

ISSUE 01  
01.01.21

# REVENANT

This publication seeks to revisit topics which were prevalent in 1980s pop culture, in order to learn and relearn, and consider what our own future may look like. 50 copies, 50 pages, 50 gsm



+ interview  
with  
*Lakwena*

This is a publication which seeks to review topics which were prevalent in 1980s pop culture, in order to learn and relearn, and consider what our own future may look like.

In this way it is like a fanzine dedicated to 80s fashion trends, politics and debates in a 2021 context. We ask questions like how is technology causing division in our society? Where is creativity coming from? It was Matisse who famously wrote that,



# “destruction is the beginning of creation”

Inside this first edition of REVENANT we're taking a deep dive into this act of destruction and recreation - what can we learn from those who have travelled paths before us? From wise old creatives, from visual artist Lakwena to Rebecca Coates, a nurse at the start of her career in the North West of England.

THIS IS AN  
INTERACTIVE  
PUBLICATION THAT  
OCCUPIES DIGITAL AND  
PHYSICAL SPACE -  
YOU HAVE BEEN  
WARNED.

Film director Radu Jude says “I made a few films using history before and then eventually I decided to make a film about contemporary life in Romania.”

we can look back on history from a pure pace of interest and curiosity, but it will always lead us back to our present time, and comparing the two.

## Inside this issue...

# REVENANT

**Issue 01**  
**January 2022**

**Design**  
**Lucy Haydon**

**Contributors**  
**Rebecca coates**  
**Lakwena Merciver**  
**Finola Prejady**  
**Grace Penton**

**Online, read reviews of Barbican conservatory and Superblue**

**50 inventions of the 80s and where are they now?**

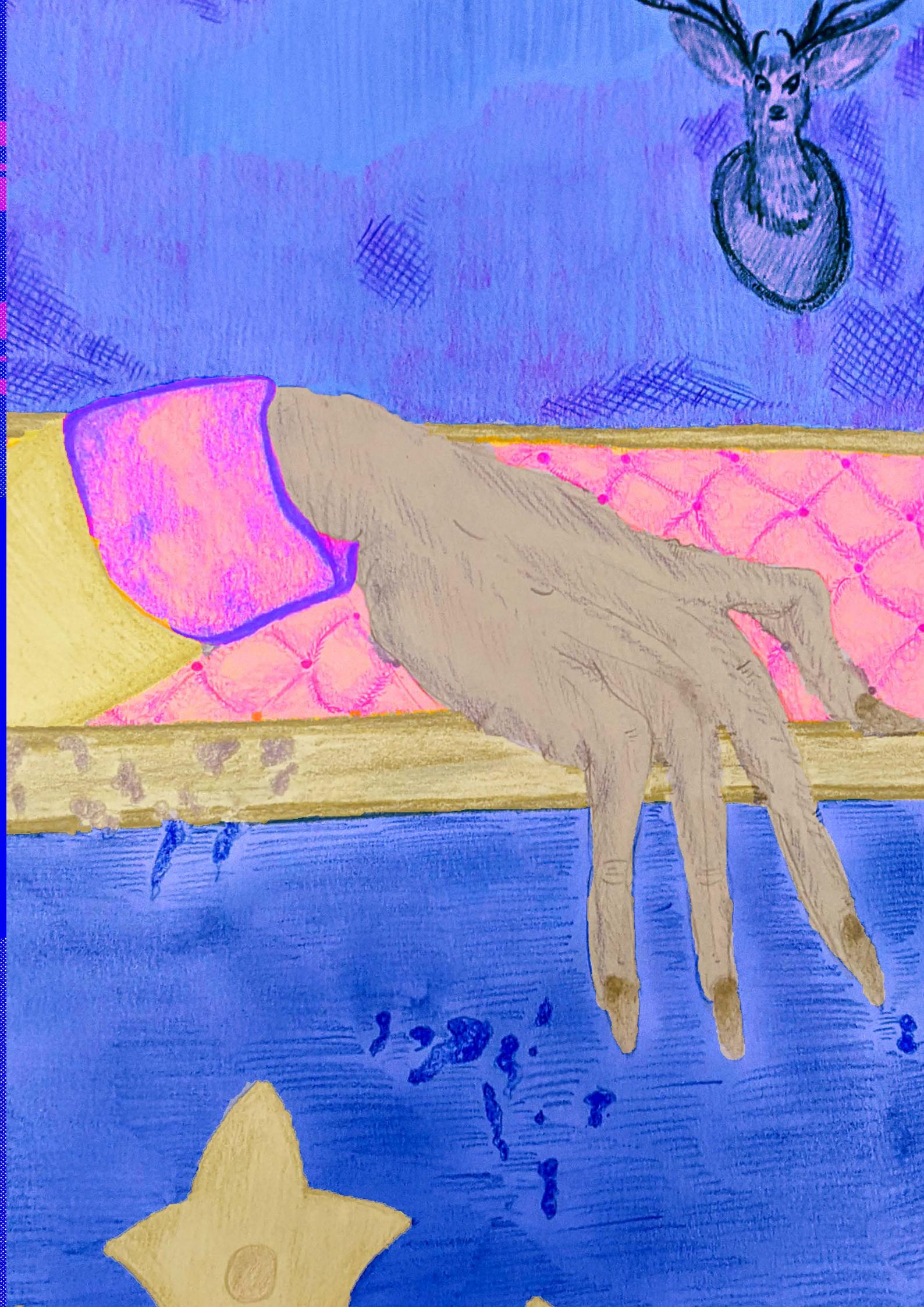
**Last night in Soho review**

**Horrible histories?**

**++ free pull out poster!**

**Interview with Lakwena**





# REBECCA COATES IN INTERVIEW

If you could travel in time to any point in history where would you go??  
B - victorian times as long as I'm rich.  
Because the dress are pretty.

Would you go into space?  
B - no, it looks scary and i don't want to die all alone. And then I don't want to be an alien or meet one either.

Do TV shows around space interest you?  
B - no, I can barely watch tv if that's a reason.

If there was medicine for society today what would it be?  
B-there's quite a lot to cover there isn't there. I would pick global warming - but that would be the medicine of us just not watching tv anymore.

how do you think watching tv impacts you?  
B- well considering the only thing I've watched in the past 3 week is strictly.. its made me want to take up dancing, which technically is a good thing because it made me want to take up exercise.

What do you see society looking like 10 years from now?  
b - probably more reliant on technology, so we'll all just not talk to each other and be pretty depressed. though it is good to organise rallies, though you wondering how green they are because of all the travelling. I think around racism, id say phones are a medium risk - they can be used for good and bad. In terms of sexism, phones potentially make life worse - I don't really know.

Are you going to start ballroom?  
B - only in the living room

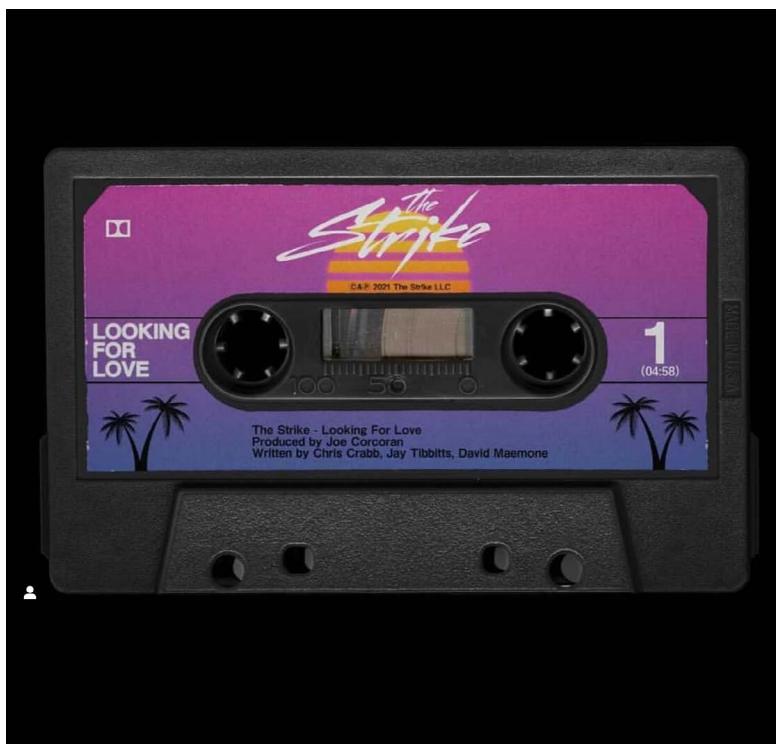


How do you use technology on a daily basis?  
b - my phone. The phone is good to have contact with people but hate it in any other way, it is just very antisocial because then you don't talk to each other in person.

Thanks Rebecca!



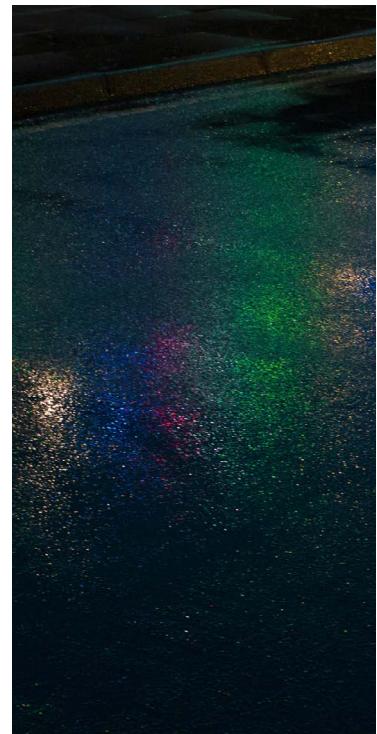
# THE STRIKE



Known for making rock which fuses together eclectic pop and funk sounds, the band who have previously opened for Kelly Clarkson and featured on the Netflix classic 'To All the Boys I've Loved Before'. The group hail from LA, and have a growing international following of devotees.

