

ENTH ST

FOURTEENTH ST

FOURTE

ENTH ST

FOURTEENTH ST

FOURTE

ENTH ST

FOURTEENTH ST

FOURTE

ITS ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE DAWN

ENTH ST

FOURTEENTH ST

FOURTE

ENTH ST

FOURTEENTH ST

FOURTE

THESIS BY MIKKI MCCANN

ENTH ST

FOURTEENTH ST

FOURTE

ITS ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE DAWN

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.

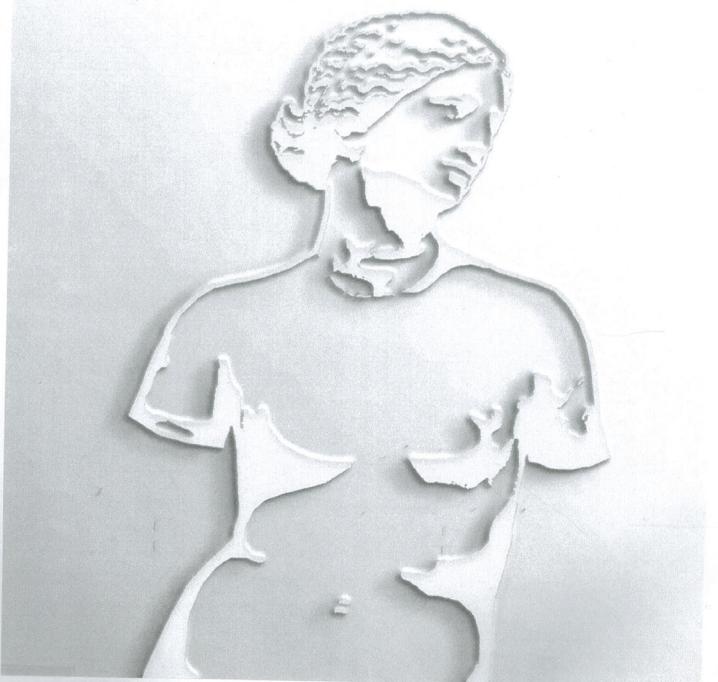
Through the use of symbolism and traditionally queer silhouettes I will visually represent my process of coming out. That there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

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.

FOURTEENTH ST

GRAPHIC EXPLORATION AND GRAPHIC RESEARCH

WHEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT SYMBOLS THAT AREN'T STEREOTYPICAL 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.



Play up of heat-embossed Greek statue

UV REACTIVE SCREEN PRINTED COLOUR ON TOP OF GREEK STATUE



Mock up of UV reactive screenprinted colour onto of heat embossed Greek statue

UV SCREENPRINTING INK



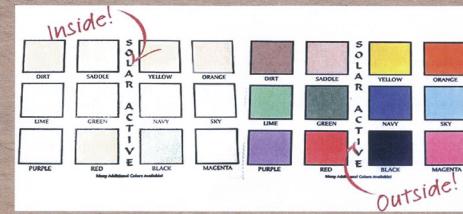
I plan to use a unique screenprinting printing ink which is colourless under normal light, but under sunlight or UV light the inks hidden colour emerges. This aligns with when the person is in the dark closet the clothes are colourless but when the person steps out of the closet into the light (in this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

WHITE SCREENPRINTING INK ON BLACK FABRIC

ORANGE UV REACTIVE INK PRINTED ON TOP



EXAMPLE OF UV REACTIVE SCREENPRINTING INK



MY GRAPHIC
DESIGNED FOR USE
WITH THE UV INK

WHILE EXPERIMENTING WITH CHANGING THE SILHOUETTE OF MY DESIGNS, I GOT INSPIRED TO PLAY AROUND WITH THE SILHOUETTE OF GREEK STATUES THAT I REFERENCE EARLIER IN MY RESEARCH AND GRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT. TO THE SIDE IS THE FINAL PATTERN THAT I CREATED WHICH CREATES A SEAMLESS PATTERN, NO MATTER THE SHAPE.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY TIME LINE

THEME OF BIRTHDAY PARTY WAS GIRLS DRESSED AS FAIRIES AND BOYS DRESSED AS PIRATES. I STILL REMEMBER BEING UPSET THAT I COULDN'T BE A PIRATE MY PARENTS REMEMBER ME STARING AT THE BOYS PLAYING.



WAS TOLD BY MY MUM'S FRIEND THAT I WAS GOING TO BE A LESBIAN WHEN I GROW UP BECAUSE I DRESSED LIKE A BOY.



