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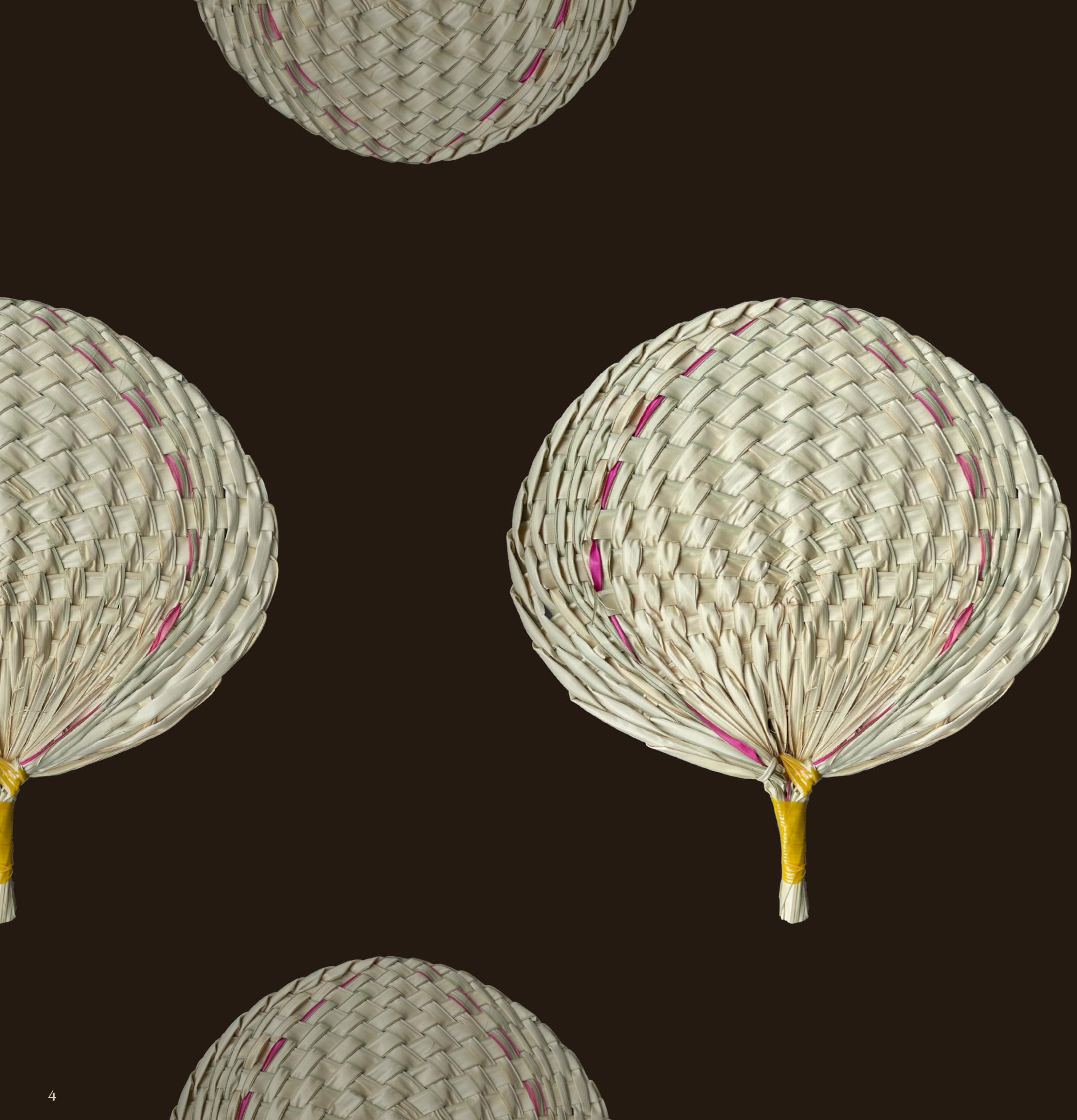
BAMBOO



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Introduction

For my artifact, I chose this bamboo fan. This is a traditional fan made from bamboo tapes/slats splitted manually by handicraftsmen. It is a clear representation of Vietnamese culture since sophisticated handicrafts have always been the tradition of crystallization from thousands of years and bamboo is considered the symbol of beauty in Vietnam. In folk customs, Vietnamese people use this fan as a tool to save themselves from the severe and extreme hot weather thanks to the lightweight material and form. This can be found in any household in Vietnam back in the good old days. The reason I chose this was that it reminds me of my lovely childhood when I had my grandmother fanned me with this one and it feels really good when I was a kid. The fan is designed with two main parts: the body and the handle. The body contains a crisscrossing and interleaving pattern made by knitting the bamboo splitted slats and it has such a broad and lightweight surface that it is able to create an incredible amount of air to wipe away the heat. The firm handle is attached to the body with a yellow tape which also wrap around the bamboo slats cluster, making it easier for users. The way that the crisscross pattern is all done by hand neatly and how it can beat the heat really impressed me, which I didn't notice when I was at such a young age.





Key element: Line

What makes the artifact really captivating is the crisscrossing lines. Thus, I made the elements in the process book follow the crisscrossing rules. Elements can be placed and arranged in two different directions that cross each other. This is applied to texts, letters, different text boxes and arrows. I also chose the font Maghfirea for the big title and Quezon for the body, all of which have crisscrossing lines among the letters and fine combination between straight and curvy lines.

Key principle: Repetition

The most noticeable and eyecatching part of the artifact is the pattern it got from repeated crisscrossing and overlapping bamboo slats. Elements like images, texts, arrows are repeated on each page. A clear example of this is the Content page, the Introduction page and the Line Transition page. A layout for text is also repeated throughout the process book, for instance the Trace pages and the Model pages.

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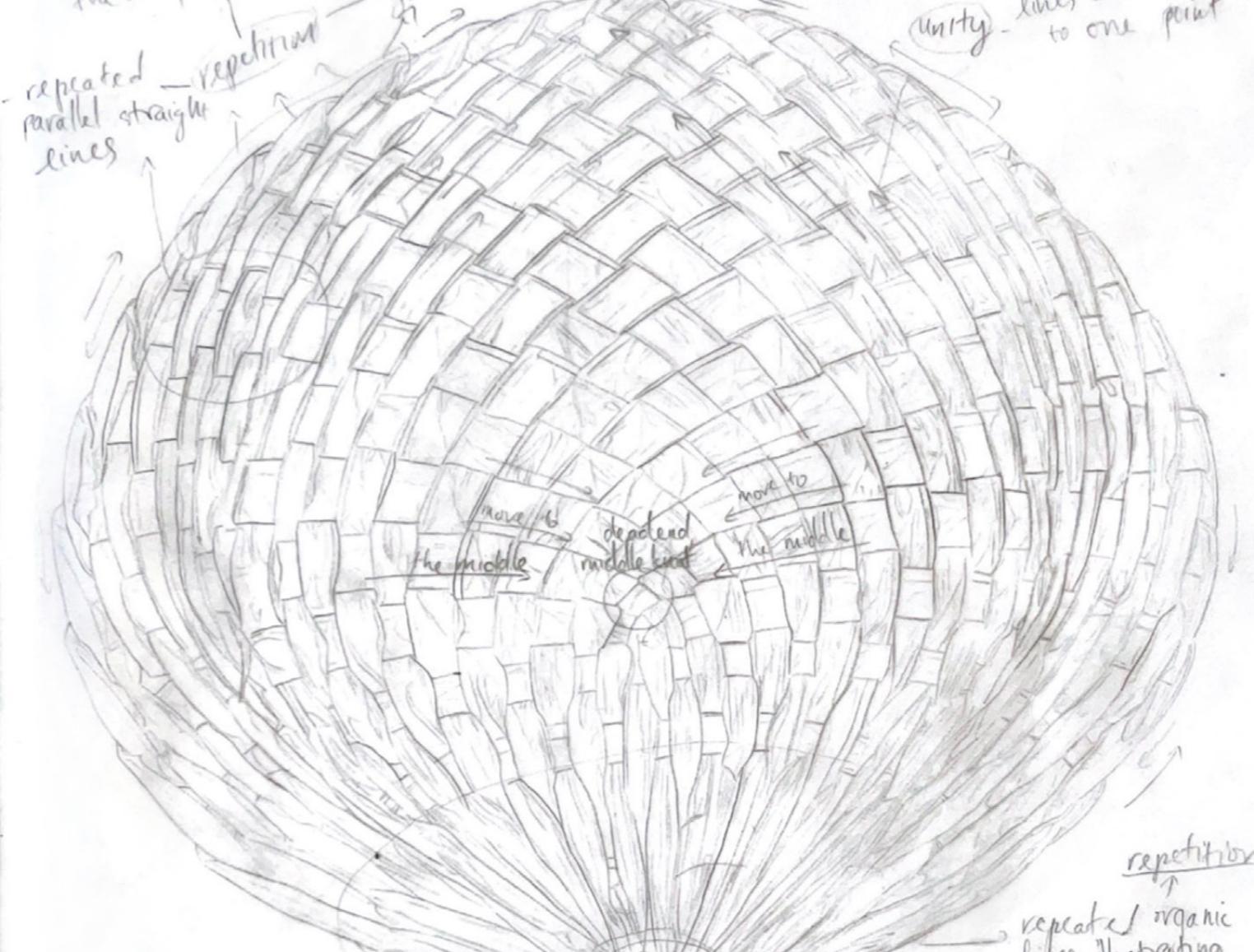
irregular repetition:

- repeated curvy lines and straight lines
- creates a pattern for the artifact

L
INE
repeated broken (thin lines) from the shadow & the texture

- lines are wavyed and cross each other, making a unified object

↑
unity - lines are converted to one point



lines are different from the crossing part → different pattern
emphasis
move towards the handle and the knot to catch/direct the eyes
isolated handle, all the lines end there.

balance: the mixture of lines in different directions creates a symmetrical balance
curvy lines harmonizes the artifact

contrast - the combination of thick vs thin lines
straight vs curvy lines

Repetition

There are irregular repetitions of different groups of lines: straight lines, curvy lines, parallel lines and broken, thin, organic lines from the lighting and the shadow, creating a pattern for the artifact.

Emphasis

Lines moving towards the handle are different from the crisscross lines above, they direct the viewers' eyes towards the isolated handle where all the lines end there.