'Overtime' is a sunshine-filled ballad which deals with unconditional young love. Their album artworks regularly feature a dystopian desert, gregarious type and retro combination of vaporwave and outrun aesthetics.

The 2021 release from The Strike, 'Overtime' is a punchy, upbeat feel-good track which could be the backing to an 80s classic like the Breakfast Club or the immortal Ferris Bueller's Day Out. While 'Miles Ahead' has a very contemporary pop sound, Overtime carries 80s nostalgia in every line, and especially into the sax solo at the end.



# ERNESTO CHAHOUD

Brought up on the songs of a thousand revolutions, Ernesto Chahoud . Find his latest track reviewed here.

I have seen Beirut Jazz live on one, particularly memorable, occasion at the Jago in Dalston, which also involved some free bobbins but that's a story for another time... He's a charismatic character, and music is clearly much more than a job.

He started his DJ career at age 16. Why would this come about, I hear you ask? He says himself that "the music and nightlife scene in Lebanon in the '60s and '70s was very happening and very diverse".

Why the success I hear you also ask? Well, while his collection of 10,000 records itself is no mean feat, anti-commercial,

"Each one has a story, my collection is constantly evolving."



# LAST NIGHT IN SOHO REVIEW



A tale of two sixties chicks, 'Last night in Soho' is a delightful picture of what it's like to move to London as a girl in your 20s. This portrayal though, is a sinister throwback to Soho nightlife. The seedy story, quite the opposite of Spaced or Hot Fuzz, features high achieving creatives, operators, and nostalgic aesthetics, but with the same dark undertones and unorthodox plot twists. I went to see Last Night in Soho on Friday 12th November at Cineworld in the O2, Greenwich, right before the release of another film which explores fashion's ominous side, the 'House of Gucci' is released.

Anna Taylor-Joy was a delight to watch, and even more of a delight to hear as she gave beautiful renditions of Petula Clark's iconic 'Downtown'. This cover is just one in a string of rule breaking hits which form a chillingly still and gleeful soundtrack, featuring songs from both eras. Matt Smith was also charming as always in his role as Jack at talent agent with 'hidden depths'. Sandie, a young singer meets him searching for a career as a singer which climaxes



with her dancing in a burlesque club. Ellie on the other hand, is a character who could have more depth, with an unentirely unexplained love interest, she embodies the stereotypical damsel in distress. She mainly watches on to Sandie's happening life, while remaining helplessly stuck in her body yet unable to do anything to prevent Sandie's demise. In this way, the film is not a classic Sci-Fi time travel story, but more of a mirror reflecting aspects of one time back onto the other.

If the film is little gimmicky and obvious in its transitions, the haunted set, aspirational costume design and haunting soundtrack are sleek enough to put that to the back of your mind. The pace in the film chops and changes as we see different aspects of the pair's

inexorable bond to a backdrop of jeering music. In moments of high tension, reality fades into obscurity with double exposure and flicks between close ups of the faces of the two girls. This film explores themes which rose to public attention by the MeToo movement around consent, and the body vs politics.

'Last night in Soho' is also an ode to London nightlife, which is especially appreciated in a time when many hospitality business are wondering how they will survive post-pandemic. While the film might not last the test of time, and is not massively poetic, Edgar Wright's scenes do offer a great insight into the challenges which present in equal unjust measure in both generations.



This edition poses the question - are we losing the ability to communicate? when we are so used to seeing each other virtually.

The ability to recognize another person's verbal and non-verbal cues is key to successful social interactions. But new research suggests that technology may be interfering with our ability to detect how others are feeling.



## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**



## ***SUPERFLUX FILM 'THE INTERSECTION'***

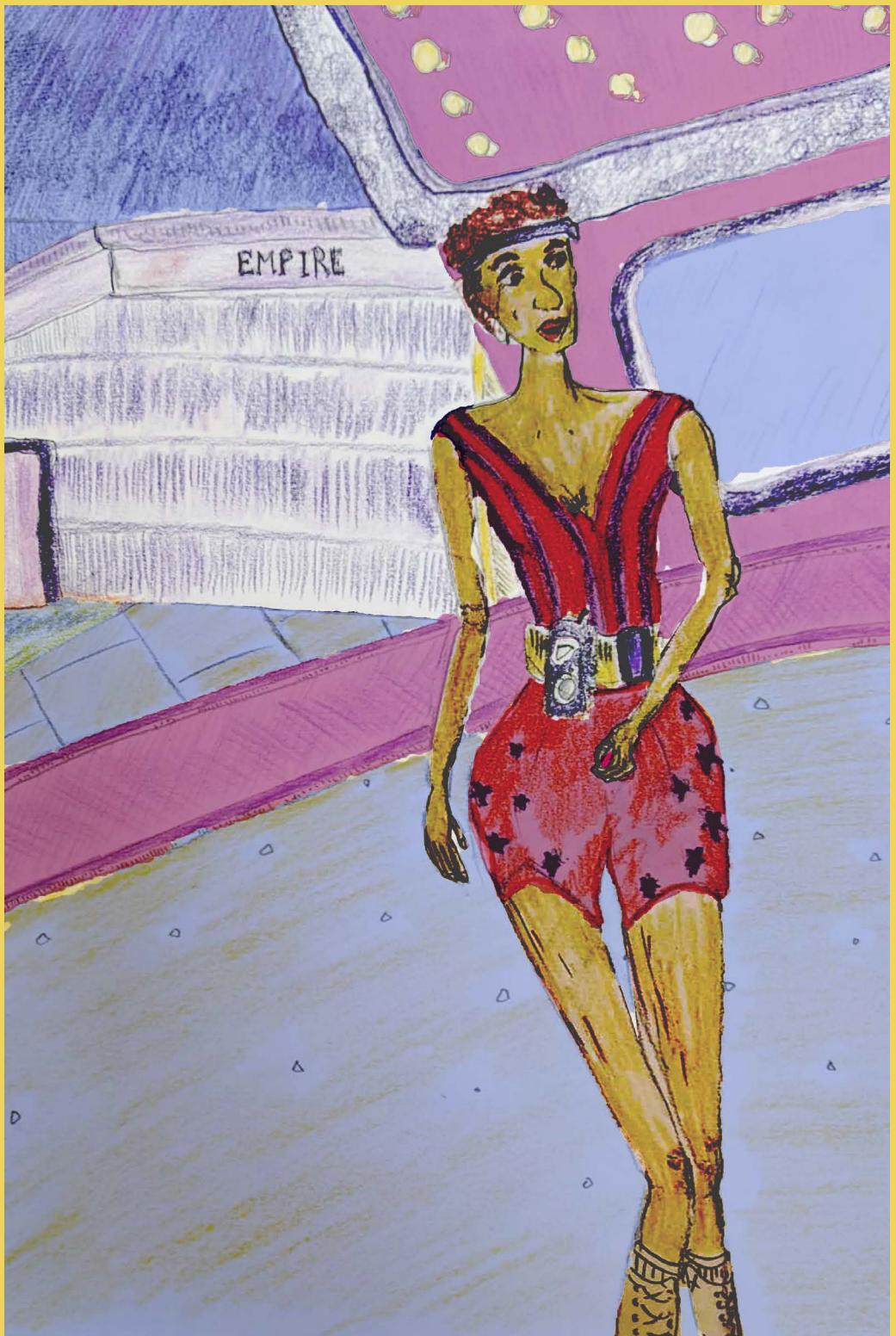
Set in the near future, our film the Intersection journeys from a violent present to a cooperative future.

Telling stories of active hope from those who have fought to reimagine extractive technology, to serve community, support nature, and value planetary relationships

I love this film as it portrays a future of extreme possibilities (in true speculative design form) but also a reality which is perhaps not as far off as we think, with the increased isolation and online activity we see post lockdown(s).

# HOME STYLE





**GET YOUR  
SKATES ON**



Al: "What's your work about then - what are some of the themes that its about?"

Lakwena: "the majority of my work is about speaking, having a voice. That's what it all boils down to really, about wanting to speak... A lot of the themes speak about life, about reality and where I find hope in life".

Al: "so I was wondering if you could tell us about your upbringing, how was that?"

Lakwena: "I was born in Enfield and I lived in Ethiopia and Uganda for a bit. Ethiopia has been this really formative experience. It was beautiful and in my memory, it was like paradise and I realise it wasn't really like that. And what I came back to was cold, grey. And I think that's a metaphor for what I experienced. Just the experience of being a minority of being marginalised. My work was a way to process it, a way to survive it."

# LAKWENA

## in interview

I wanted to reach out to Lakwena specifically, to pick her brains on all things technology, race and art. She was kind enough to spare some time and give an interview.

Do you think we have a problem with surveillance?

I definitely am disturbed by how much CCTV there is in London. I like the idea that I could if I ever wanted to go under the radar, and from what I hear, in London you cannot. I also don't understand why it's so bad here as opposed to in other cities. And it's all the other stuff now to be honest like facial recognition, the ability of the government to track our movements and our interests via our mobile phones. It just all feels like an infringement on our freedom.

