



# **IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE DAWN**

**THESIS BY  
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# Thesis statement

This collection represents the physical and visual embodiment of the coming out experience. When one is in the closet their life is drained of their identity, drained of their uniqueness, drained of their truth and drained of colour.

'Coming out of the closet' is a long and lengthy struggle. Starting with self-acceptance, its a ongoing process that a queer person experiences for the rest of their life. Even once you've come out to everyone in your life (if you are safe to do so) you still have to come out to everyone new that enters your circle, or even strangers when you walk down the street holding hands with your partner.

Once you start to accept yourself and step out of the dark, colourless closet the light and colour starts to return to your life. This may happen when you tell the first person, or when you find the warmth and acceptance of the Queer Community.

Every queer person is on their own unique journey. It's heartbreaking and gut wrenching. It's messy and it's beautiful. What's unifying is the feeling of self love and acceptance we feel when we finally come to terms with who we are. It's this universal brightness that my thesis celebrates.

Through the use of symbolism and traditionally queer silhouettes I will visually represent my process of coming out. That there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Remember- It's always darkest before dawn. Even the darkest nights end, the sun comes up and it scares away the darkness. It gets better, I promise. You just have to take the first step.

# PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

## 1. WHAT AGE ARE YOU?

21

## COMING OUT STATS

### MOST SAY IT WAS HARD TO TELL PARENTS...

% saying...  
= Not difficult      = Difficult

### Telling mother was...

All LGBT  
Gay men  
Lesbians  
Bisexuals

40 51  
36 64  
33 65  
52 48

### Telling father was...

All LGBT  
Gay men  
Lesbians  
Bisexuals

34 65  
26 74  
37 63  
46 54

### SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE DIFFERS BY REGION

% of gay men and lesbians saying there is social acceptance of people who are LGBT in their city or town

West  
Northeast  
South  
Midwest

Alot  
Some  
Only a little/  
None

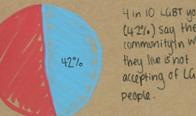
### THE COMING OUT EXPERIENCE: WHEN YOU THOUGHT, KNEW, TOLD

Medium age of which gay men/lesbians/bisexuals say they were or might be LGBT

Gay Men  
Lesbians  
Bisexuals

10 16 18  
13 18 21  
15 17 20

### COMMUNITY THEY LIVE IN



### Negative Messages

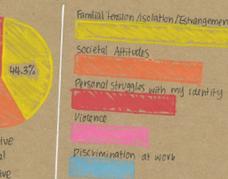
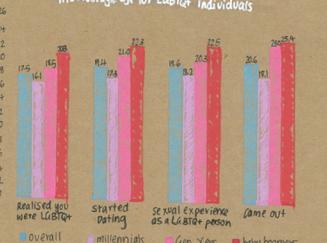
92% of LGBT youth say they hear negative messages about being LGBT. The top sources are school, the internet, and their peers.

## 8. DO YOU THINK STAYING IN THE CLOSET CAN NEGATIVELY AFFECT A YOUNG PERSON'S MENTAL HEALTH?

- YES
- NO

## COMING OUT STATS

### THE AVERAGE AGE FOR LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS



### HAPPINESS IN YOUTH

#### OUT

#### NOT OUT

### EARLY FEELINGS ABOUT SEXUALITY

#### % SAYING THEY WERE... WHEN THEY FIRST FELT THEY MIGHT NOT BE STRAIGHT

All LGBT  
Gay Men  
Lesbians  
Bisexuals

54 23 23  
77 13 10  
71 23 6  
28 52 39

= All or most  
Some  
Only a few/none

LGBT youth out to their immediate families are more likely to report being happy than those who are not out.

median age 12 10 13 13

Shame, fear, safety, sadness, loneliness, caution, uncertainty, protection

throws at our confidence and sense of self

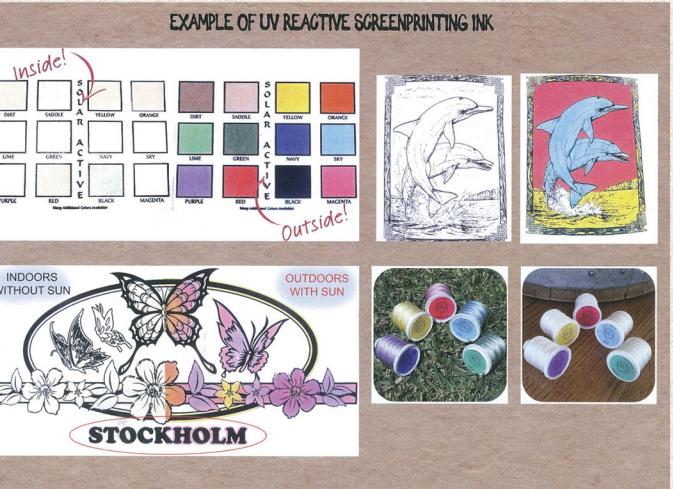
# GRAPHIC EXPLORATION AND GRAPHIC RESEARCH