Balance

It is apparent that the mixture of lines in different directions creates a symmetrical balance. On both sides, lines are almost the same. Curvy and organic lines are the main type of lines, harmonizing the artifact.

Unity

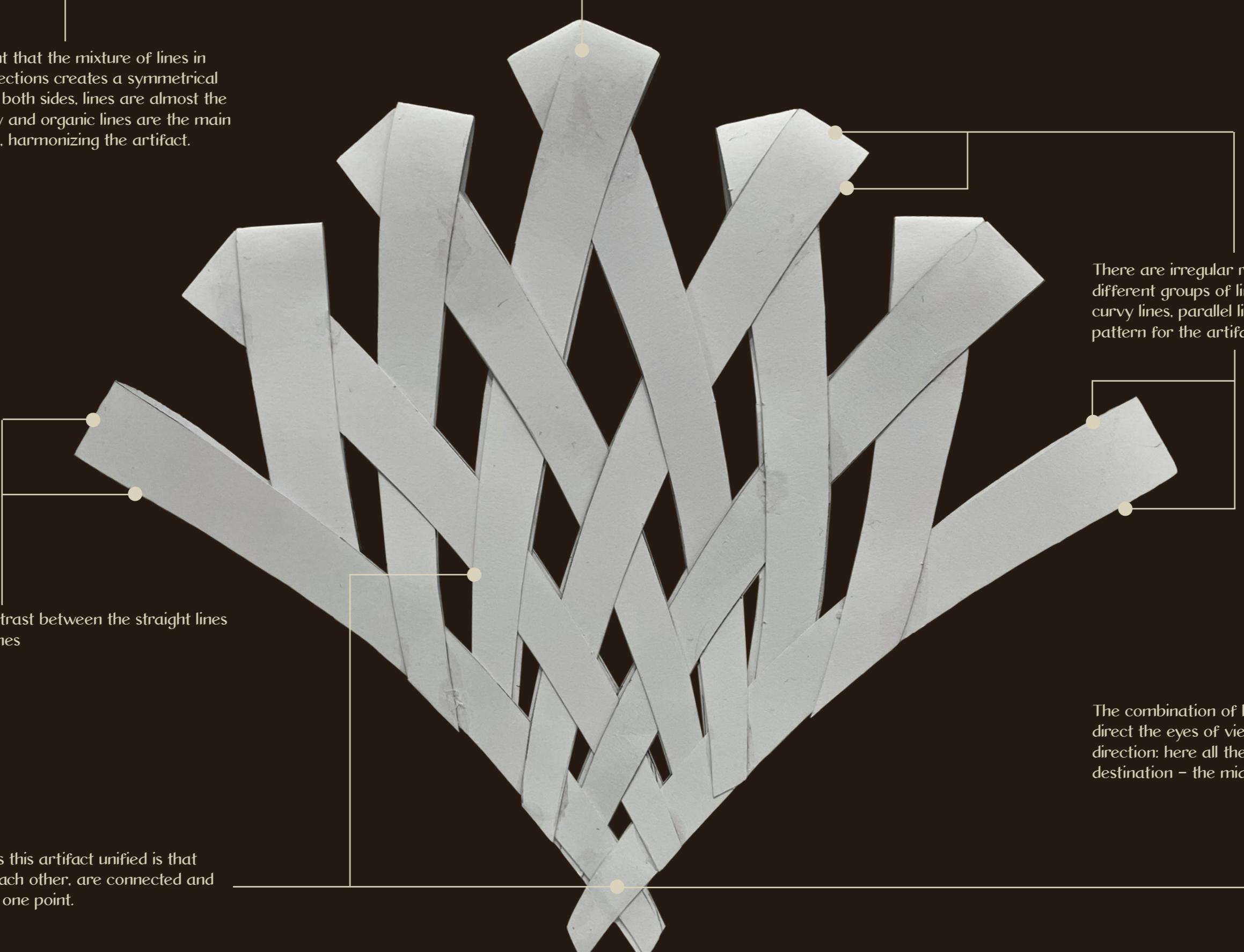
What makes this artifact unified is that lines cross each other, are connected and converge to one point.

Direction

Most lines are curvy, creating a circular motion across the artifact. The combination of lines in different angles direct the eyes of viewers in different direction: towards the handle, the middle knot, the top part, around the artifact.

Contrast

There is contrast between the straight lines and curvy lines, between thick lines and thin lines.



It is apparent that the mixture of lines in different directions creates a symmetrical balance. On both sides, lines are almost the same. Curvy and organic lines are the main type of lines, harmonizing the artifact.

There are irregular repetitions of different groups of lines: straight lines, curvy lines, parallel lines, creating a pattern for the artifact.

There is contrast between the straight lines and curvy lines

The combination of lines in different angles direct the eyes of viewers in different direction: here all the lines point to one destination – the middle knot.

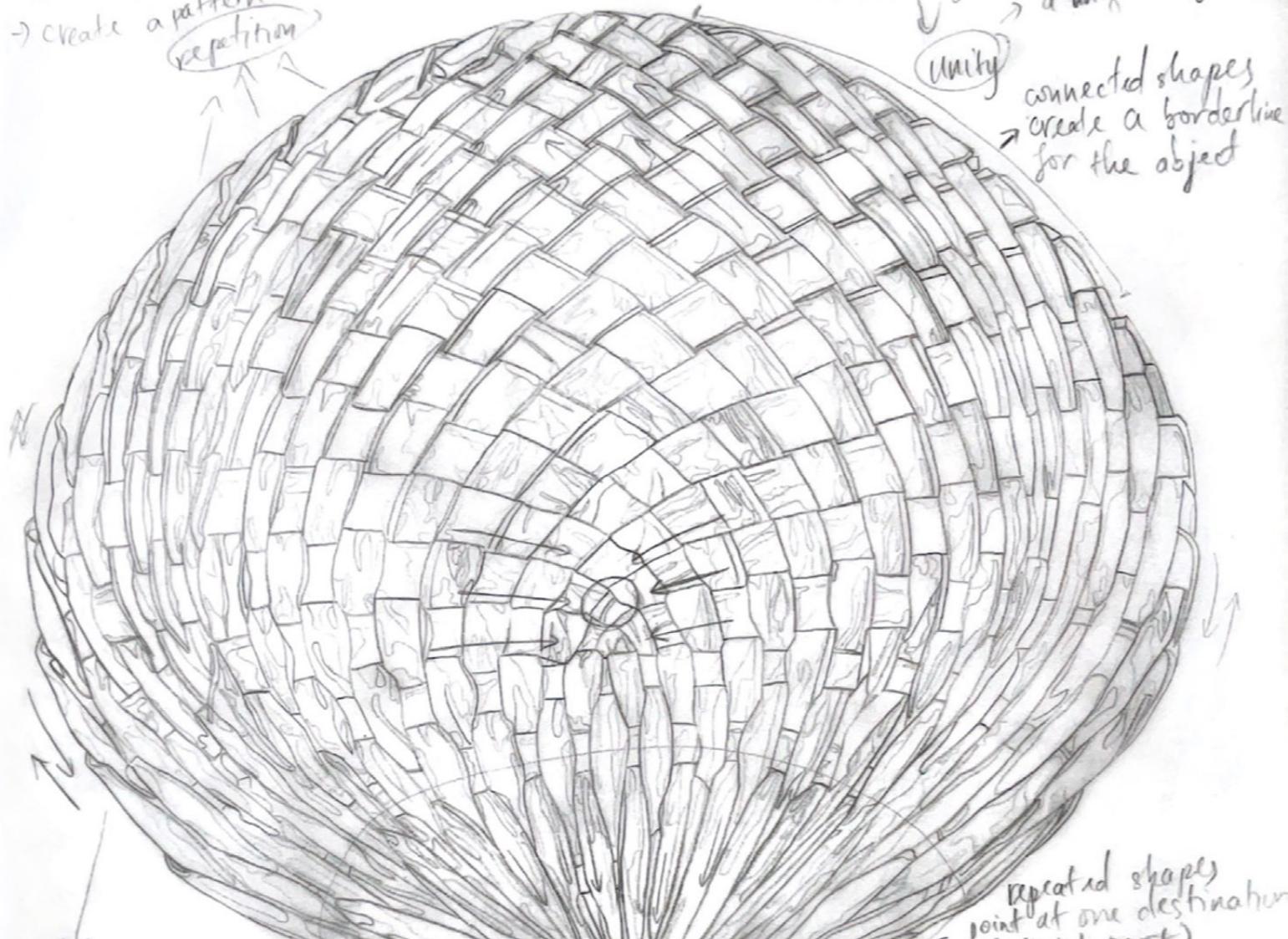
What makes this artifact unified is that lines cross each other, are connected and converge to one point.

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H
A
P
E



- non-objective shapes
- rectangular shapes
- small, broken, organic shapes from the shadow
- create a pattern

SHAPE



- the upper part catches the eyes because of the pattern, bc it's more dominant.
- repeated shapes point at one destination (the joint part)
- sophisticated organic shapes from the shadow → direct the eye towards the joint part.
- 2 ways.

(balance): shape sizes range from small ones to bigger ones → harmonization

- symmetrical balance

- 2 parts: the body & the handle
→ the handle balances the body/upper part, makes it not seem like floating

(contrast): organic shapes from the shadow vs the geometrical shapes from the pattern, the knitting part.
- thin vs thick shapes

Repetition

There are irregular repetitions of different groups of shapes: non-objective shapes, rectangular shapes, small, broken, organic shapes from the shadow, creating a pattern for the artifact.

Emphasis

The upper part catches the viewers' eyes because it is more dominant, plus the pattern. Another way to see this is the sophisticated, crowded organic shapes from the shadow direct the eyes towards the joint part.

Balance

Shapes sizes range from small to bigger ones, creating a sense of harmony. A symmetrical balance is clearly seen since the shapes on both sides are the same. The handle balances the body part above, makes it not seem like floating.