# I often forget that reading and writing are forms of technology

How do you use technology for good on a daily basis? I use it to communicate with my family and friends. It helps me run my business. Google calendar is really helping me right now and I was avoiding that for years. I would love to live in a world without mobile phones, but this is the world we live in and they are helpful. I often forget that reading and writing are forms of technology. Yes, they are analogue, which I prefer, but they are still technology and at certain times in the past I think were feared for that reason, but we are all comfortable with them now so it's worth thinking about sometimes for context.

How does your work benefit from referencing popular culture?

I want to make work that is accessible and not elitist, so popular culture is a helpful reference point as it's something we all loosely share.

Thanks for the questions, lovely to hear from you!



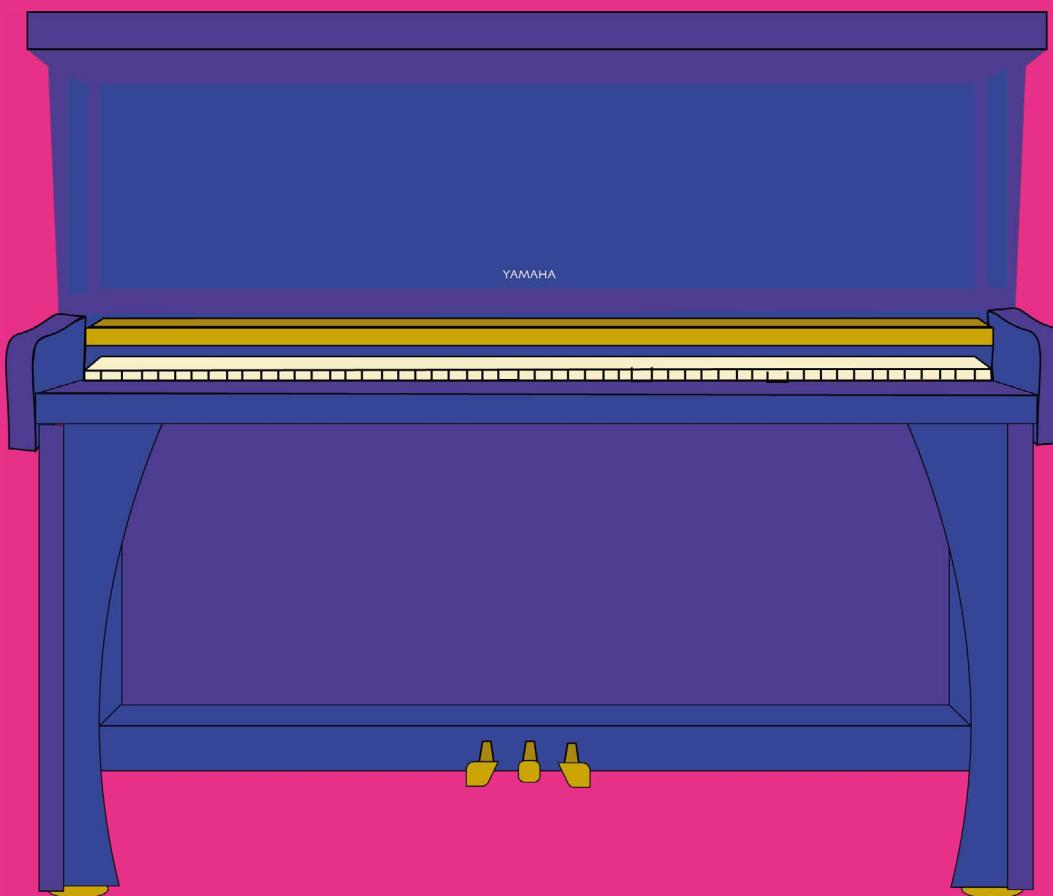
# 50 INVENTIONS OF THE 80'S - WHERE ARE THEY

40 is a special number for this publication - 40 pages, 40 gsm and now 40 flashbacks for you lovely readers too.

- |  |   |                            |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1. mobile phone                        | 11. Gameboy   | 30 rings of Neptune        |
| 2. Safe sex                            | 12. MTV   | 31 IVF                     |
| 3. Synthesisers                        | 13. Crimped hair                                      | 32 first domaine names     |
| 4. DNA                                 | 14. Shoulder pads                                     | 33 adobe photos            |
| 5. Fingerprinting                      | 15. Leg warmers                                       | 34 camcorder               |
| 6. Walkman                             | 16. Contact lenses                                    | 35 vaccine for Hepatitis B |
| 7. Disposable camera - interview Paint | 17. Microsoft Windows                                 | 36 artificial skin         |
| 8. CDs                                 | 18. Nicotine patches                                  | 37 nicotine patches        |
| 9. Space shuttle                       | 19. Artificial heart                                  | 38 paintballing            |
| 10. IBM personal Computers             | 20. Duran duran                                       | 39 Spirograph              |
|  | 21. Speak and spell as featured in E.T.               | 40 Leg warmers             |
|  | 22. Calculator watches                                |                            |
|  | 23. The everything card - precursor to a credit card! |                            |
|  | 24. Briefcase alarms                                  |                            |
|  | 25. Strawberry shortcake                              |                            |
|  | 26. Space themed lego                                 |                            |
|  | 27 Rubiks cube  |                            |
|  | 28 Polly pocket                                       |                            |
|  | 29 piano dance mat                                    |                            |



# VENEABLES



We prepare our pianos to a very high standard. This means that whichever piano you choose to buy, it will feel responsive, have a beautifully even tone and be reliable. All piano buyers will appreciate and benefit from our skill.

Being a family business means we genuinely care about our customers experience because we naturally value the family business history, reputation and future.

Buying a piano is a matter of personal choice, value and enrichment. The service you receive from initial enquiry, selection of piano, delivery and aftersales are all equally important.

Health issues which affect minorities disproportionately is an issue we have been aware of since pre 1980s, lets be real. But in light of COVID-19, the conversation around medical racism has once again come to the surface. Why do we see black people suffering more from certain diseases than white people? Well, one area to look at is the technology used in hospitals, pharmacy and research labs the world over.

Bias in the data sets used to develop the gadget Machines for matching organ donation Registers for stem cell transplants e.g.

Anthony Nolan Certain illnesses connected with certain groups / regions

fingertip pulse oximeters - a study published in December 2020 - devices significantly overestimate the level of blood oxygen in Black patients  
obstetric racism, black women 3 times ore likely to die in childbirth



## MACHINE - LEARN - BIAS



Black women are three to four times more likely to give birth prematurely than white women.

In the US

According to the bmp the UK has not collected any survey data specifically on older ethnic minority populations, but 'data from 2004, the last year when the Health Survey for England oversampled ethnic minority people (over 15 years ago), found that the proportion of people aged 61-70 reporting fair or bad health was 34% for white English people but 86% for Bangladeshi people, 69% for Pakistani people, 63% for Indian people, and 67% for black Caribbean people.'

Aside from Lack of access anyway  
Or conscious or unconscious bias BIPOC people may experience

