

As I write this, I keep thinking to myself, "there must be something." Something in the way that we consume clothes faster than we can snap a picture and grab the next thing from the

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pile of polyester, synthetic blends, and promises of sustainability with hand-dyed cotton.(1) But what of the hands that make the clothes we consume? ② 🌖 Something in the way that as fast gone because the tides

as clothes are consumed are the structures of fashion change just erected and sent into production, without a second thought. Not a second with how we throw away our clothes with less thought than bribed factory inspectors

and building_code regulators But what of those structures consuming the bodies that work inside? Are they not just as fragile as the threads on our clothes. as the mental and physical states of the hands that make the clothes we have an undving hunger for? ③

Something in the way, we eat and eat away without a thought. For the shirt that's on your back is made by invisible entities, working tirelessly to produce something we'll throw away for something new after it's been worn once or twice. Once or twice are the violations

that occur where workers have a sliver of hope for regulation change bofore once or twice becomes fourth or fifth or tenth, and all hope is lost. (5) Or the lost youth of children having to work to provide, continuing to operate in a system that takes advantage of their country's casual labor laws.

The same casualness that leads to casualty, all resultant systems of colonialism and imperialism. Embedded into the infrastructures of countries trying to find their way under piles of economic inequality. environmental poverty. and racism; a starter pack of inequality passed to every mother, child, and father, perhaps akif to the three-pack of white tees they make within seconds.

Something in the way that pride sees your parents' home country on your clothes slowly turns to disgust as you age. Age in how the clothes never see past a week or a month, yet the hands that produce them can be as young as five or six.

Something in the way that the pollution produced for the West's products to consume adversely affects countries in the global south. Those same countries that filled children of diaspora with pride-turned-disgust at the idea of people left behind, those less fortunate, are still operating in our systems of capitalism, but for what?

Something in the way that as fast as workers are producing, people are buying. As quickly as companies are making billions, workers are losing their lives to produce for production's sake, to put food on the table at 1/100th of the pay their clothes receive in the market.(8)

Markets that put a price on bodies that should be priceless. That a human shouldn't be worth \$0.01/hour while what they make is ten times that. That we value products of labor more than the hands that produce.

As hands work tirelessly, like small machines, they barely have enough by the end of a workday to put produce on the table. All in the name of the ceaseless machine of fast fashion. A machine that

activated while simultaneously reflecting long waves for sky cooling. Its attributes include the following: it functions very much like a waist-length raincoat made of

is welded together; it has a hood that can open and close with a zipper that acts as an air barrier; $^{\circ}$ it has a re-arming kit attached—a pneumatic device commonly seen in life-that would inflate the filtration portion of the coat; tubular filters are secured and sewed between shoulder vent layers; the filtration capacity can be regenerated with water back wash every 225 to 315 days. Baleencoat promises a filtered and conditioned space traveling with you despite the environmental crisis. The collapse of air as a collective common has induced a new surface-to-volume relationship.

Baleencoat suggests the beginning of an alternative

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structures that continue to stand and allow for the little machines to keep operations up to standard; but the best

times for who? (9) Something in the way that as fast as the hands produce, the goods they make are as good as as those of the monsoon wrought from global warming produced by the west, for the west, but hurting all others

the most.(10) Something in the way that all the water funneled to fuel our insatiable thirst for the next cut cloth leaves all but none for those whose hands work tirelessly to produce your next tee-turned-dishrag never get a chance to drink.

So there is something in the way that our mindsets of fast consumption mimic the brevity with which structures are marked out for construction

and development. There is something in how our consumption of clothes, the insatiable hunger, is paralleled to the unseen bodies working as little machines even to get close to providing for their real hunger. A hunger that is far more necessitated because bodies aren't meant

to be machines; people aren't meant to have prices on their heads more minuscule than the goods they produce. Necessities aren't meant to be provided for by giving up yourself for the West's insatiable and expendable hunger.