Unity

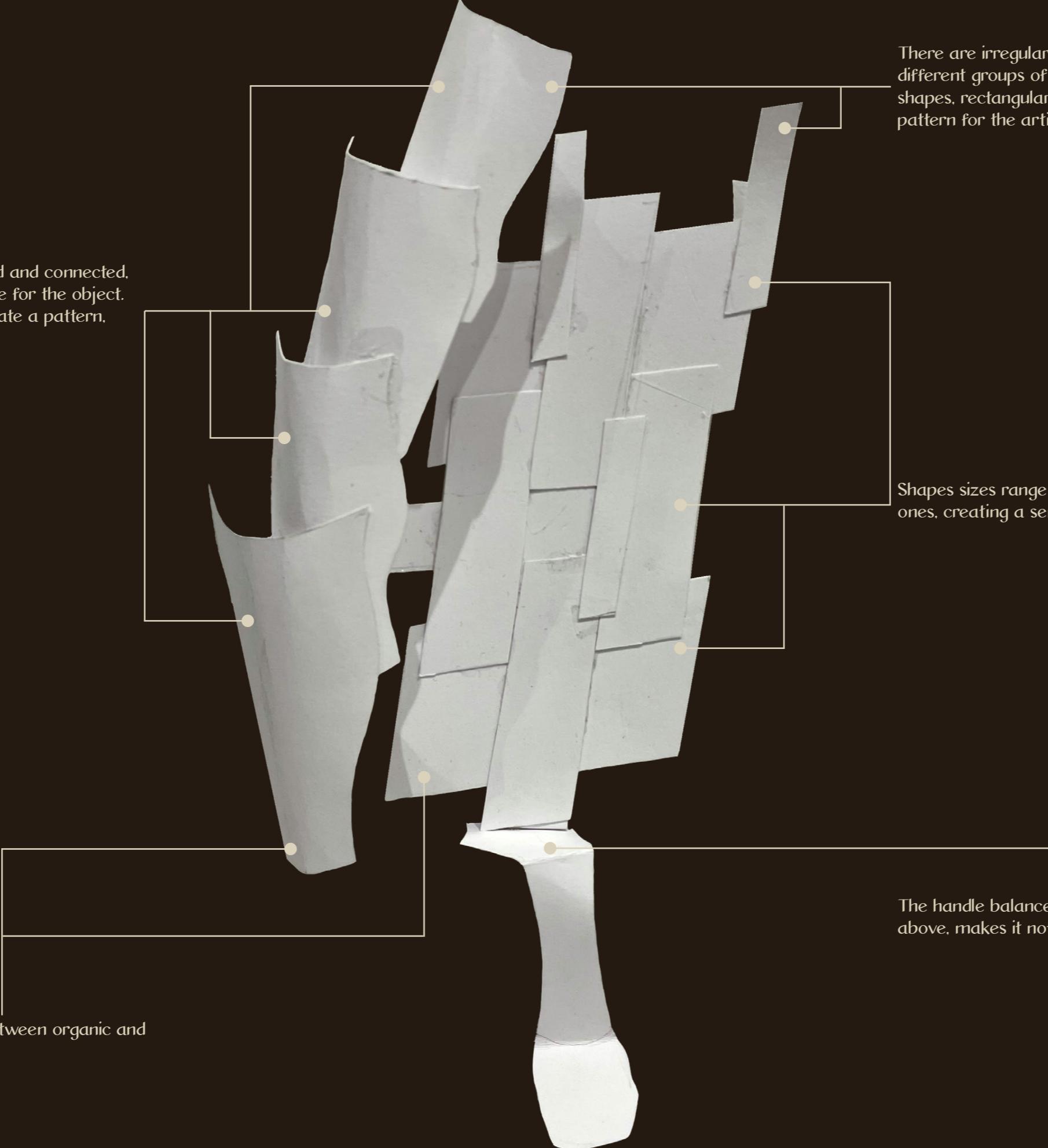
Shapes are repeated and connected, creating a borderline for the object. Crossing shapes create a pattern, unifying the artifact.

Direction

Repeated shapes at different angles create a variety of directions: one can move eyes from left to right or from top to bottom across the crisscrossing shapes, any other way around. Repeated shapes point at one destination: the joint part or the middle knot. Shapes placed after each other lead the eye across the round edge of the fan.

Contrast

There is contrast between the organic shapes from the shadow and the geometrical shapes from the pattern, between thin and thick shapes.



Shapes are repeated and connected, creating a borderline for the object. Crossing shapes create a pattern, unifying the artifact.

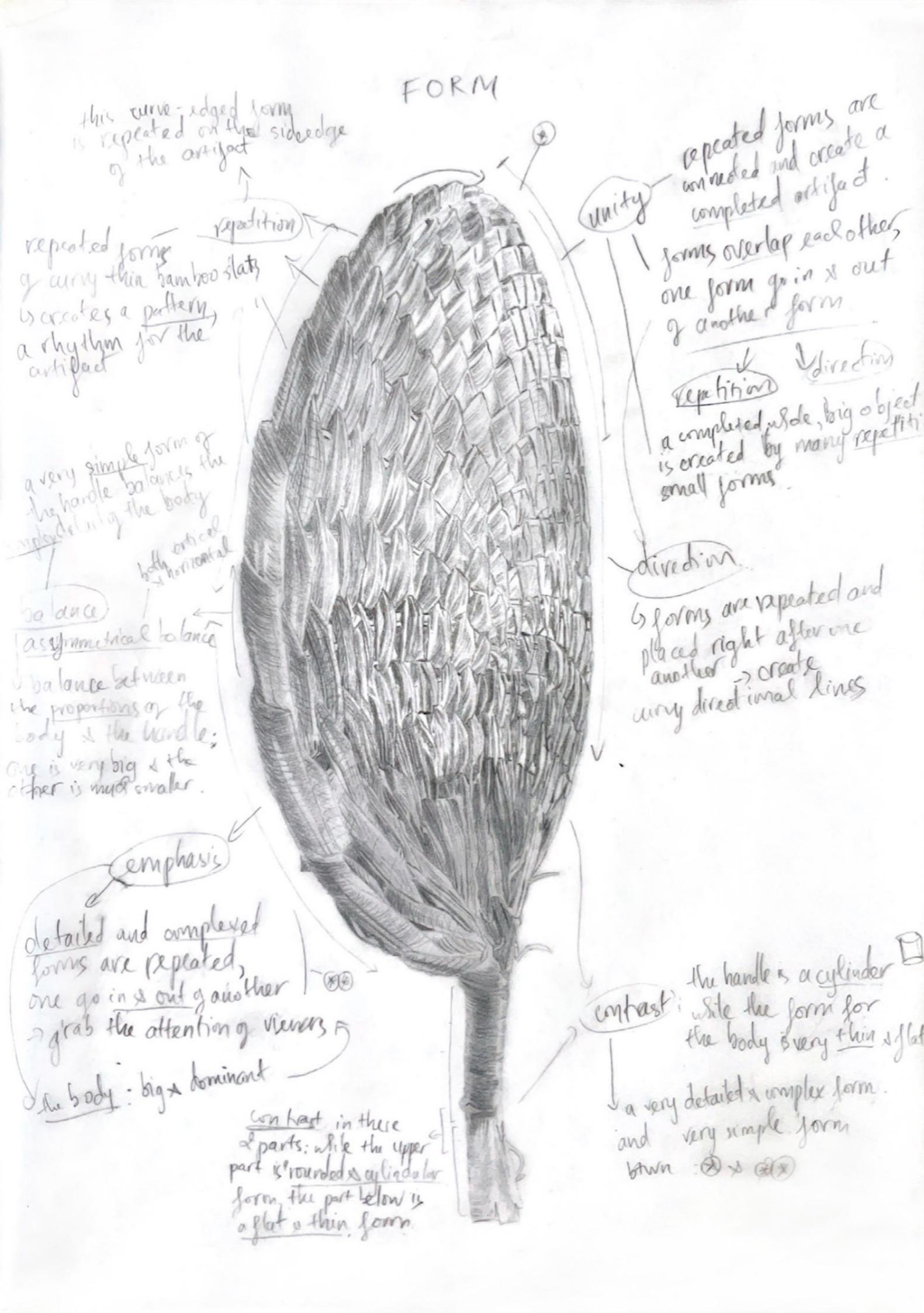
There are irregular repetitions of different groups of shapes: non-objective shapes, rectangular shapes, creating a pattern for the artifact.

Shapes sizes range from small to bigger ones, creating a sense of harmony.

There is contrast between organic and geometrical shapes.

The handle balances the body part above, makes it not seem like floating.

F
O
R
M



Repetition

The curve-edged forms are repeated on the side edge of the artifact. Repeated forms of curvy, thin bamboo slats that overlap each other create a pattern for the artifact.

Emphasis

What immediately grabs the attention of the viewers is the overall form of the body part which is really big, dominant and has repeated details and complex forms.

Balance

Both vertically and horizontally, there's a asymmetrical balance. Balance can also be seen in the proportions of the body and the handle: one is very big and the other is much smaller. Also, the simple form of the handle balances the complexity of the body form.

Unity

Repeated forms are connected together, one form go in and out of another one, creating the unity for the object. A completed, big object is created by many repetitive, small forms.