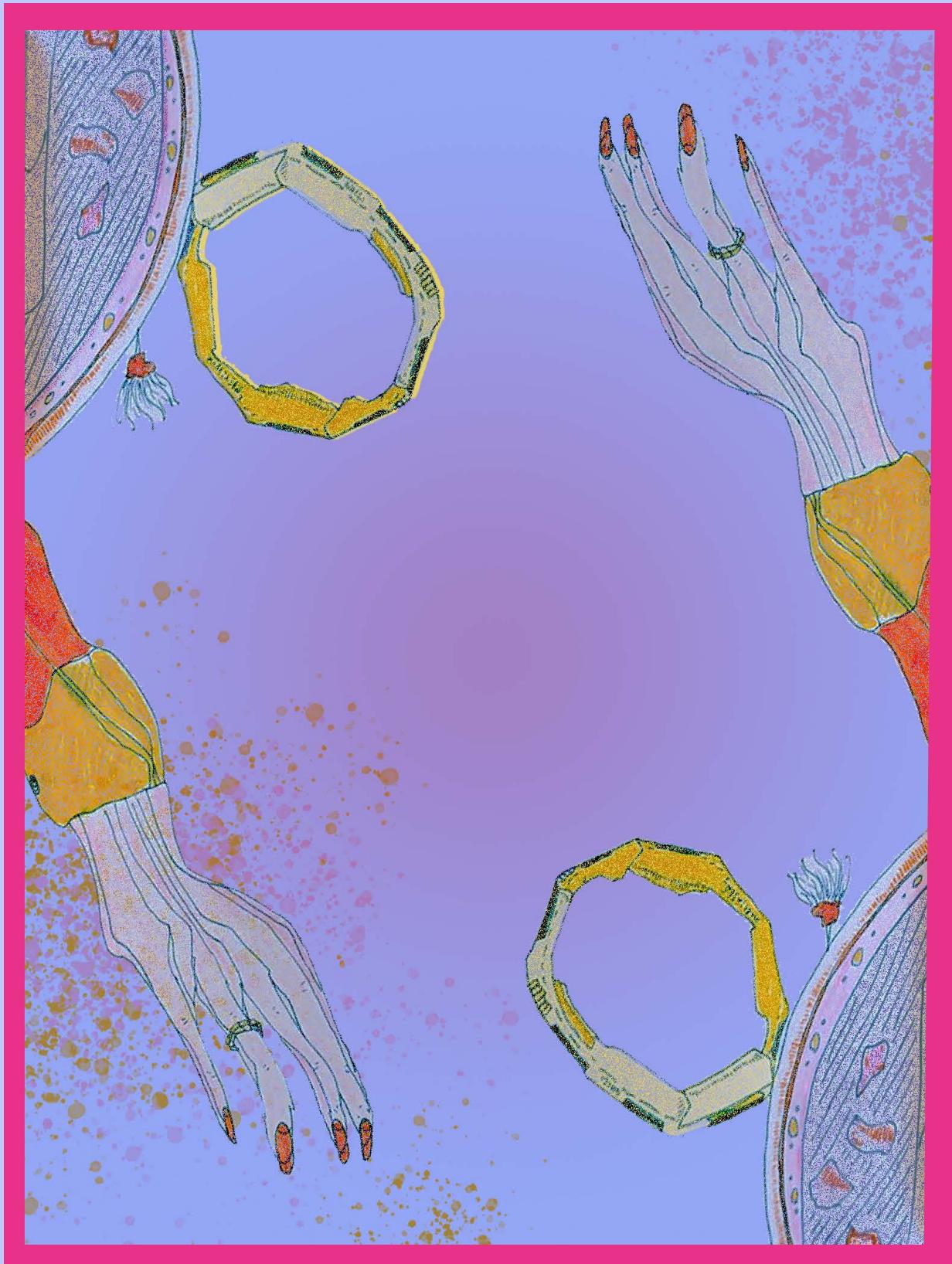
# HIDDEN JEMS

The 80s was the decade that heralded in jewellery to remember - from hoops, scalloped earrings and bangles to layer upon layer of bead necklaces, there's something for everyone in this come-back trend. Whether you want layer upon layer of pronounced bangles or a few colourful rhinestones lining your neck. Here are some of our top picks to see you through the bleak mid-winter.

Gucci's link to love is the 80s style piece we all need to complete the ultimate capsule jewellery collection this winter. Their video by Angelo Pennetta has a surreal, 'Truman Show' effect to it, with bubblegum colours, and slow, synchronised movement.

Another option for a glammed-up night out, is this crystal single earring with your initial on from Retrofete. These statement gems will have heads turning! Whichever you pick, remember this month as we look back at jewellery of times gone by - diamonds are forever.

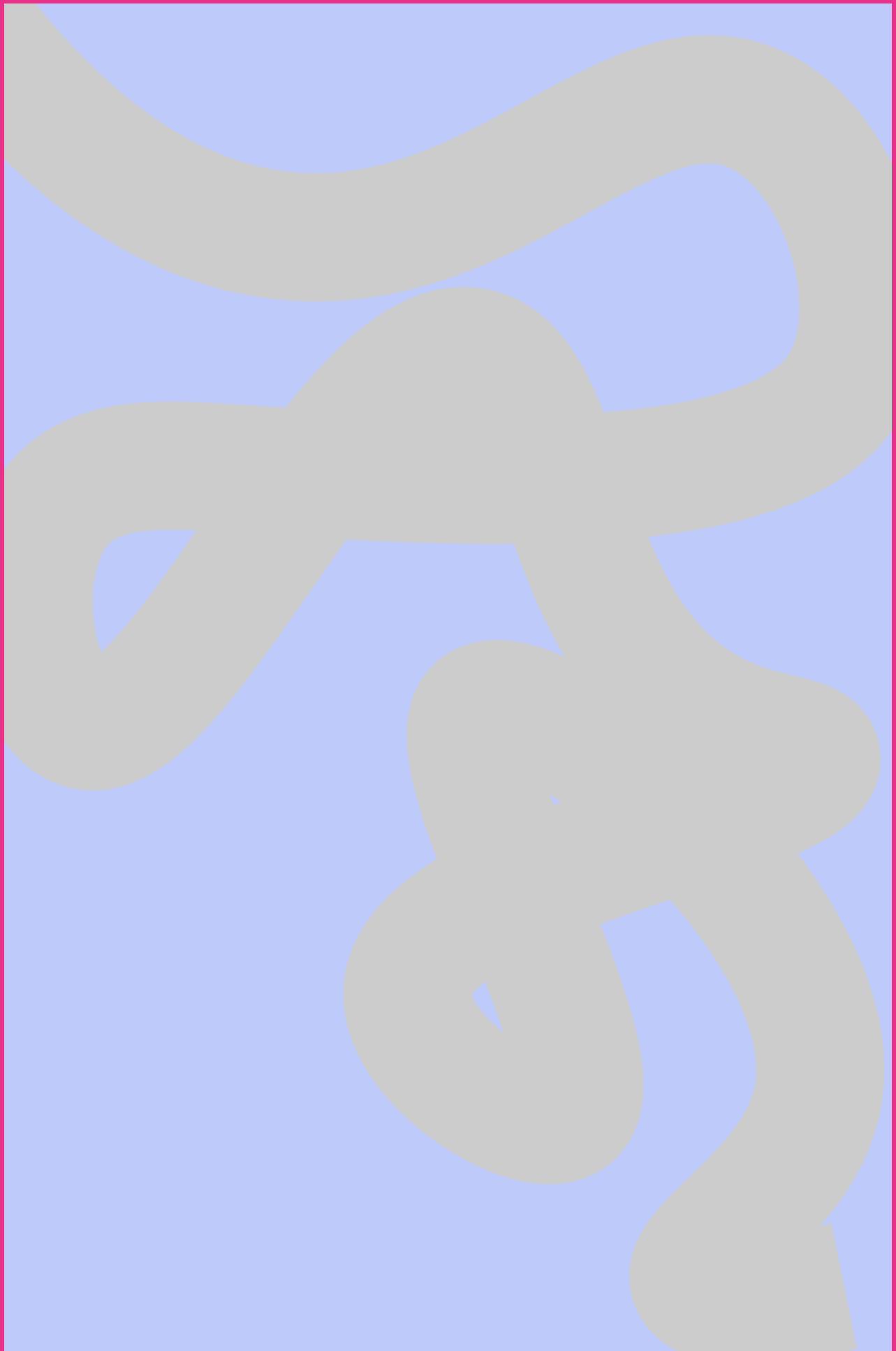




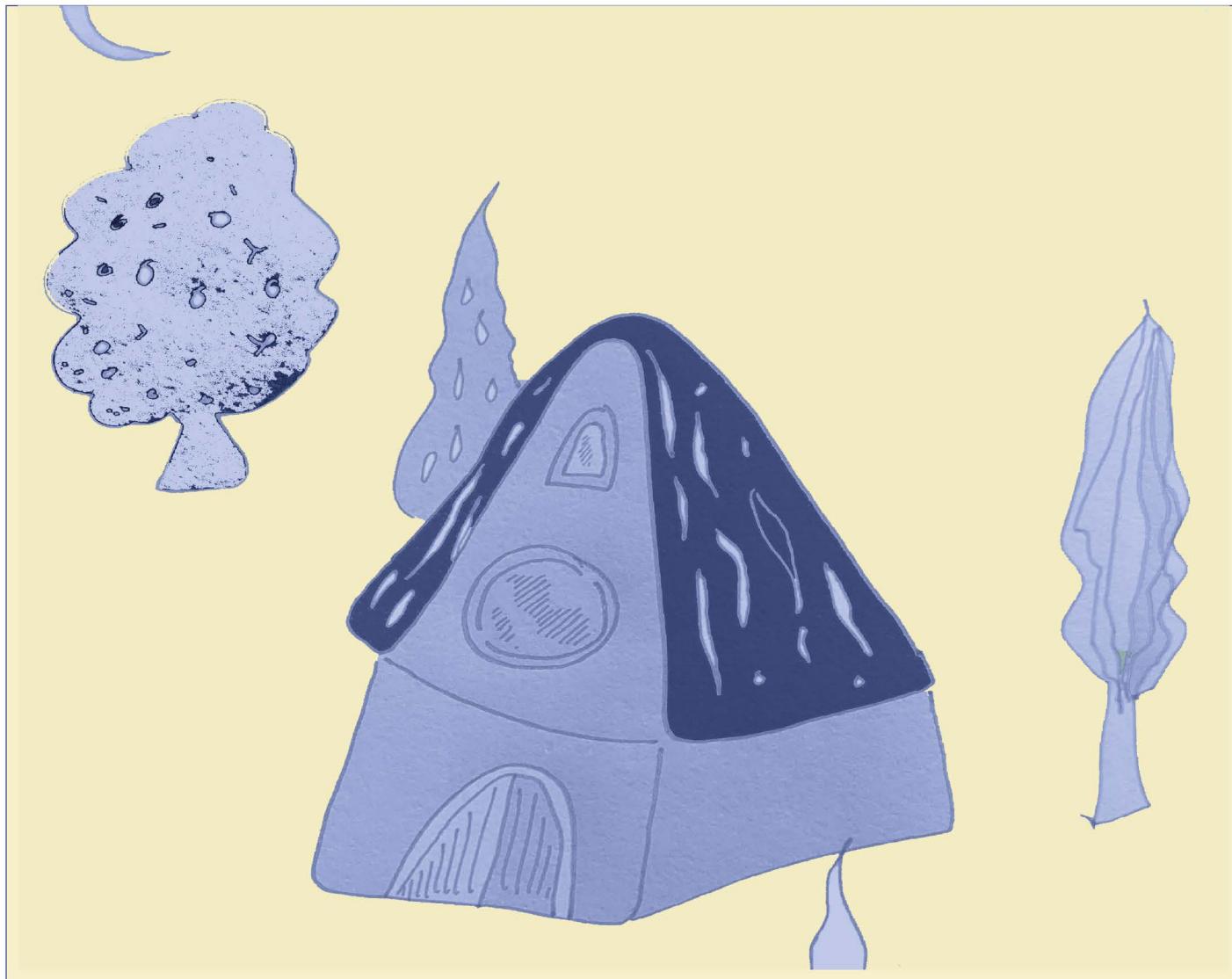
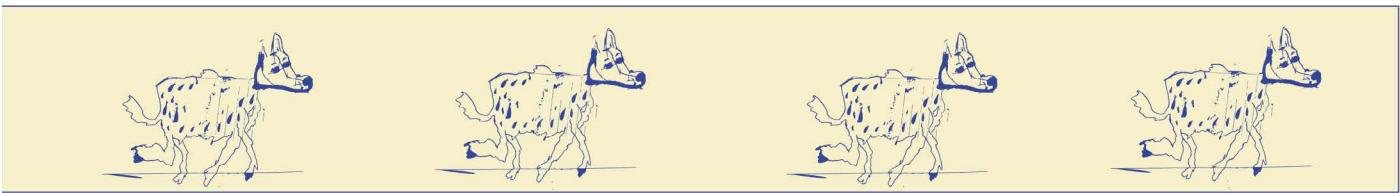
Gucci's Link to Love logo-embossed 18ct yellow  
gold and 0.9 tourmaline gemstone ring



guess  
who?

