentration that the practice values.



INTIMACY WEAR (CONTINUED)



The most updated prototype possessed more elements of shibari than previous iterations, with intertwining rope-like cloth patterns mimicking shibari ties. I wanted to retain the aesthetic quality of the prototypes while implementing the meditative aspects required to foster heightened intimacy.

(SECTION.04)

BOND

PRODUCT SOLUTION



BOND

The final form of this project manifested itself through BOND—a garment that implements attributes of shibari bondage and utilizes a human solution to provide a natural connection to the body by stimulating intimacy.

BOND

The many intricate laces of **BOND** require thought to be donned correctly by the wearer. The webbing can be easily tangled, so must be carefully moved and adjusted in order to function properly. The attention required to secure and apply the garment fosters intimacy between the wearer and body, demanding focus and intent.



BOND DETAILS

The materiality of **BOND** was informed by qualities of bondage and restriction. The structured leather looked to common BDSM aesthetics, emphasizing the sensuality of the garment. The webbing of the garment is similar to industrial restraints commonly used to secure items to motor vehicles, while also being texturally soft against the wearer's skin.



(SECTION.05)

BOND

PRODUCT IMPACT

BOND AND BODY

(TORSO STRAPS)

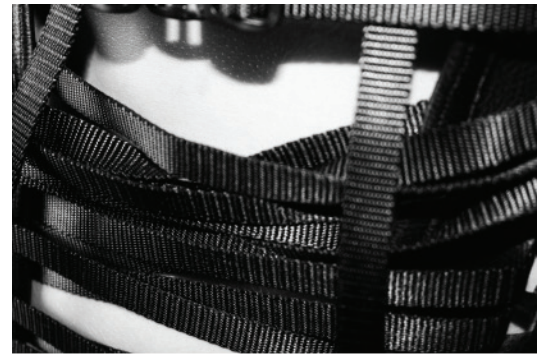


BOND has a unique relationship to the body, simultaneously liberating and restricting it. By giving the wearer control over the restraints of the garment, **BOND** allows the wearer to examine the body through a nonhuman perspective within a human context.

The assembly of the webbing, and the pattern of the webbing on the bodice emulates a corset—a garment historically used to restrict the feminine body and display it in a pleasurable way for other humans.

BOND AND BODY

(BACK STRAPS)



BOND AND BODY

(NECK RESTRAINT)



BOND AND BODY

(BREAST RESTRAINT)



The pattern of the webbing on breast and upper torso emulate elements of shibari bondage, referencing common ties that are implemented in the practice.

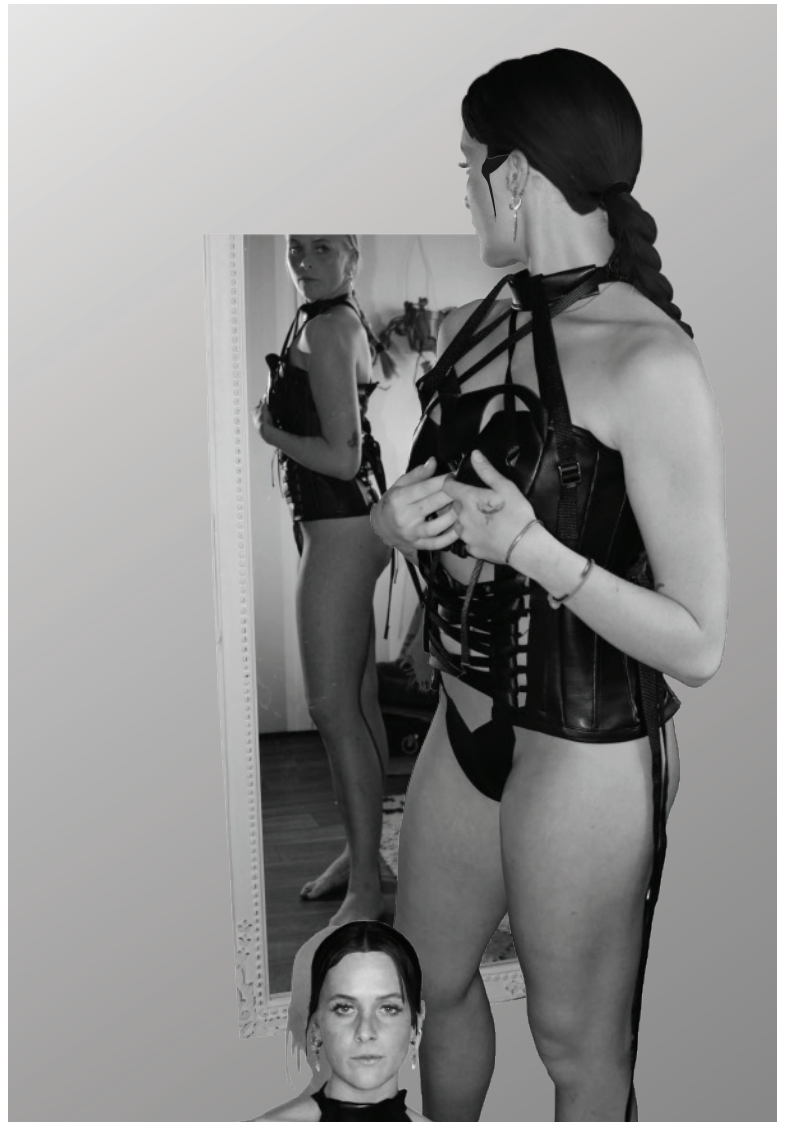
APPLICATION



The garment takes around 20 minutes to put on and adjust to the wearer's liking. Although the garment can be applied by only the wearer, it opens the opportunity for a collaborative experience, creating the space for another person to adjust straps, inciting intimacy between another body and the wearer's body.



The garment maintains a key value of shibari practices, as it emphasizes the experience of creating intimacy between person and body as the main goal, instead of sex itself. While taking off the garment is marginally faster than putting it on, **BOND** still requires thought and intent to be removed.



The length of time the garment requires for proper application, compounded with the interaction of the garment with the body, allows the wearer to forge a new connection with their body, becoming aware of aspects previously shrouded by the restriction of the human relationship to the body.

(SECTION.06)

END

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BOND is for the marginalized bodies. The disenfranchised. The disempowered. The stigmatized. And the vilified humans and nonhumans.

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