Direction

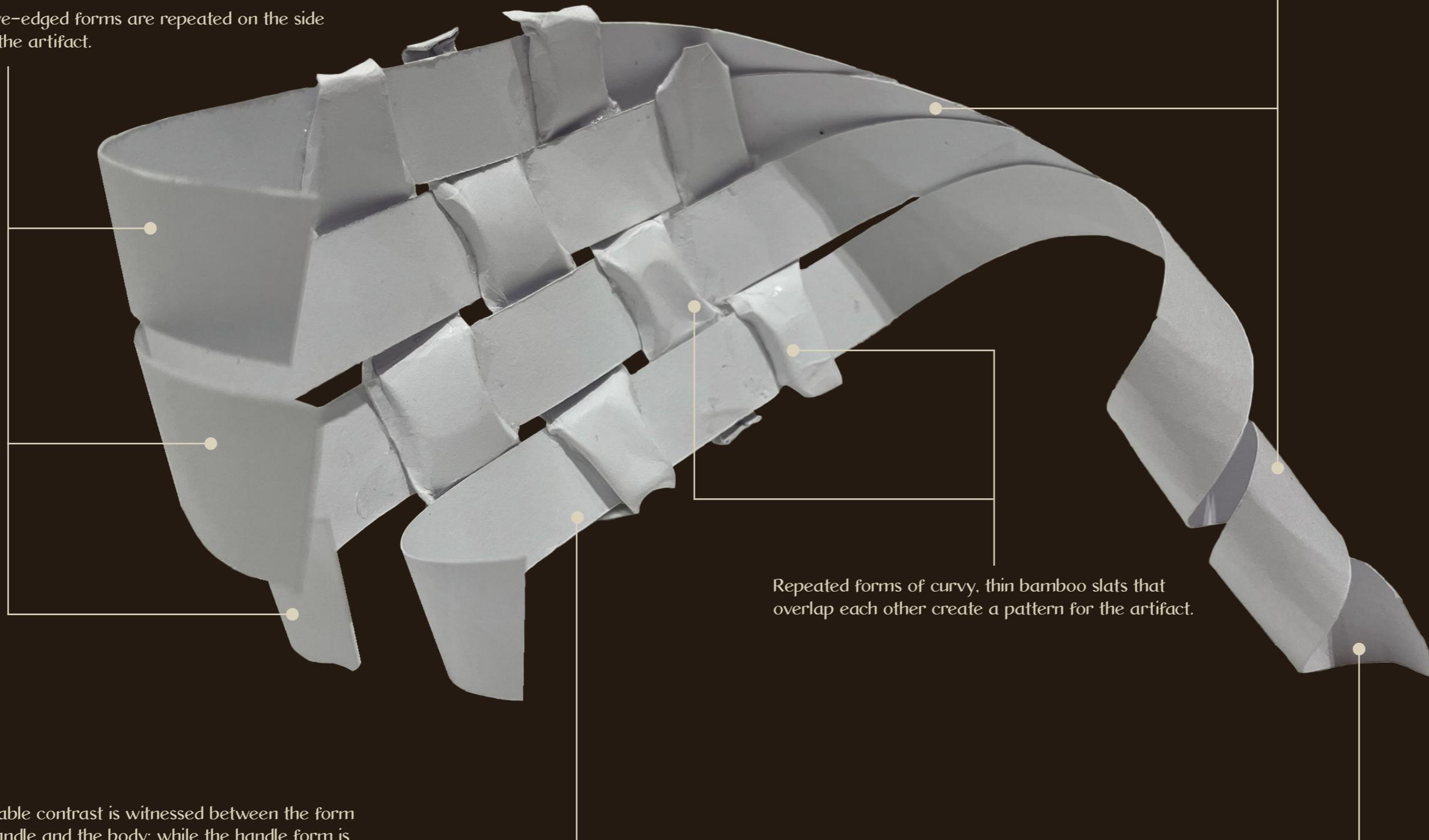
Forms are repeated and placed consecutively, one form go in and out of another one, creating curvy directional lines.

Contrast

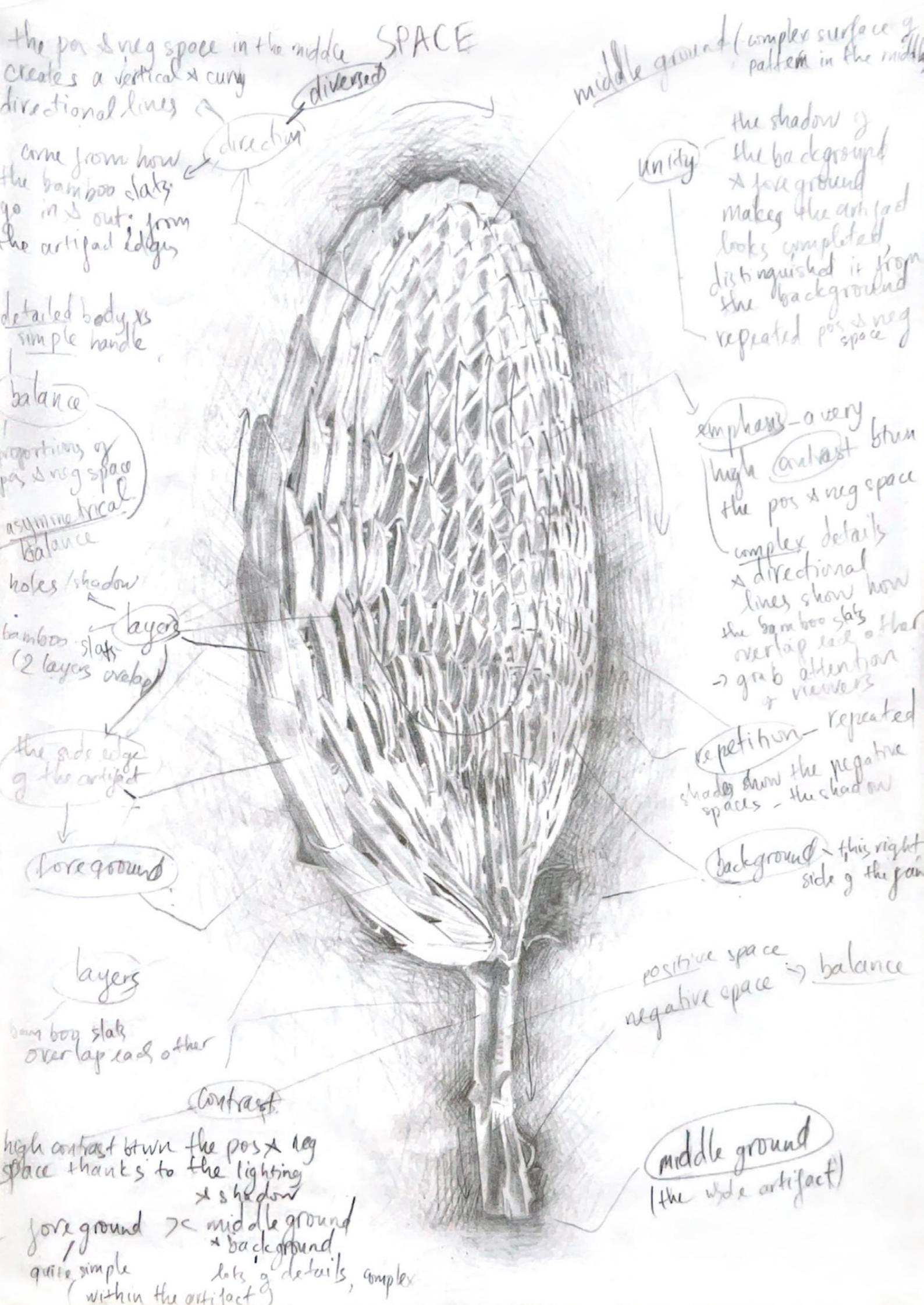
A noticeable contrast is witnessed between the form of the handle and the body: while the handle form is a foldy cylinder, the body form is very thin and flat. This could also be seen in two annotated parts of the handle: contrast in detailed, complex forms - the fourth quarter and simple forms - the second quarter.

Balance can be seen in the proportions of the body and the handle: one is very big and the other is much smaller. Also, the simple form of the handle balances the complexity of the body form.

The curve-edged forms are repeated on the side edge of the artifact.



SPACE



Repetition

There's repetition in the shades showing the positive and negative spaces from the lightning and shadow.

Emphasis

The emphasis here is the circled humpy part in the middle. There's a high contrast between the positive and negative space, complex details and directional lines from how the bamboo slats overlap each other; all that make it pops out.

Balance

Both vertically and horizontally, there's an asymmetrical balance. Balance can also be seen in the equal proportions of positive and negative spaces. Simple handle also balances the detailed body.

Unity

The shadow of the background and foreground surrounds the artifact, makes it looks completed, distinguishes it from the background. The unity also comes from the repeated positive and negative spaces.

Direction

There're vertical and curvy directional lines from the positive and negative spaces of the humpy part. Directions also come from how the bamboo slats go in and out and from the artifact edges.

Contrast

There's high contrast between the positive and negative space thanks to the lightning and the shadow. Within the artifact, contrast also presents in the simplicity of the foreground and the complexity of the middleground and background.



The shadow of the background and foreground surrounds the artifact, makes it looks completed, distinguishes it from the background.

The emphasis here is the circled humpy part in the middle. There's a high contrast between the positive and negative space, complex details and directional lines from how the bamboo slats overlap each other; all that make it pops out.

There're vertical and curvy directional lines from the positive and negative spaces of the humpy part.

There's high contrast between the positive and negative space thanks to the lightning and the shadow.

Within the artifact, contrast also presents in the simplicity of the foreground and the complexity of the middleground and background.

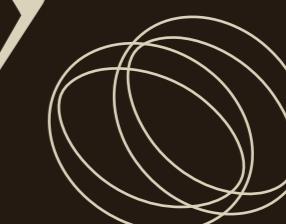
Both vertically and horizontally, there's an asymmetrical balance. Balance can also be seen in the equal proportions of positive and negative spaces. Simple handle also balances the detailed body.

A close-up photograph of a flower, likely a hibiscus, showing its vibrant red petals and numerous white stamens. The flower is set against a solid black background. In the lower right corner, there is a white, handwritten-style text overlay.