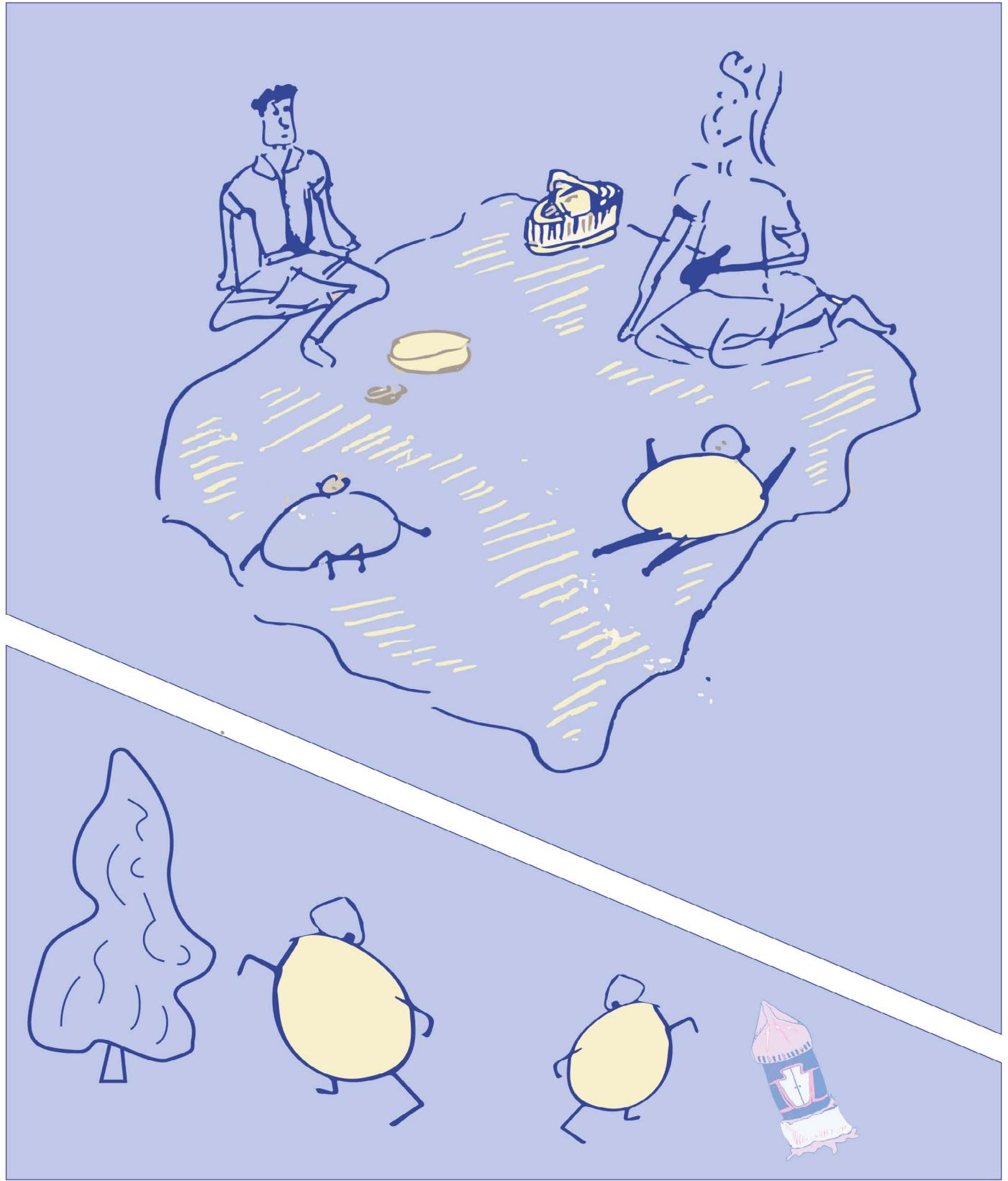






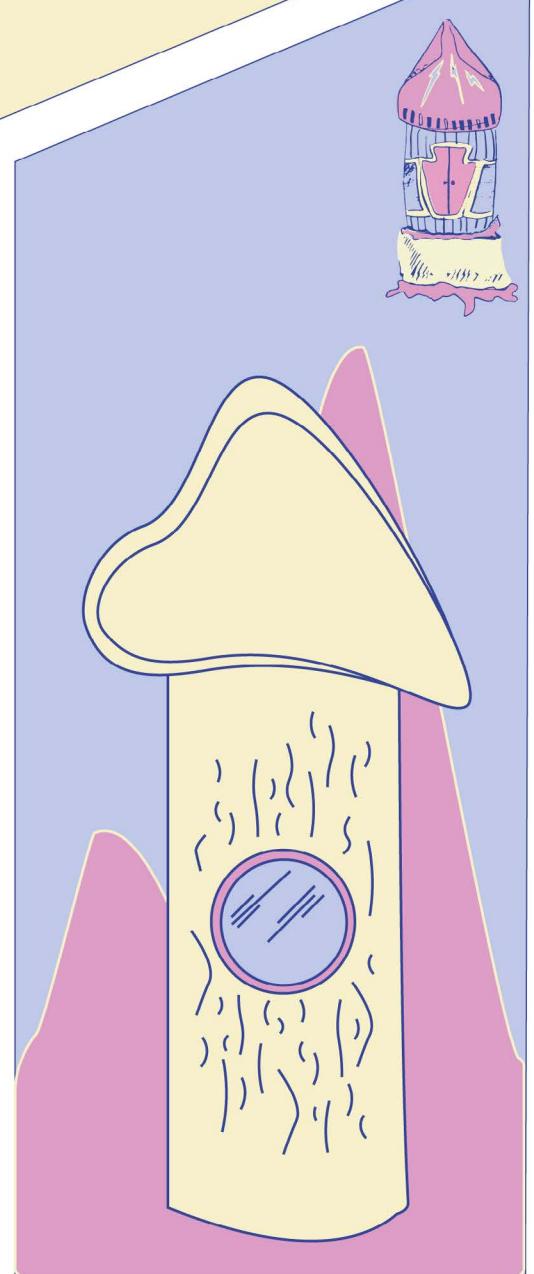
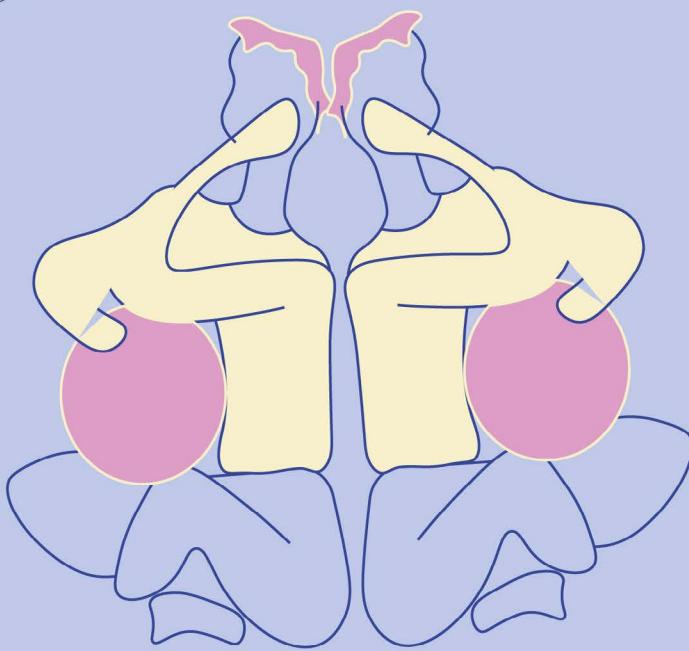
We lived in the house they had built when we started at the shcool. We had zebras living in our neighbourhood, who used to run across our front lawns in the morning. We enjoyed the chaning of the seasons - took it for granted I suppose, when different herbs were available in the local store. But then there came droughts, plagues and obviously, war. Emptiness filled the streets.