The image features a vertical, repeating pattern of the word "QUEER". The word is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. It is overlaid by a dark brown, textured background. A thick, black, organic line art graphic runs vertically through the center of each word. This graphic is composed of several interlocking and looping forms that resemble vines or stylized flames, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is one of a modern, graphic design poster.



I plan to use a unique screenprint printing ink which is colourless under normal light, but under sunlight or UV light the inks hidden colour emerges. This aligns with when the person is in the dark closet the clothes are colourless but when the person steps out of the closet into the light (in this case the UV light) the colour returns to their life.

## TECHNIQUES TO UTILIZE THE UV SCREENPRINTING sp) INK



### Flocking transfer WITH UV THREAD



- METHODS:
- VELVET BURNOUT
  - FLOCKING VIA SP THE FLOCKING GLUE AND HEAT SETTING THE FLOCKING SHEET
  - FLOCKING VIA CUTTING THE SHAPES OUT ON A VINYL CUTTER AND HEAT-SETTING THE TRANSFER

### Paint crackle WITH UV INK BELOW



- METHODS:
- SCREENPRINT GRAPHIC
  - CRACKLE PASTE
  - FLOUR PASTE
  - THICK COAT OF SP INK

### Contrast stitching USING THE UV REACTIVE STITCHING



- METHODS:
- RUCHING
  - SEAMS
  - BONING
  - PANELS
  - ZIPPERS
  - LETTUCE HEM
  - OVERLOCK SEAMS
  - DIY PINSTRIPES

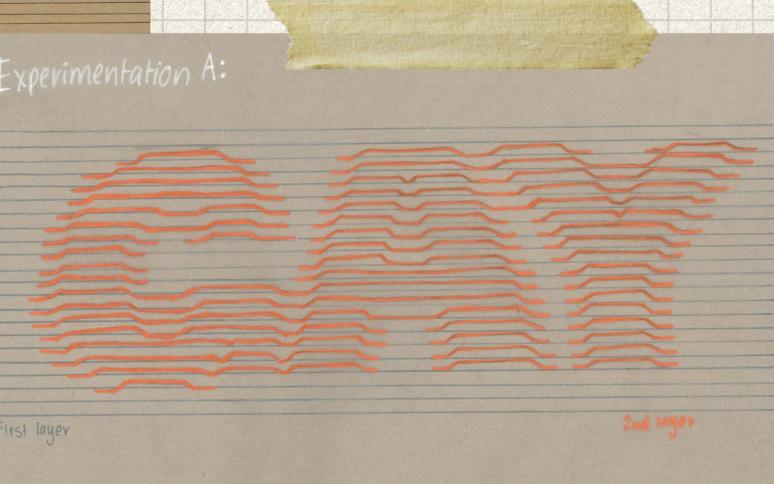
### Experimentation A:



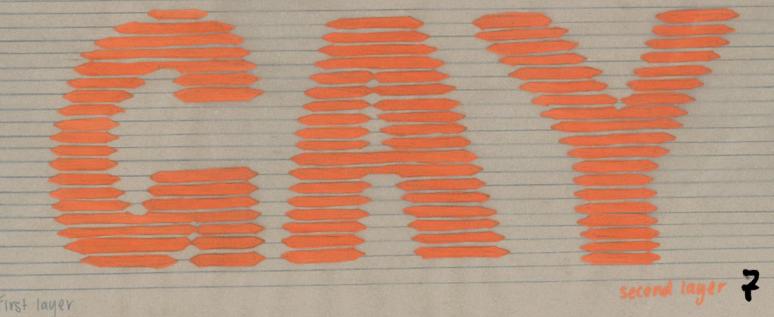
### Experimentation B:



### Experimentation A:



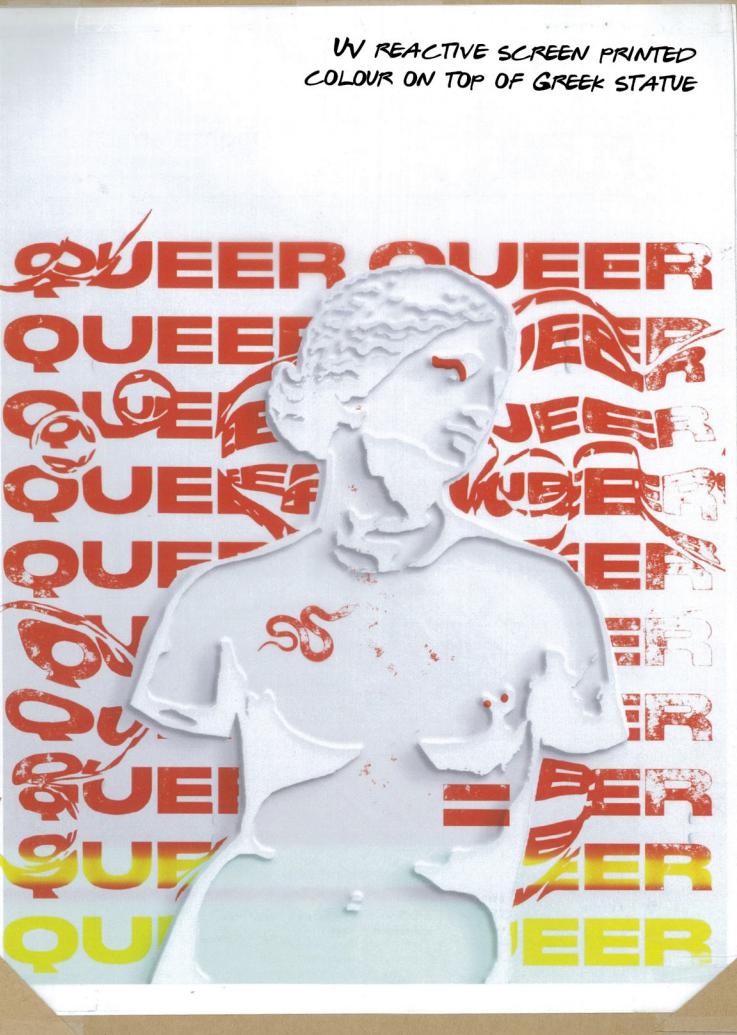
### Experimentation B:



WHEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT SYMBOLS THAT AREN'T STEREOTYPICALLY I KEPT THINKING ABOUT HOW WHEN ONE IS IN THE CLOSET THEY ARE TRYING TO BLEND IN WITH SOCIETY'S VISION OF THE 'IDEAL SELF'. SYMBOLICALLY I FEEL THIS CAN BE REPRESENTED THROUGH GREEK STATUES AS THEY WERE SOCIETY'S IDEAL VISUAL AND MENTAL FORM.



Mock up of heat embossed Greek Statue



UV REACTIVE SCREEN PRINTED COLOUR ON TOP OF GREEK STATUE

Mock up of UV reactive screen printed colour onto of heat embossed Greek statue



WHITE SCREENPRINTING INK ON BLACK FABRIC

MY RESEARCH AND GRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT. ABOVE IS THE FINAL PATTERN THAT I CREATED WHICH CREATES A SEAMLESS PATTERN, NO MATTER THE SHAPE.

ORANGE UV REACTIVE INK PRINTED ONTOP

## CLOUDS

Clouds have a very multi-layered symbolism when used in art. After doing a bit of research on the symbolism of clouds I thought that conceptually it could be a graphic to include along side the Greek statues.