C



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R

a coding system:

+ bamboo slats:

hot pink (blank space)

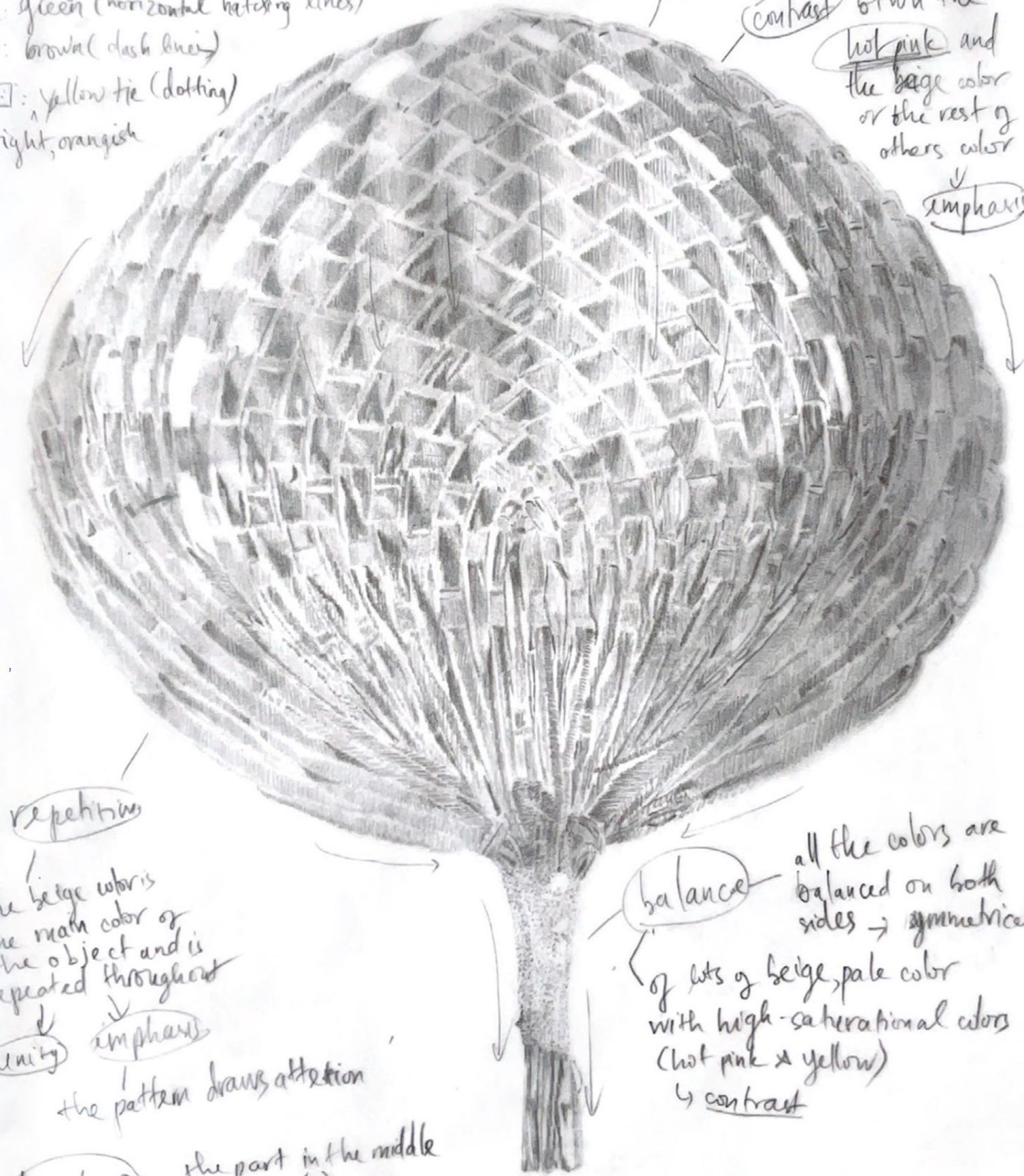
beige (vertical hatching lines)

green (horizontal hatching lines)

brown (dash lines)

+ yellow tie (dotting)

bright, orangish



COLOR

repetition of the beige color makes its unified

unity

high contrast

btwn the
hot pink and
the beige color
or the rest of
others color

Emphasis

Repetition

The beige color is the main color of the object and is repeated throughout the artifact in different tones. Hot pink is also repeated on two curvy lines on both sides.

Unity

The repetition of the beige color and how it is combined with warm tones like brown and yellow makes the artifact unified.

Emphasis

The hot pink color grab the attention of the viewers since the rest of the object is in warm tones.

Direction

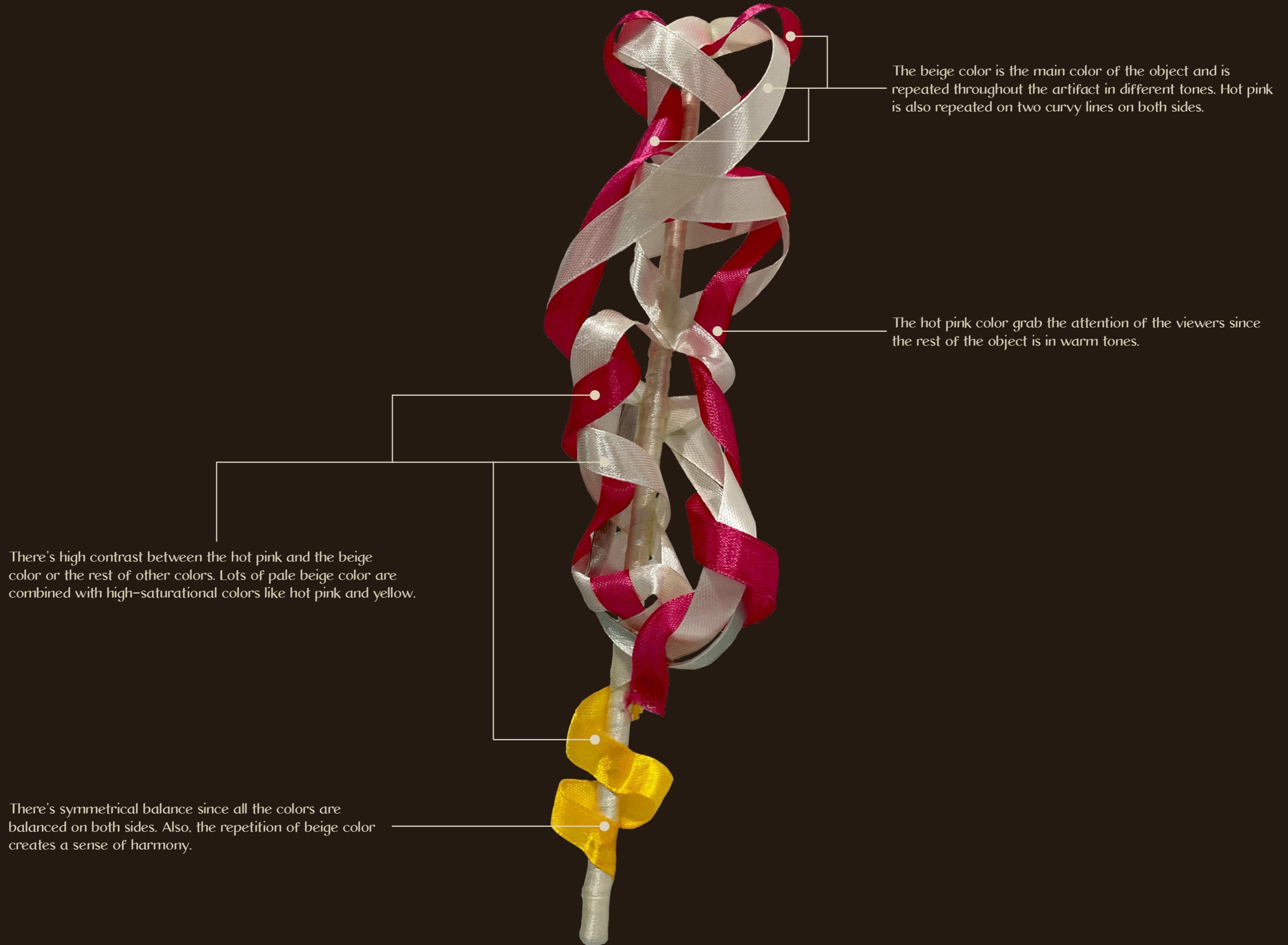
In the humpy part in the middle, the attendance of dark beige - shadow and the light beige - lightning creates directional lines drawing the viewers' eyes upwards then spread out to both sides of the artifact or downwards to the handle.

Balance

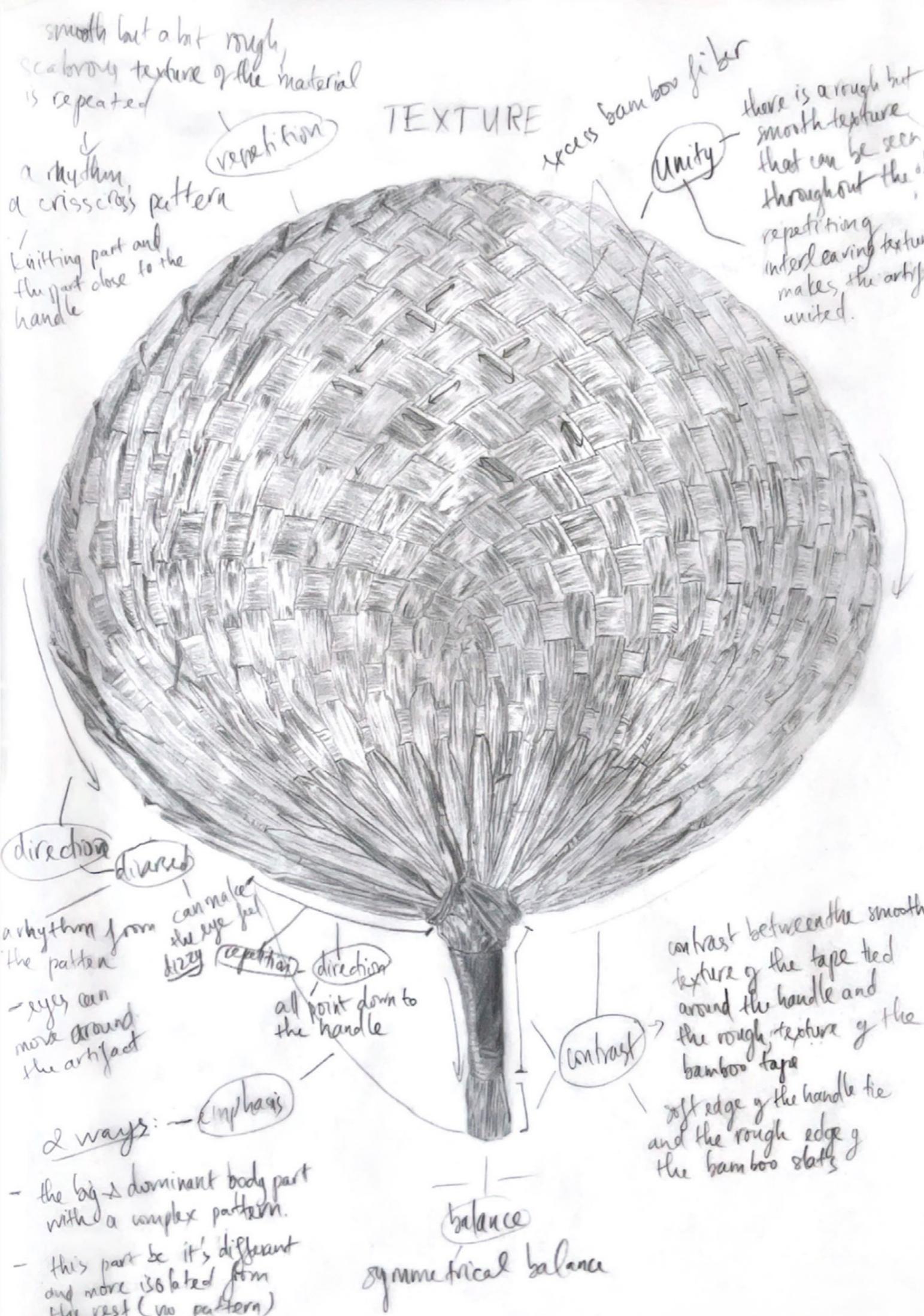
There's symmetrical balance since all the colors are balanced on both sides. Also, the repetition of beige color creates a sense of harmony.