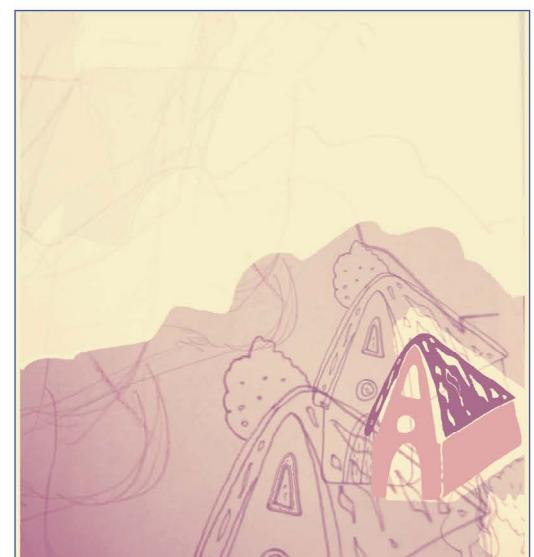
We were a strange family, at least that's what other people told us, but we were happy. We'd sit in the glade, next to our house and eat the picnic we'd scrambled together moments before when we realised there was time. Our lives together were insular, and people we saw at school or the market always felt distant and different.

I don't know where are parents are now,  
but we are looking after the house  
and everything,  
because some day soon  
they  
are coming  
back.



I remember there used to be all kinds of animals -  
wolves, birds of prey, tropical fish. Slowly but  
surely, they all left - I know not where, but I know  
they will not come back.

Instead we survive in a desolate wasteland of our  
own making.



I can  
hear  
alarms

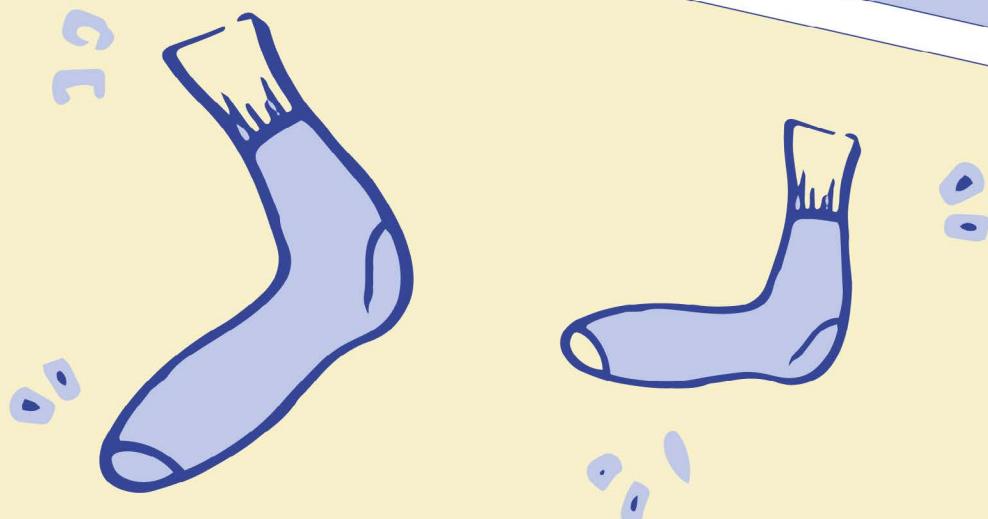


Alarms everywhere

RUN !

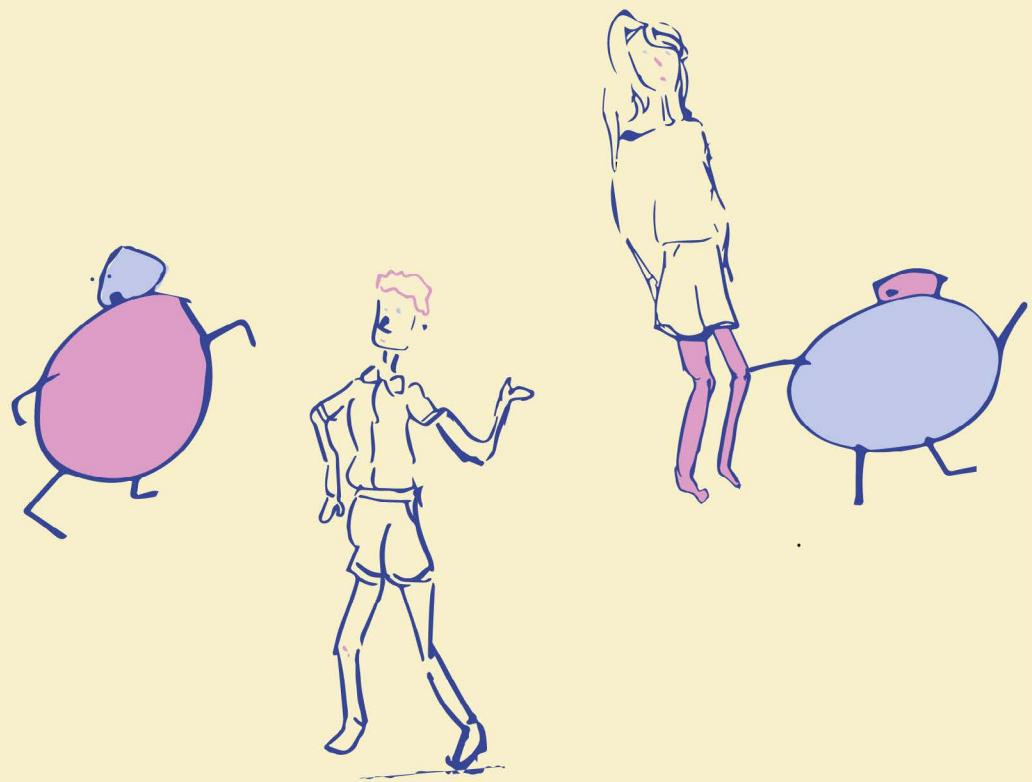
People

shouted

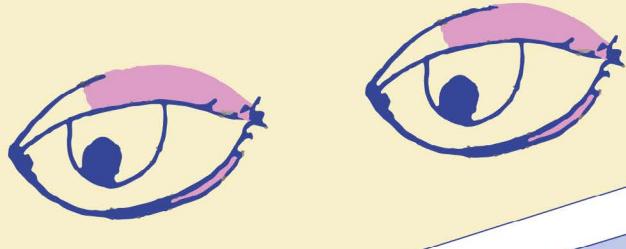


We had to run so much that day, I'd never been so strung out.

As we reached the cliff which signposted our demise, I could still hear the sound of alarms ringing in my ears.



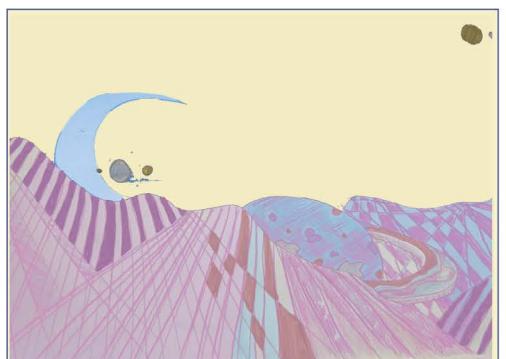
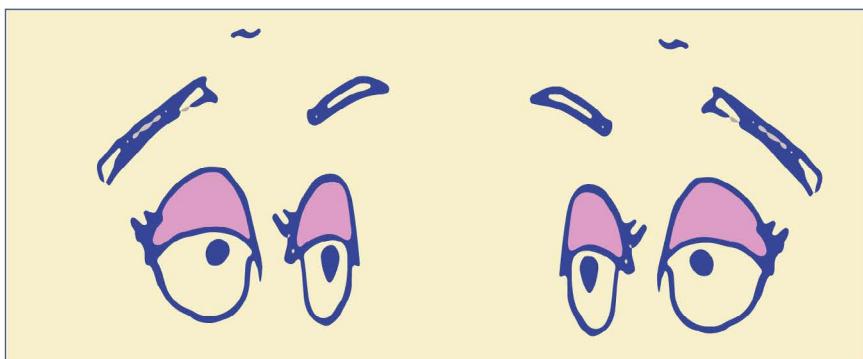
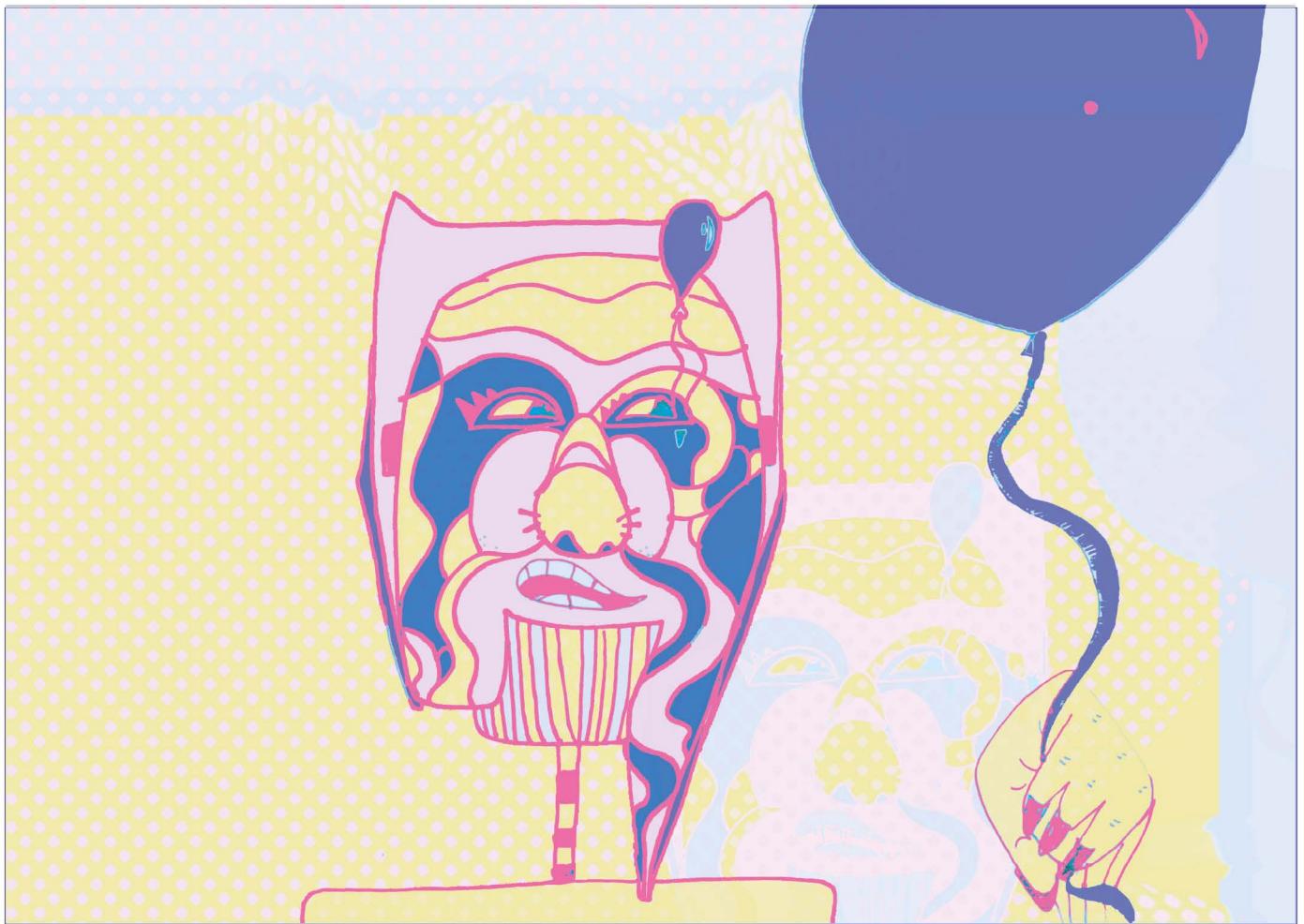
We kept running and running, up some pretty brutal hills too. For a while I am keeping up with mum pretty well, but I never was that big on sport.