I KNEW I DIDN'T LIKE KISSING BOYS BUT THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT IT FELT LIKE FOR EVERYONE. I WAS TOLD BY A FRIEND WHO WAS A BOY WHO I REJECTED ROMANTICALLY THAT I WAS A LESBIAN BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO KISS HIM.



born
1998

age 2 - 17th Feb 2000

age 5 - Jan 2004

age 10 - April 2008

age 10 - 2008

age 13 - July 2011

age 14 - Sept 2012

age 3 - Jan 2001

I WAS AGED 3 WHEN I FIRST ASKED TO WEAR BOYS CLOTHES.



STARTED HAVING TO WEAR A DRESS FOR MY SCHOOL UNIFORM. I CONTINUED TO WEAR A DRESS OR SKIRT AS UNIFORM FOR 5 DAYS A WEEK TILL I WAS 18 YEARS OLD.



WENT TO THE TWILIGHT PREMIERE WITH FRIENDS. WE ALL DRESSED AS OUR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS. I WENT DRESSED AS JACOB. THE SAME FRIEND WHO BULLIED ME FOR DRESSING LIKE A BOY WHEN I WAS 6 GOT ME KICKED OUT OF THE BATHROOM BY AN OLDER WOMAN BY SHOUTING 'OMG THERE'S A BOY IN HERE!!'

age 12 - 2010

HOW I SAW MYSELF.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I ASKED MY MUM TO BUY SOME SHIRTS/DRESSES BECAUSE I WAS STARTING TO GO TO CO-ED PARTIES AND MY FRIENDS WERE WEARING SHIRTS AND DRESSES BECAUSE THEY WANTED THE BOYS TO NOTICE THEM. I WANTED TO FIT IN AND AT THIS POINT I WANTED BOYS TO NOTICE ME TOO. WHEN WEARING THESE ITEMS I FELT A DISCONNECT BETWEEN WHAT I FELT LIKE AND WHAT I SAW. I DID A LOT OF SPORT GROWING UP AND FELT I HAD BIG MUSCLES THAT DIDN'T SUIT FEMININE CLOTHES.

HOW I SAW MYSELF.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY TIME LINE

I STILL FELT WIDLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN FEMININE CLOTHING, SO I TRIED TO BRING BACK CLOTHES THAT I WORE IN MY CHILDHOOD THAT I FELT LIKE MYSELF IN.



age 15 - July 2013



age 15 - Sep 2013

FIRST ADMITTED TO MYSELF THAT I KNEW DEEP INSIDE I LIKED GIRLS TO SOME DEGREE



age 16 - June 2014

FINALLY CAME OUT TO ALL MY PARENTS TO FIND OUT THAT A FRIEND HAD TOLD MY SISTER WHO HAD TOLD MY MUM A WHILE AGO THIS NOW MEANS I WAS OUT TO EVERYONE IN MY LIFE.



age 19 - 2017

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



age 22 - 2020

now
2020

14 - Nov 2012



age 15 - Aug 2013



age 15 - Jan 2014



FIRST STARTED COMING OUT TO CLOSE FRIENDS

age 17 - 2015

age 18 - Dec 2016



WAS OUT TO MOST OF MY HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS AND WAS OUTED BY ONE OF THEM TO THE REST OF THE SCHOOL / GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND MOVED AWAY FROM HIGH SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS TO NEW YORK CITY.

age 21 - 2019



NEVER FELT SO COMFORTABLE AND PROUD OF WHO I AM. AT THIS POINT I WAS REALLY DRESSING MYSELF BASED OFF WHAT I WANT, NOT FOR SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS.

DESIGN ITERATIONS



TANK TOP DRAPE

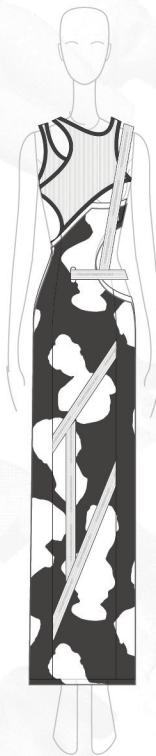
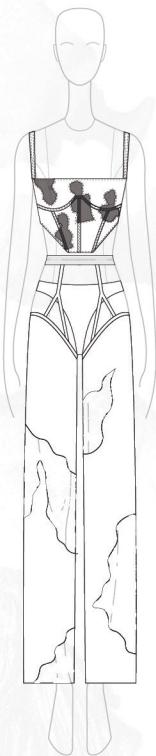
BRIEF UNDERWEAR DRAPE