Contrast

There's high contrast between the hot pink and the beige color or the rest of other colors. Lots of pale beige color are combined with high-saturational colors like hot pink and yellow.



TEXT
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Repetition

A rough, scabrous but a bit smooth texture of bamboo slats is repeated, creating a rhythm, a crisscross pattern in the knitting part and the part close to the handle.

Unity

There is a rough but smooth texture that can be seen throughout the object. The repetition of interleaving textures also makes the artifact unified.

Emphasis

The complex pattern in the big, dominant body part catches the viewers' eyes. Another way to look at it is the handle and the part above where the texture's different and more isolated from the rest – no pattern.

Balance

There's symmetrical balance since all the patterns are repeated on both sides. The use of one significant material also creates a harmonized texture.

Direction

The direction here is very diverse, which can make the eye feel a bit dizzy. There's rhythm from the pattern where the grain of bamboo is in two different directions. One's eyes can also move around the edge of the artifact. Also, there's a part where all the grains point down to the handle.

Contrast

There's high contrast between the smooth texture of the tape tied around the handle and the rough texture of the bamboo tape. While the handle tie has a soft edge, the bamboo slats has a rough edge and thorny excess bamboo fibers.

The use of one significant material also creates a harmonized texture.

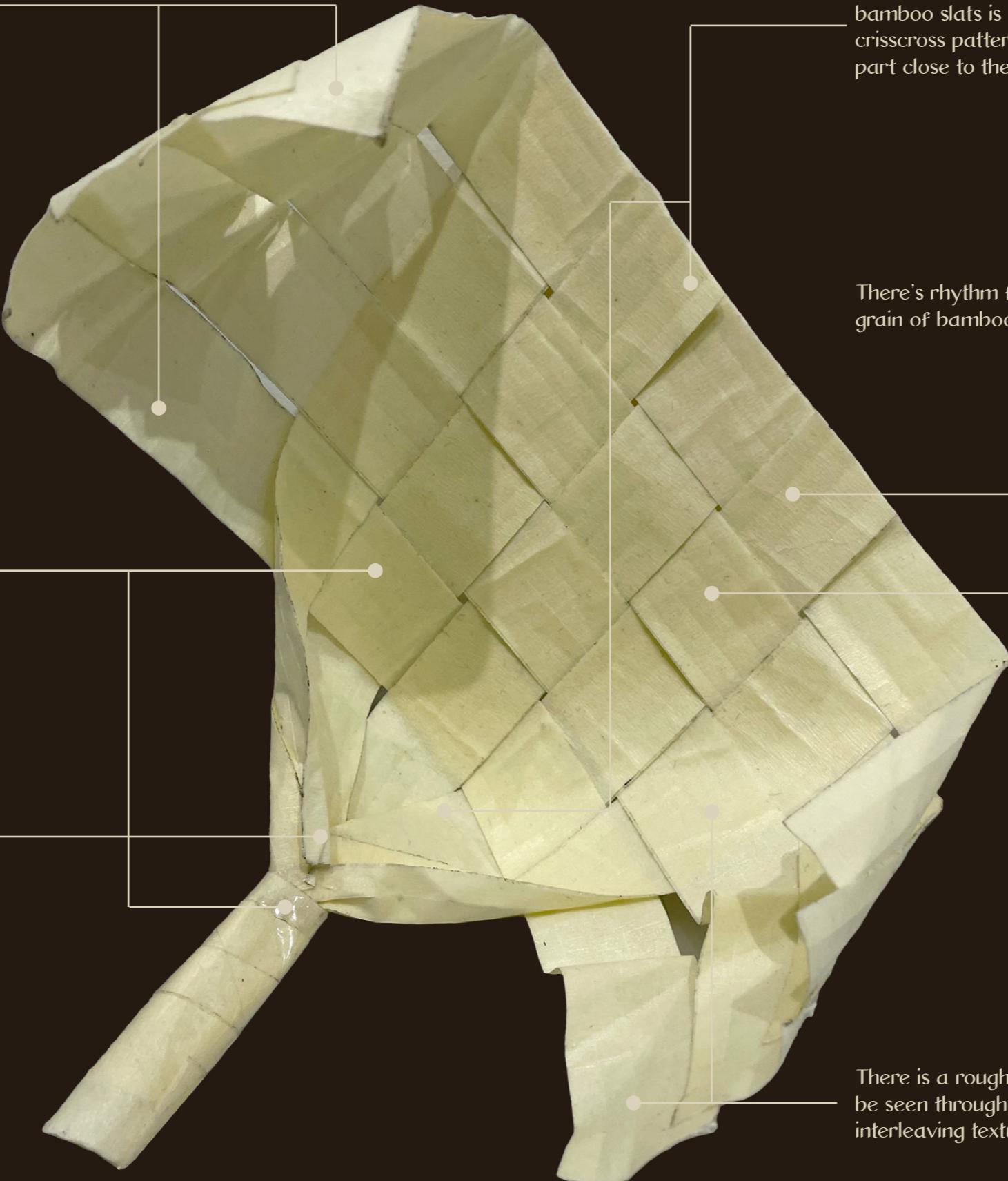
A rough, scabrous but a bit smooth texture of bamboo slats is repeated, creating a rhythm, a crisscross pattern in the knitting part and the part close to the handle.

There's rhythm from the pattern where the grain of bamboo is in two different directions.

There's high contrast between the smooth texture of the tape tied around the handle and the rough texture of the bamboo tape.

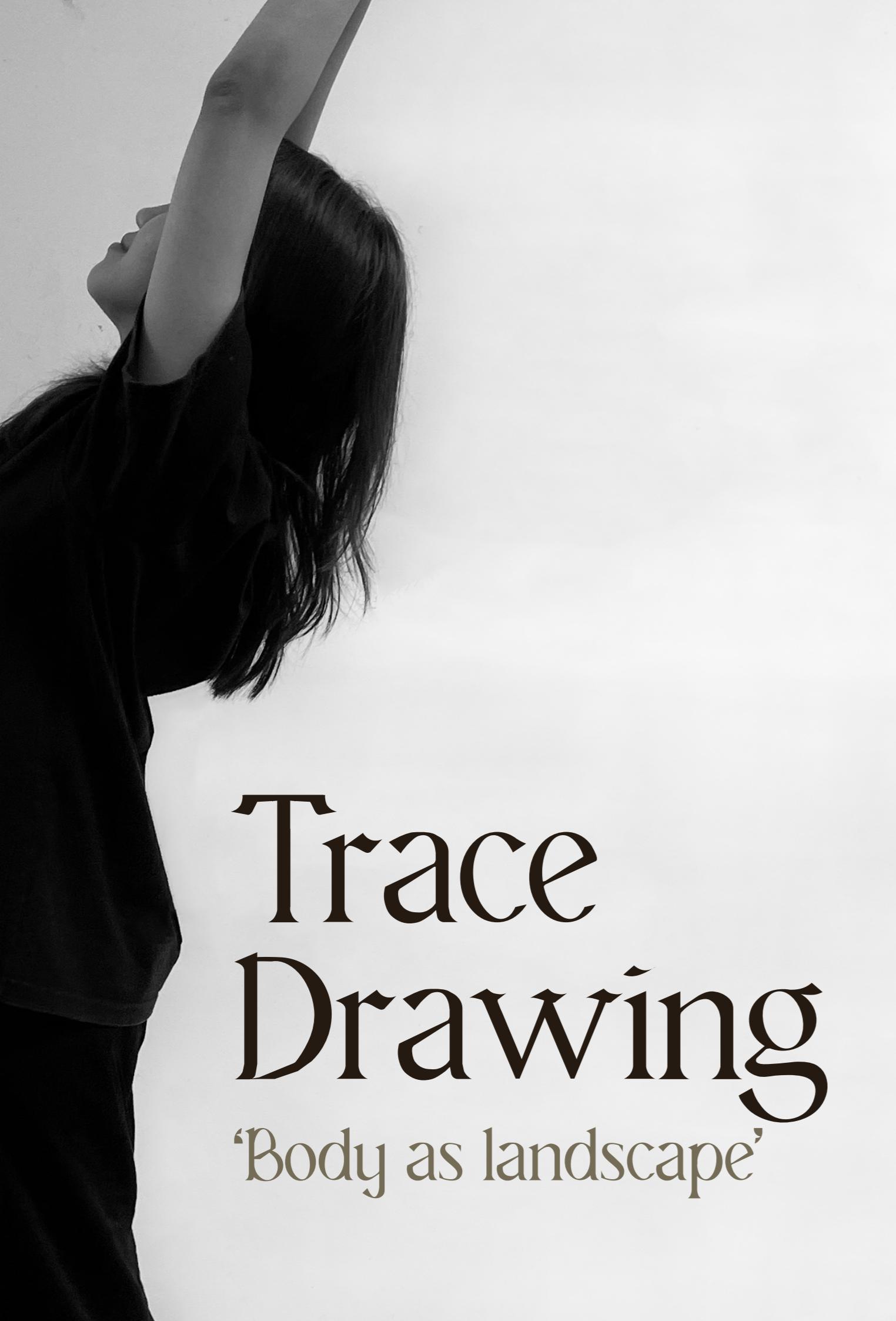
Also, there's a part where all the grains point down to the handle.