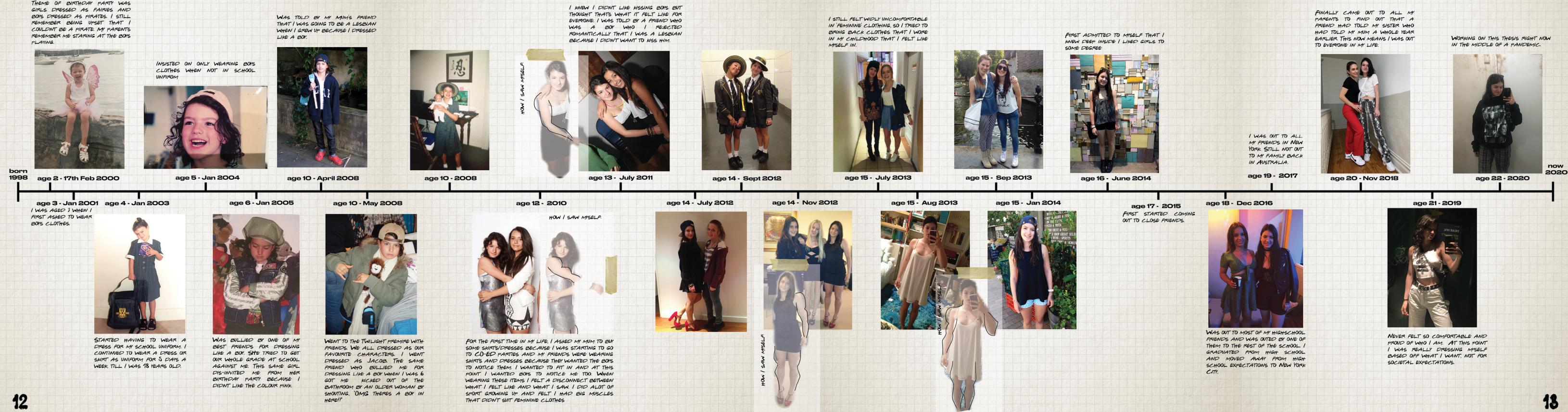
Clouds are most often seen as a deception which obscures the truth. They quite literally get in the way of the sun. But, clouds are not without their benefits. That's because they carry rain. A rainy day might be unpleasant, but, its the only way to feed the garden. So, eliminating these deceptive clouds might be unpleasant in the short term but it keeps the garden healthy.

The sun takes a very proactive approach to the clouds, with the sun representing the truth. Clouds can also represent a veil. It basically hides stuff behind its depths. It means, the donation will be hiding your real concerns or yourself from everyone. Clouds hide objects in their depths, and clouds hide objects behind their scope.

Clouds can also represent strength, especially when its white. The colour has a separate base of the meaning that indicates inner consciousness and inner strength. It can remind you to use the strength and reach your goals. This will lead you to the right path so you can discover yourself eventually.