At one point I fell, at least my sister told me that afterwards - I don't remember.

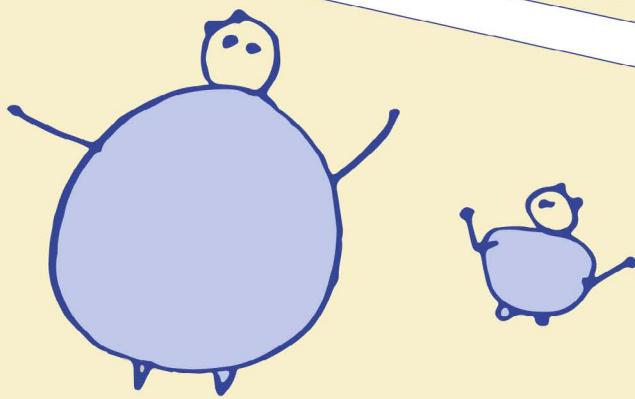
The last thing I remember seeing is the back of mum's head getting further and further away from me. Tough and brittle, the cliff was not my friend. I couldn't grasp on anymore to the sheer edge. A feeling like when you dream about falling came over me.





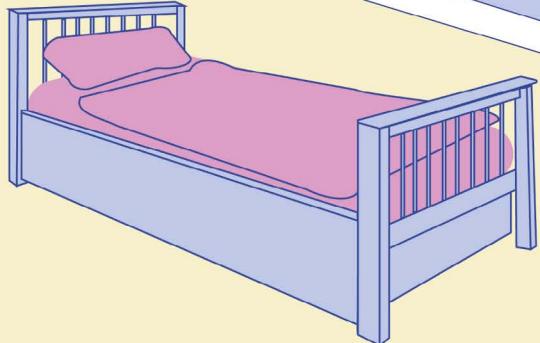
We opened our eyes at the same time. We're lying on the other side of the hill our parents always told us not to climb.

I can see a guy. I think he is meant to be a doctor, but is sort of half-machine with antlers.

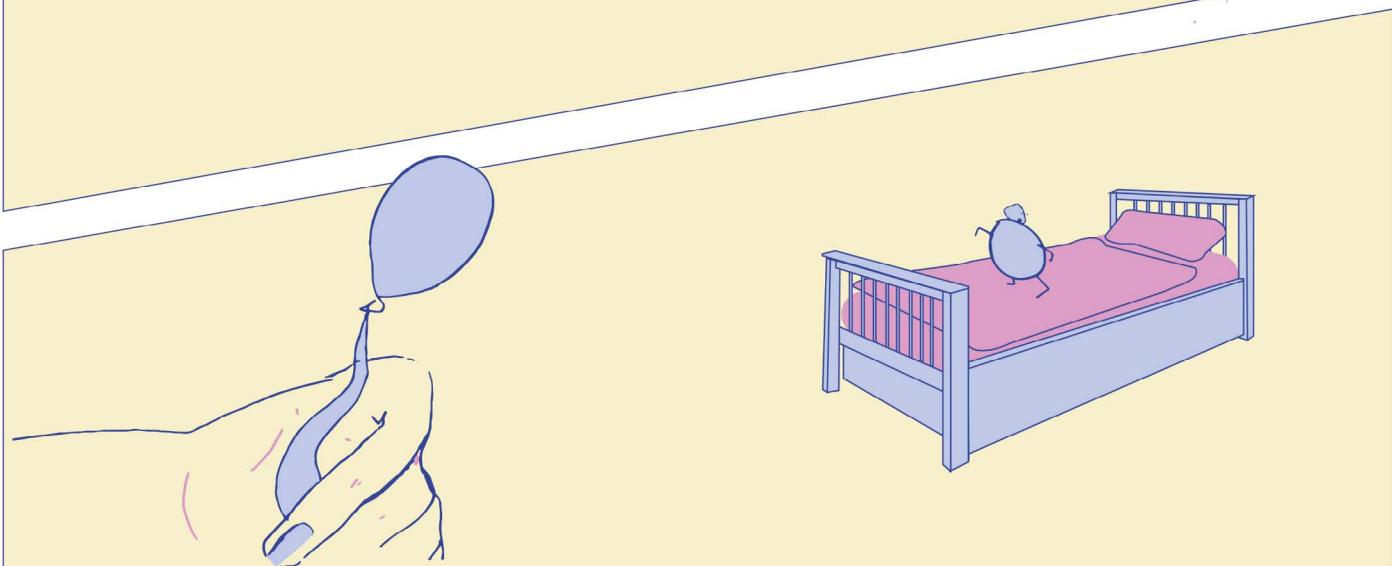


He carries a balloon as he walks towards me that seems to frown down over our cold feet. The walls around me are austere, and the environment is completely foreign. Maybe it's a hospital, maybe a prison cell - I couldn't tell?

My head feels fuzzy, and I don't see the others. Sleep is a joyous diversion for my wandering mind - where are my family, and where am I? These thoughts circle round my head as I doze, unable to do anything else.

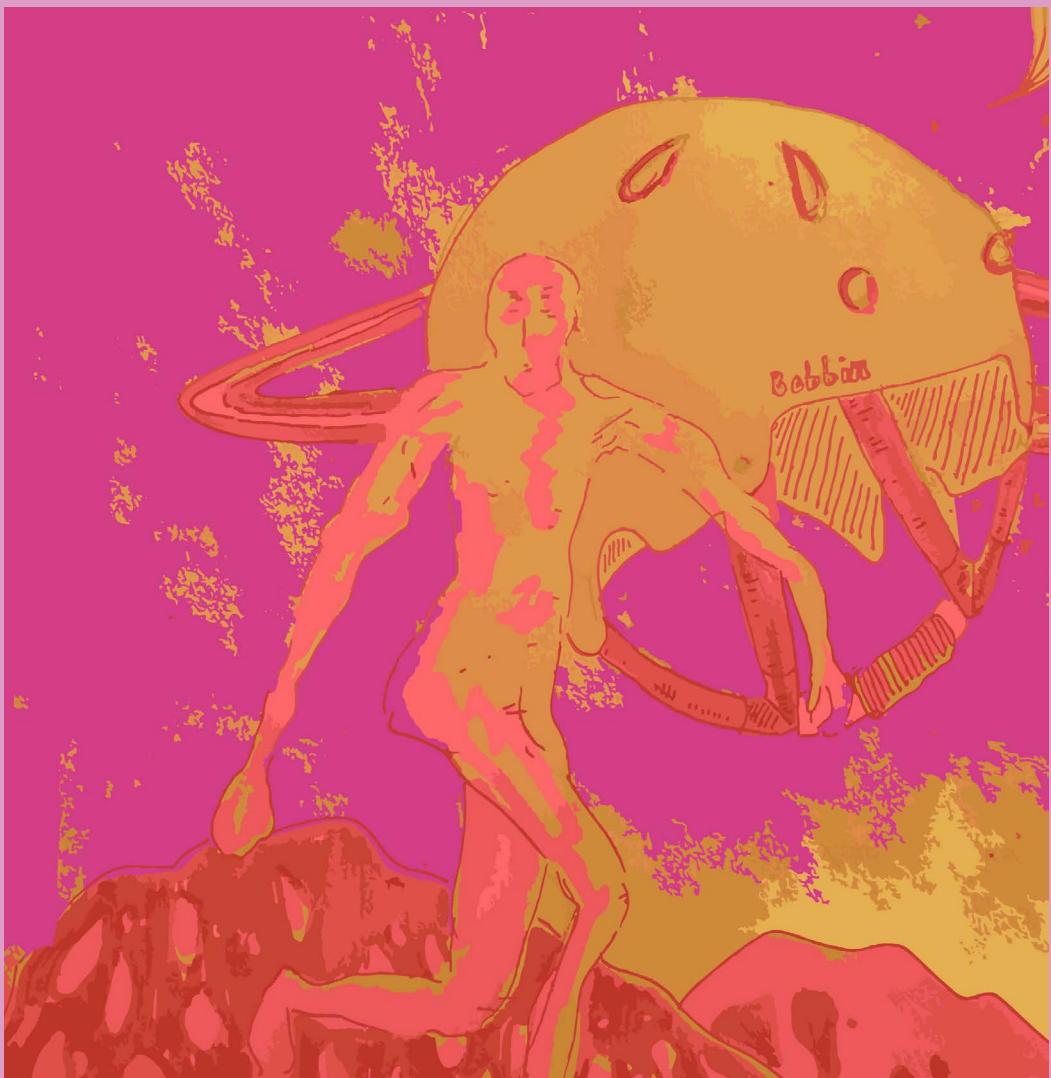


He's reaching out a hand to me, and I sense that to take it would do me harm. Compelled by curiosity, I hop over...