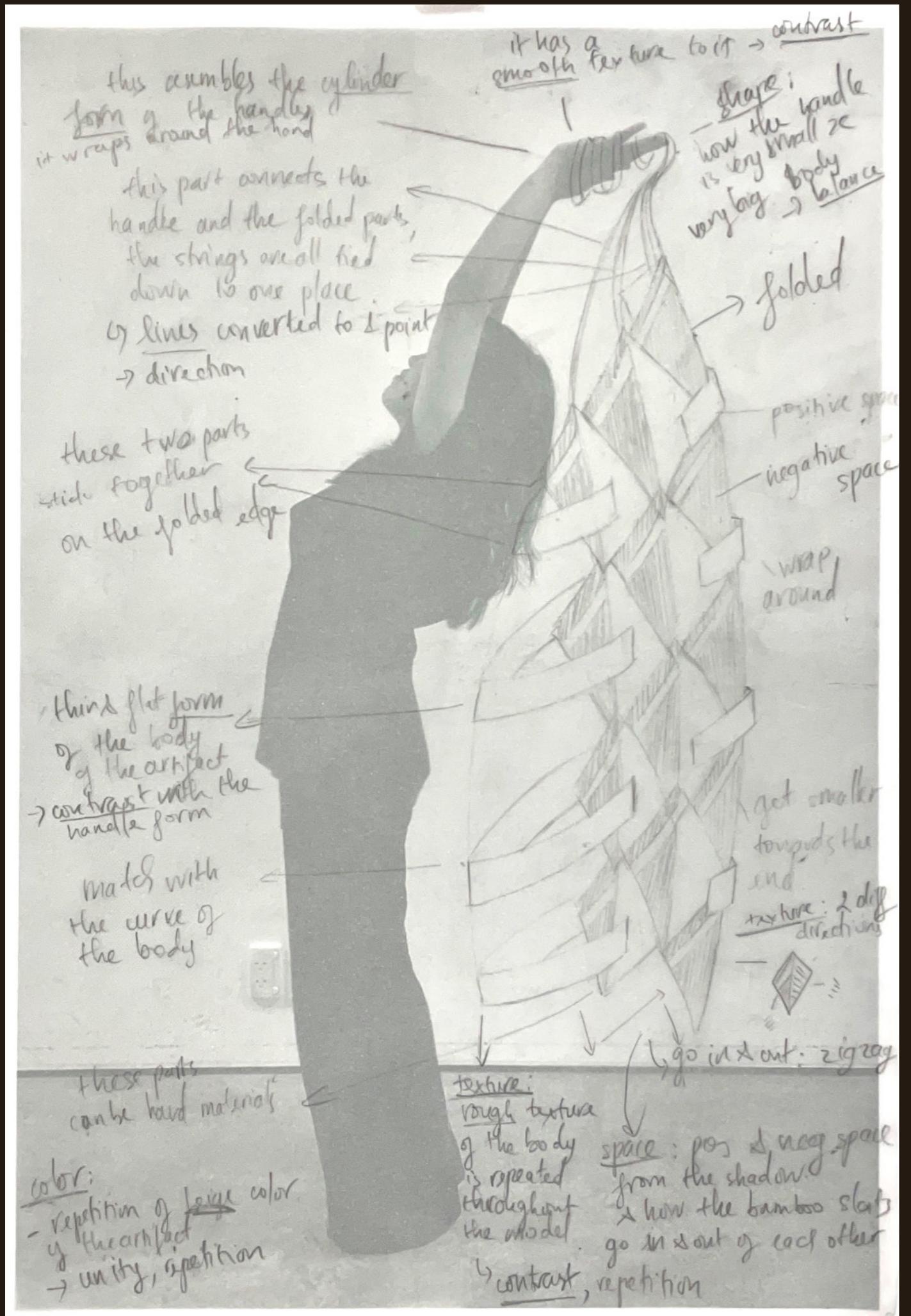
There is a rough but smooth texture that can be seen throughout the object. The repetition of interleaving textures also makes the artifact unified.



Trace Drawing

‘Body as landscape’





Line

Lines converge to one point: this part connects the handle and the folded part. The strings are all tied down to one place.

Shape

The shape of the handle is very small, in contrast to the very big body. The handle balances the body part, makes it not seem like floating.

Space

There's a high contrast between the positive and negative space from the shadow/lightning and from how the bamboo slats overlap, go in and out of each other. It creates vertical and curvy directional lines. All that make this part pop out.

Color

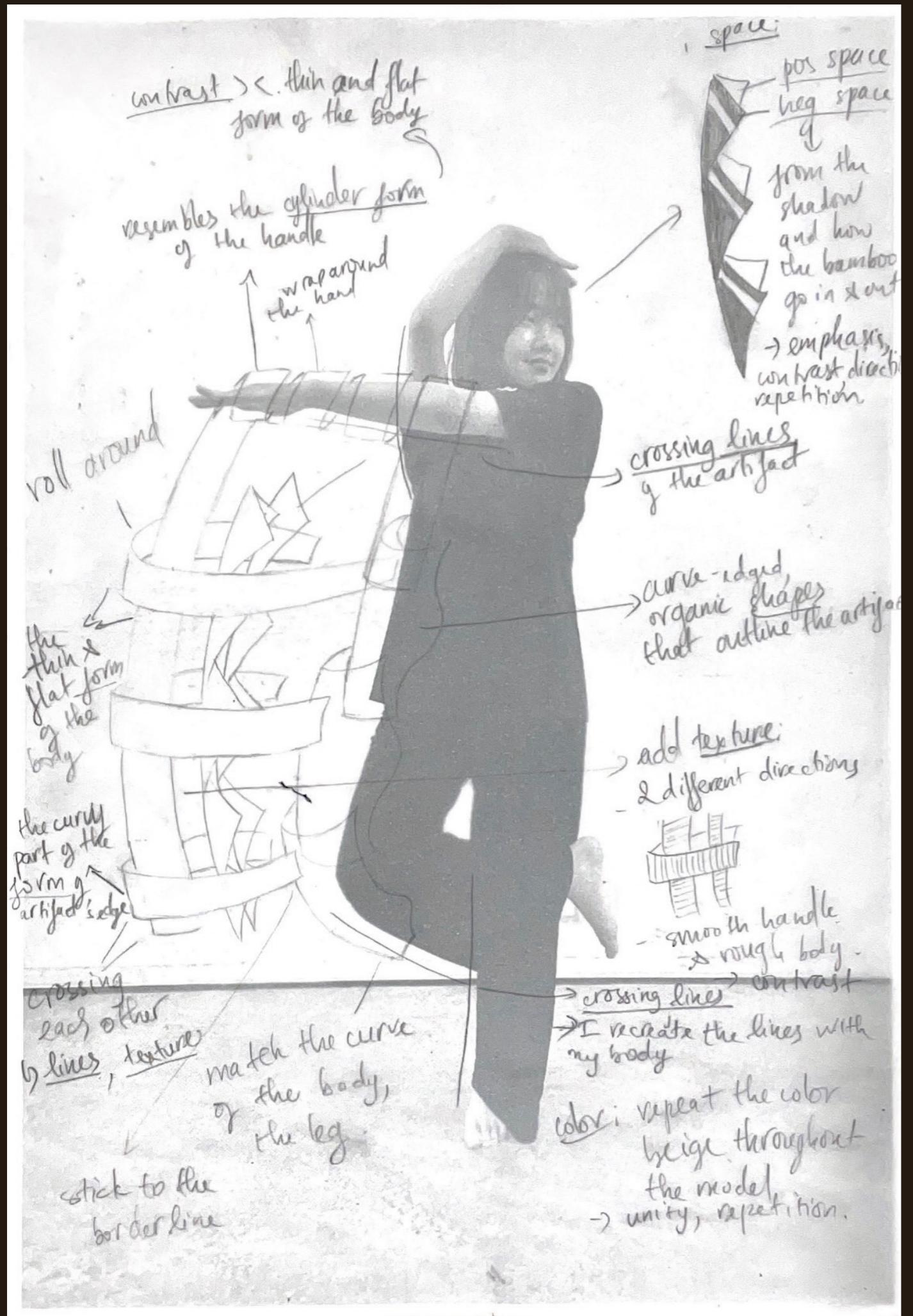
I want to use the beige color as the main color since it is repeated throughout the artifact. This creates a sense of unity and repetition. Black is used for the negative space.

Form

The strings wrapping around the hand resembles the cylinder form of the handle. This contrasts with the thin and flat form of the body that match the curve of the body.

Texture

The rough texture of the body is repeated throughout the model. This contrasts with the smooth texture of the handle. On the body, there's two different directions of the grain of bamboo.



Line

The pose of legs and arms resembles the crisscrossing lines of the artifact.

Shape

Curve-edged organic shapes are repeated and connected, creating a borderline for the object. This match the curve of the upper half body and the leg.

Space

There's a high contrast between the positive and negative space from the shadow/lightning and from how the bamboo slats overlap each other, go in and out of each other. It creates vertical and curvy directional lines. All that make this part pops out.