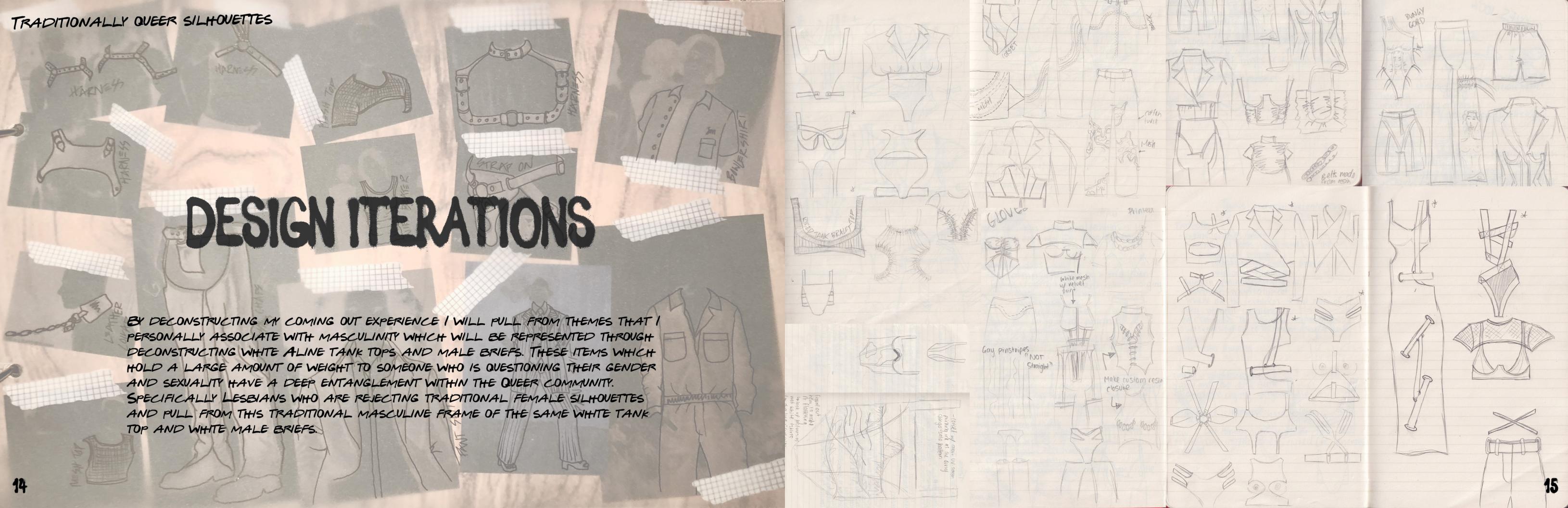
# GENDER AND SEXUALITY TIME LINE



# GENDER AND SEXUALITY TIME LINE

WORKING ON THIS THESIS RIGHT NOW  
IN THE MIDDLE OF A PANDEMIC

now  
2020

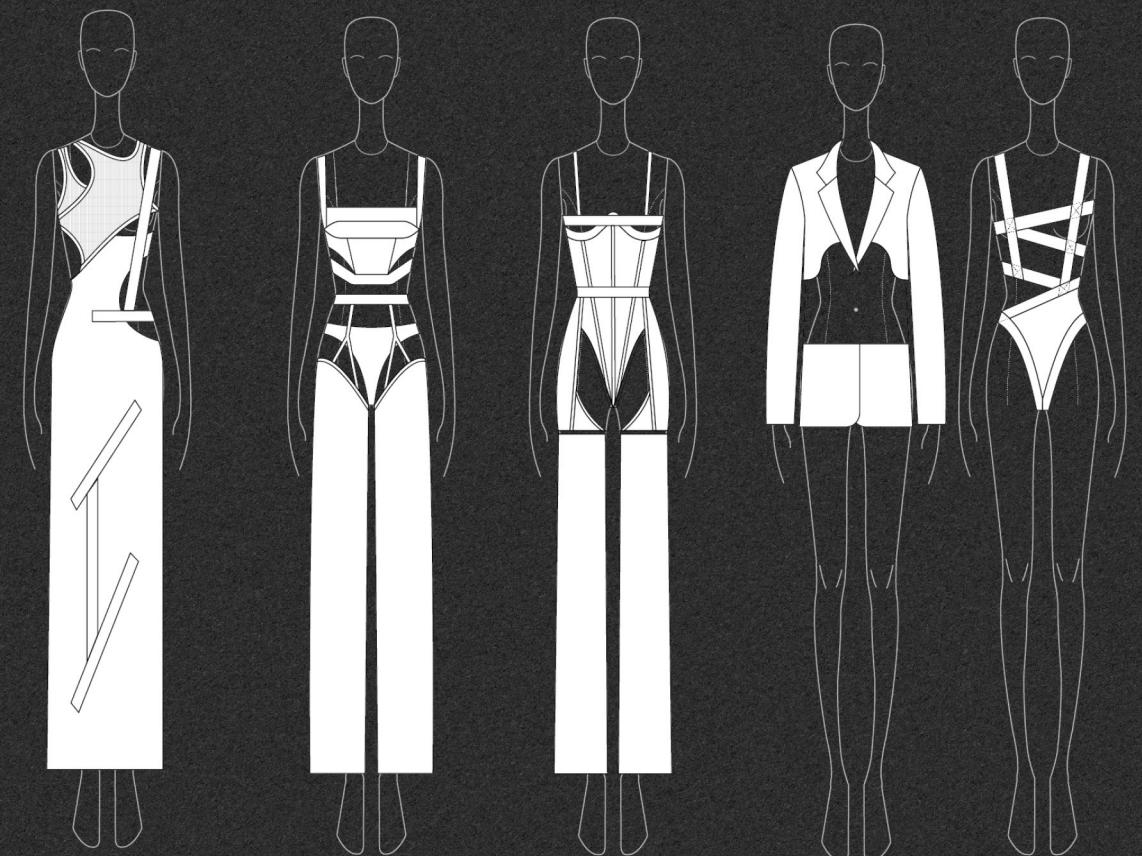


# TANK TOP DRAPE



# BRIEF UNDERWEAR DRAPE

LINE UP WITHOUT UV LIGHT



18 LOOK 1

LOOK 2

LOOK 3

LOOK 4

LOOK 5

LOOK 6

LINE UP WITH UV LIGHT



LOOK 1

LOOK 2

LOOK 3

LOOK 4

LOOK 5

LOOK 6

19

CHECK OUT

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