*come back soon FOR more*

... . . .



**Or the bubble candle trend which has been circulating round instagram for longer than shy about it. Perhaps this is another ste**

## Kitsch Kitchens:

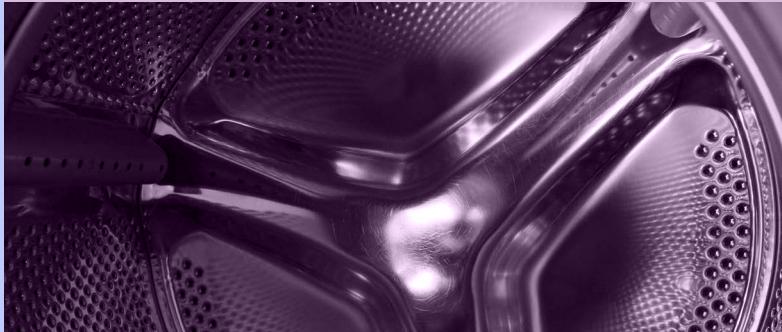
**an 80s homeware resurgence**

**Kitsch statement pieces are all around**

**Whether its smoked glass-ware, eccentric chairs,**

**Following the intimate if showy aura of 70s homeware, mushroom lamp,**

**Urban outfitters bubble vas with orange tint**



# HORRORBLOCK

## HASHTORBLES?

As we herald in a new year, I think it is important to look back and take stock. Not just on an individual level, but on a societal level. What is happening around us, to us, within us? We are 42 years on from 1980, which means 42 years from the death of John Lennon and 42 years from the Rubik's Cube hitting shop shelves for the first time. It was Spanish philosopher George Santayana who famously reminds us "those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it".

So let's look back, and where better to look than the decade that brought us Thriller (and with it a killer music video), shoulder pads, leg warmers and the dream of a life where we all travel by hoverboard in Back to the Future. In the 1980s, freedom became an idol to be worshipped and adored.

For some there was backlash from creating that freedom. It was a reaction to a conservative culture etc. after a decade of the Iron Lady's reign (by the way, if I could choose how I die it will be in the Ritz too). There was also creativity everywhere and almost a naive innocence, with capitalism yes but without schemes to retrain our brains and track our every move.

Rubiks cubes are still a point of fascination, and have evolved with fidget spinners etc, and we still have a great obsession with the music of the decade. Star Wars remakes

And yet some things are beginning to change. Now there is backlash against that freedom - we are uprooting haunted figures with the MeToo movement eg Jimmy Saville and we are uprooting colonial figures and Britney Spears' father.

From a decade long conservative government, glimpses of hope for an anti-racist movement, or a global pandemic inciting fear and confusion throughout the UK there are endless similarities between contemporary life and the Duran Duran years. We're currently in a synth revival and in homeware there is a definite resurgence in wavy glass cup handles. We have iconic TV hits like 'It's a Sin', 'Stranger Things' or 'The Crown' ensuring that 80s nostalgia is all around us. More disheartening examples can be found in tube strikes, war in the Middle East and an unknown, confusing disease which effects its victims disproportionately. Yet the pandemic has enabled us to exchange Jane Fonda workout videos for Joe Wicks. The 80s saw 'yuppie' boomers with well paying jobs and crippling anxiety, who maybe aren't that different from today's millennials - why else would 'Seinfeld' be brought to Netflix.



"History develops,  
art stands still". -  
E.M. Forster

**REVENANT**

**Send in your:**

**POEMS // SHORT STORIES //  
MEMORIES // MUSIC + FILM  
REVIEWS**

**AND GET  
FEATURED IN A NEW  
PUBLICATION**

**TOPICS INCLUDE:**  
**RACE // SEXUALITY // GENDER //**  
**THE FEMALE GAZE //**  
+++ especially how you percieve  
technology to impact these topics

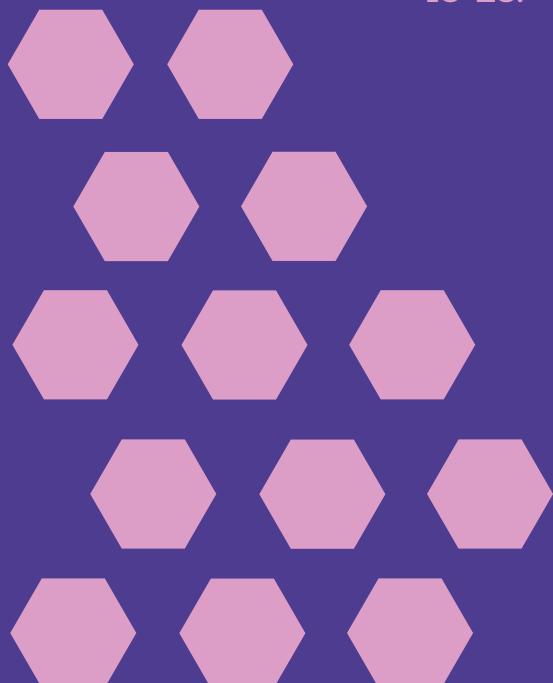


# wearing is caring

a warm welcome to akt

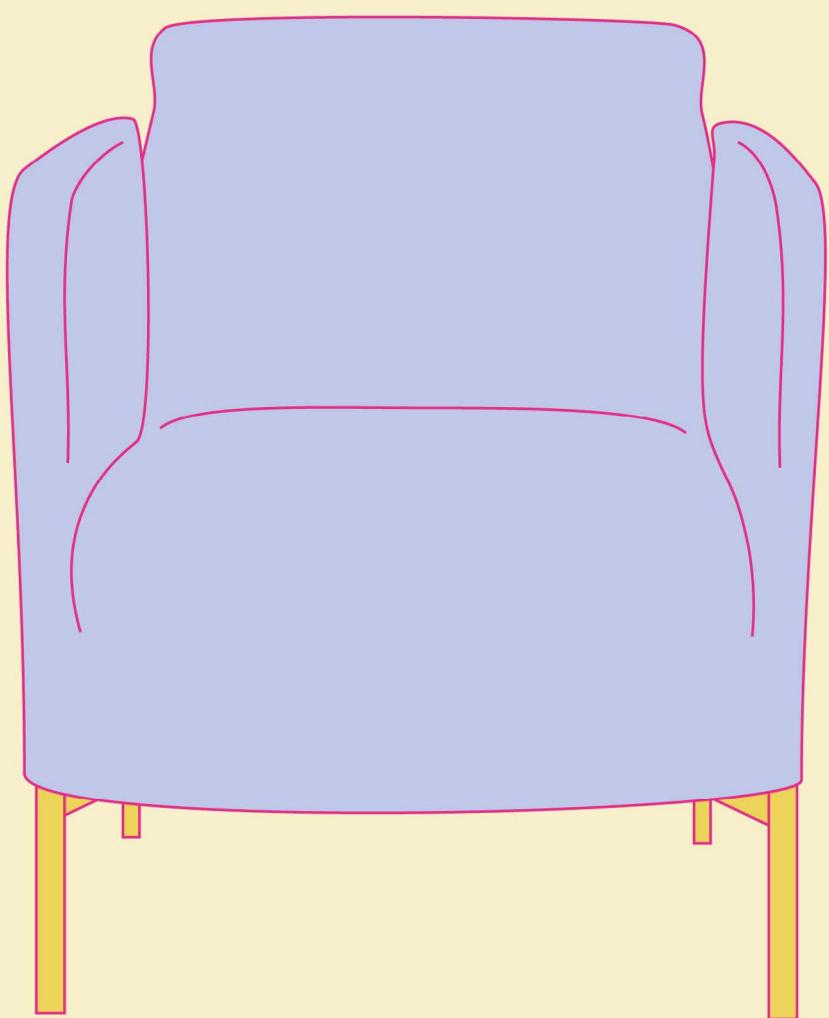
show your support this winter  
by buying one of our comfy  
NEW T SHIRTS

AKT is a lgbtq+ homelessness  
charity based in london,  
manchester, newcastle and  
bristol which supports  
people aged  
16-25.



**77% of homeless  
people** who identify as LGBTQ+  
said that coming out was a key contributer

**40 % had sought  
help from mental  
health services**



**THEY ASKED ME TO MOVE  
AND I WILL NOT MOVE  
BECAUSE HISTORY  
HAD ME GLUED TO THE SEAT**