Form

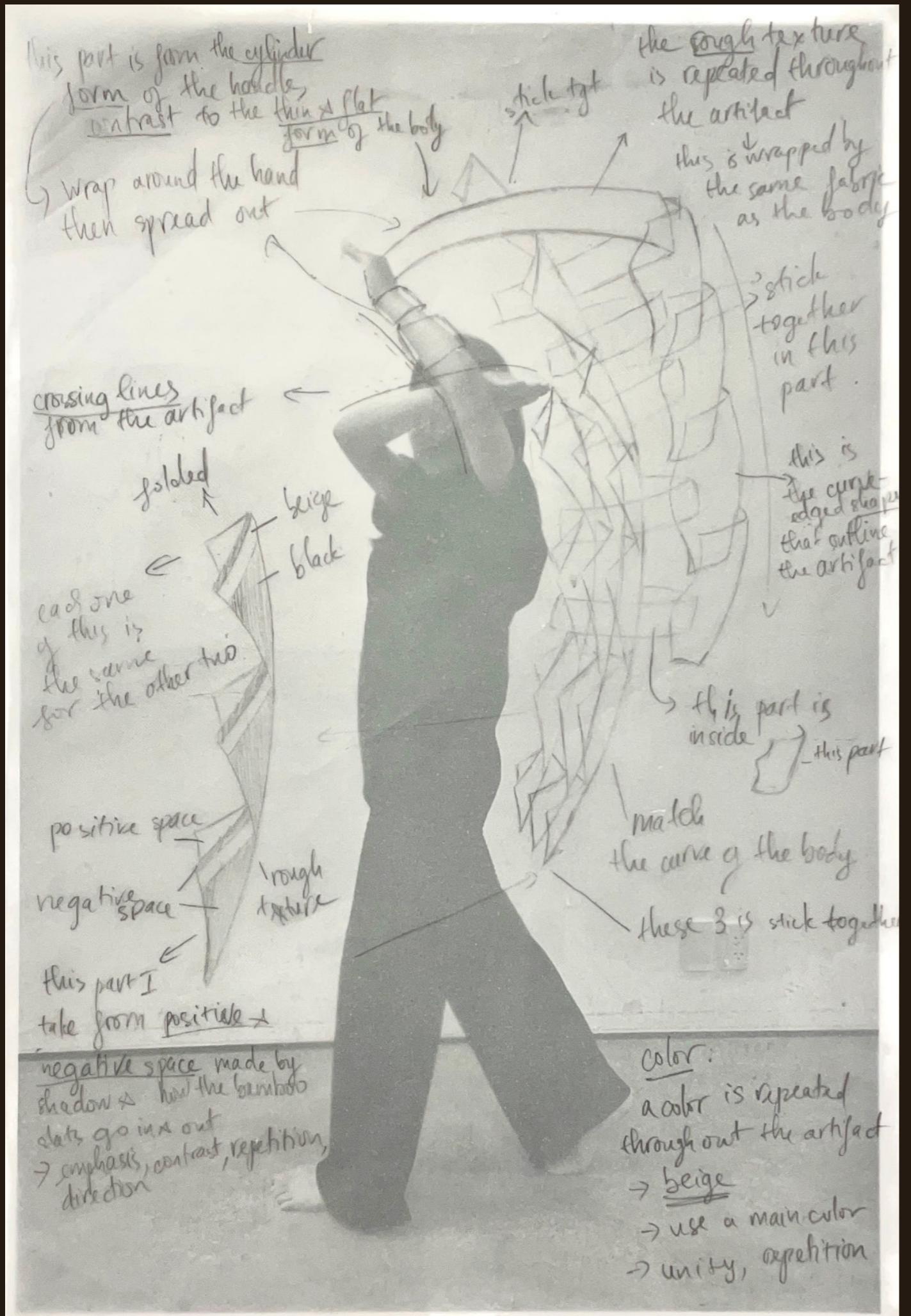
The strings wrapping around the hand resembles the cylinder form of the handle. This contrasts with the thin and flat form of the body. The curvy parts of the artifact's edge form roll around the model then are stucked to the borderline shapes.

Color

I want to use the beige color throughout the model since it is repeated throughout the artifact. This creates a sense of unity and repetition. Black is used for the negative space.

Texture

The rough texture of the body is repeated throughout the model. This contrasts with the smooth texture of the handle. On the body, there's two different directions of the grain of bamboo.



Line

The pose of the arms resembles the crisscrossing lines of the artifact.

Shape

The part on the left side is the curve-edged organic shapes that are repeated and connected, creating a borderline for the object.

Space

The part matching the curve of the body I took from the positive and negative space made by the shadow/lightning and from how the bamboo slats overlap each other. The pattern is the same for each one and these three are stuck together. This creates a sense of emphasis, contrast, repetition and direction.

Color

I want to use the beige color as the main color since it is repeated throughout the artifact. This creates a sense of unity and repetition. Black is used for the negative space.

Form

The part wrapping around the hand then spreading out resembles the cylinder form of the handle, in contrast to the thin and flat form of the body.

Texture

The rough texture is repeated throughout the model. The form part is wrapped with the same fabric as the body.

This is the final trace that I chose for my final model.

Design Development



Material Hunting



I came to the market and got some cool materials for my models. These ones I got first when I entered the market. It's the foam fabric. They have the thickness that I want and I thought that they can be strong enough to hold the folded part. I got them in two colors: black and white since I thought I could use them for my folded part too. I couldn't find the beige color that I wanted so I kept searching for other materials.



This is felt fabric that's quite solid but still able to bend and fold. When I touched it and felt the texture, they're kinda thick and has a rough surface that I wanted for my model. I got it in three colors: white, beige and black. At first I wasn't sure getting beige or white since beige was in one of my insights and I used black and white combination for my Space model. So I got both to experiment and see what's better.

Experimenting



I cut the fabric into parallelogram pieces and tried to picture what it would look like when I stucked them together. I measured each one and it gets smaller towards the end of each row.



I used these pieces as a frame to measure the black pieces so that they fit. I put black pieces on top of both white and beige ones and see which one works. I chose the beige one as it serves my idea better and the BW combination was kinda extreme.



I stucked the black and beige pieces together then folded each one. I stucked four folded pieces in a row, then stucked three rows together. The longest one had two other pieces initially but it turned out to be longer than expected, so I took one piece off.





The folded pieces weren't able to keep form and the connection between two pieces could be easily collapsed. So I reforced them by glueing hard chopsticks in the middle.



I cut the foam fabric into long curvy slides. For the form part wrapping around the hand then spreading out, the width of the fabric wasn't long enough. I had to cut two slide then stick them together to make one long slide, then wrap it with beige felt fabric. I first intended to wrap both sides of the slide but when I bend inside, the felt cloth gets nasty, so I only wrap it on oneside.

I forgot to take photos of the handle making process but I bent the slide and wrapped around my hand, then glued several chopsticks inside to keep it in form.



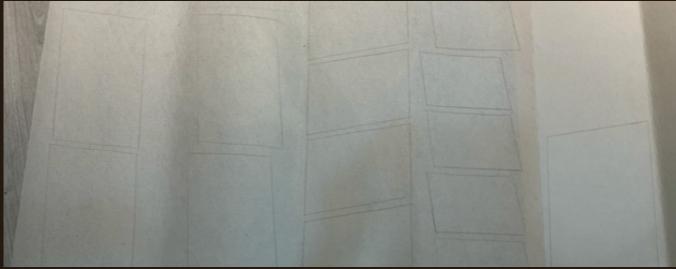
The challenging part is after I stucked the slide to the folded part, the slide could easily fall and couldn't keep the straight form. The first and only solution came to my mind is that I glued straight chopsticks to the part when it collapsed. It actually kinda work.



Feedback

After experimenting and getting feedback from lecturers, the whole part turned out to be quite flat since it wasn't able to keep the folded form. It also didn't appear like the way I wanted. I decided to redo all that and make it more three dimensional. This time I was suggested putting a frame inside the folded form and putting another layer of felt cloth pieces on top of that frame.

Development



I made the whole folded part again. This time to fix the problems. I reinforced the fabric by wires that can be folded. Then, I applied another layer of fabric on top of the wire frame so that no one can see how I did it. This was applied to all pieces. It turned out very well, really solved the problem. It's more three dimensional, thicker, heavier and way more solid.



I also got rid of the chopsticks inside the folded pieces stucked to the slide. I did the same frame thing to this piece.



Finalizing



I cut other parts of the model: the outlining curve-edged organic shapes in beige felt cloth and the curvy form inside in foam fabric, wrapped with the beige felt cloth. I made it in one color and one texture to translate the insights of the elements into my 3D model.



I attached them to the folded parts just like the sketch. Initially, I cut three slides for the curvy form but I only used two of them for my final model.



The slide at the top that holds the folded part was easily collapsed so I reinforced it with chopsticks. This time I stucked longer ones, right onto the backside of the felt cloth piece.

Final Model





This part wraps around the hand then spreads out, resembling the cylinder form of the handle. It contrasts with the thin and flat form of the body.

The part on the left side is the curve-edged organic shapes that are repeated and connected, creating a borderline for the object.

This part I took from the positive and negative space made by the shadow/lightning and from how the bamboo slats overlap each other. The pattern is the same for each one and these three are stucked together. This creates a sense of emphasis, contrast, repetition and direction.

The pose of the arms resembles the crisscrossing lines of the artifact.

I used the beige color as the main color since it is repeated throughout the artifact. This creates a sense of unity and repetition. Black is used for the negative space.

The rough texture is repeated throughout the model. The form part is wrapped with the same fabric as the body.



REFLECTION



I have taken a lot of knowledge and skills from this course. I got the chance to develop my drawing and rendering skills, from which I can face my fear of rendering. Drawing 6 elements out and see the difference between traces then picking out the insights really boost my observation skills. And from what I believe, this is a fundamental skill for every designer. As I went extra miles, I the results are satisfactory and pays off all my hardwork. I think I have done pretty well with the tracing and insights.

For the second assignment, I got to work with model making again. Actually, after having done several models, I find myself enjoy playing with materials and communicating ideas into a 3D models. The most interesting part must be the part where I translate the insights into the models. I get the chance to forget the original artifacts and focus on the insights, then think about how I can translate them into a 3D abstract models. In terms of the ideas, I did have some struggle at first but then I managed to come up with an interesting one. I think the part I love the most is the making process even though it's the most tiring and exhausting to me physically. But when I see the results, I feel way more thrilled and proud of myself for go this far. Among six experimental models, I love the Space model the most and I think this is the most successful one for me. However, there're models that I didn't feel satisfied and has to do it again: the Color and Texture model. I was struggling with these two models in how to translate my insights. With my final model, it turned

out to be like just I expected. Nevertheless, I still think the problems with the final model handle could be solved more cleverly and neatly if I got more time.

In terms of graphic, I have developed my layout design skill. For my process book, I have experimented several layout options, receiving feedbacks and working on it to have the best result. I also learned how to translate the characteristics of the artifact into my process book design using elements and principles I've learned from previous assignments. The more I play with the layout, I realize that I lack of consistent grid system. This is the thing that I must work out on and do better next time.

Overall, I think I understand the learning outcome pretty well as well as the expectation of the design field, I have acquired fundamental knowledge that every designer must know from this course. I have learned to observe an design object from the smallest details under the eye of a designer, like which elements and principles are used. As a designer in progress, from this course I have gained more confidence in my design skills and learned how to dig deeper into observation. Although I do think I have done my best at the moment with this tight schedule but there's still room for improvements. As we are required to do 10 hours independent learning, I still think it is quite short. I wish I had more time to do more researches and experiments. I guess I need to work out my own learning schedule as it is invading my resting schedule. For the next project, the part I can work more on is the school-life balance and the grid system.