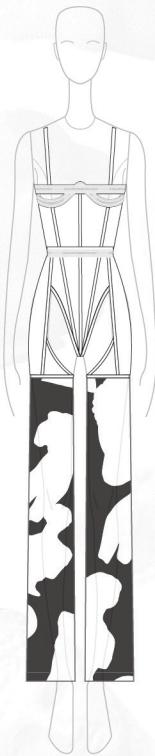
BY DECONSTRUCTING MY COMING OUT EXPERIENCE I PULLED FROM THEMES THAT I PERSONALLY ASSOCIATE WITH MASCULINITY WHICH WILL BE REPRESENTED THROUGH DECONSTRUCTING WHITE ALINE TANK TOPS AND MALE BRIEFS. THESE ITEMS WHICH HOLD A LARGE AMOUNT OF WEIGHT TO SOMEONE WHO IS QUESTIONING THEIR GENDER AND SEXUALITY HAVE A DEEP ENTANGLEMENT WITHIN THE QUEER COMMUNITY.

SPECIFICALLY LESBIANS WHO ARE REJECTING TRADITIONAL FEMALE SILHOUETTES AND PULL FROM THIS TRADITIONAL MASCULINE FRAME OF THE SAME WHITE TANK TOP AND WHITE MALE BRIEFS.

LINE UP WITHOUT UV LIGHT

LOOK 1
WILL BE MADE

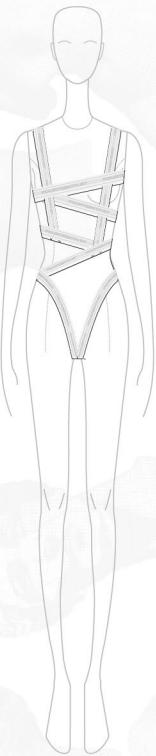
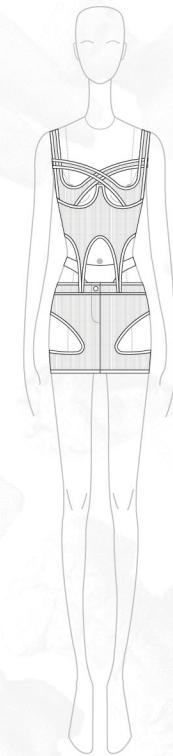
LOOK 2



LOOK 3



LOOK 4

LOOK 5
WILL BE MADELOOK 6
WILL BE MADE

FOURTEENTH ST

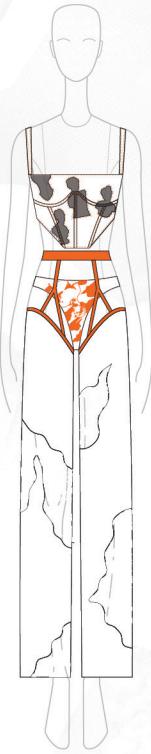
PRESENTS

ITS ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE DAWN

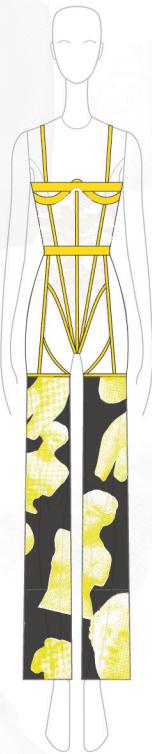
LINE UP WITH UV LIGHT



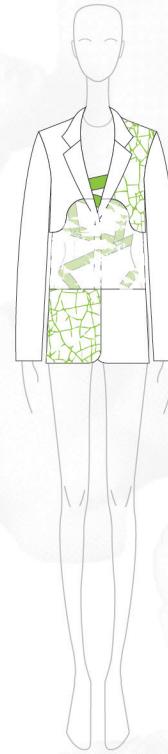
LOOK 1
WILL BE MADE



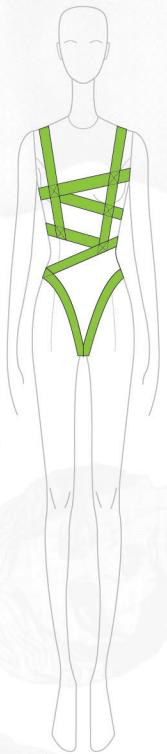
LOOK 2



LOOK 3



LOOK 4



LOOK 5
WILL BE MADE



LOOK 6
WILL BE MADE

THESIS OBJECTIVES

1. TANK TOP CAPSULE COLLECTION
2. FOURTEENTH ST BRANDING PROPOSAL

1. TANK TOP CAPSULE COLLECTION



2. BRANDING PROPOSAL