Made in Bangladesh* isn't as much of a marker of recognition anymore. More a quality of exploitation, consumption, and the insatiable thirst of the West. An identification of the ceaseless machine we are complicit in operating.



How's your H&M**? * Made in China, Made in Vietnam, Made in India, Made in Indonesia, Made in (insert anv non-western, global south country used to produce for the west). ** Primark, Uniqlo, GAP, Mango, Zara, ASOS, Boohoo, Urban Outfitters, ∀ictoria's SecretZRomwe, etc.

TOMI LAJA: Do you see your design and aesthetic practice within Current Interests as a form of You have poysically quilted, sewn, and tailored materials for projects, and several works also with. Is there an understanding of the a body?

TOMI LAJA

MATTHEW AU: Mira and I tend not to explicitly speak of the work as a ⁺ body, the term⊃can get / problematic, but we do discuss posture that might speak to a bodily gesture. We more often think of these

in terms of the way posture is read in cladding-how forms hang and support, 2 sag, lean, or clump. For instance, the notion of the 'oversized', like the way an exaggeratedly puffy jacket with its excess of insulation builds up and stacks against one's shoulders tends to hide a lot of features as it relaxes, leans, and tilts. We are interested in these details

- as places where the building projects itself back out into the world and produces certain qualities, attitudes, and ways of being. Perhaps it is less boundary making and more fashioning contextual signals between the building and its context.
- MIRA HENRY: There are other ways to think Aabout fashion in our work in terms of the process, the imaginary, and the tectonics behind it. When taken as a verb, to fashion, the term really speaks to a physical act that unfolds in time. We like how fashioning orients us towards the performance of an assembly. This is very relevant since we
- gather, bundle, or hang forms onto each other. There is increased agency and directness in this way of working in the same way that there is agency in selffashioning and personal style.
- TL: Can you expand on your statement regarding the body analogy as problematic and discuss how you are speaking about architecture in relation to the body rather than as a body?

MH: I would perhaps reframe the language a bit. The stickiness is embedded in the discourse of the garment and cladding 3 beginning with Gottfried Sempera I have always been so drawn to Semper's work because of his focus on craft tectonics in the global south. And yet his anthropological approach comes directly out of colonial constructs. The exploitation and cultural extraction

that this history comes out of has always 2 never seemed to be acknowledged, which is painful. I shared my thoughts about this in the piece I wrote in Log 48.(1)Semper and then Loos compare building cladding with dress, skin, and mask. This discourse

deeply charged with race (and gender). Anne Anlin Cheng's book Second Skin: Josephine Baker and the Modern Surface and Charles Davis II's seminal book Building Character: The Racial fashioning boundaries? Politics of Modern Architectural Style both expose this precisely and directly. Davis argues that the idea of style and character, which for a long time remained neutral formalist terms, are fundamentally constructed through ideas of race. We think about this in our deal with the posture work as we try and inflect new forms of of the forms you work agency within the discourse. When it comes down to it, we find it a really beautiful notion to think about the building as a architectural work as garment and the ways people who live in them can fashion them as much as the architects can imagine them.



How do your projects consider their own fashioning and what is the role of craft. construction, and labor in your work?

MH: That is an important part of who we are as a partnership. We both really love craft and making and yet want to avoid slipping into full arts and crafts revivalfashioning every screw we use. We are always trying to find a balance between the improvisation and inventiveness of making things on our own and the ability and desire to scale. One of the things that we do is align our modes of detailing with standard forms of construction. We are thinking about how to fashion within standard logics. Honestly, we are having this conversation in real time with every project—not just can we do it or how we do it, but how can it scale? It is not the only metric for a successful solution, but it is, nonetheless, always balancing our approach.

TL: In Rough Coat, your 2018 exhibition at the SCI-Arc Gallery, I appreciated, Mira, your critique on objective distance, as-well as the embrace of subjectivity and identity in your work. Is there a politics regarding your robust attention to materiality? Do you see materiality as a technique for other infrastructures to grow out of-whether socially, culturally, or experimentally?

MH: I think that questions of politics and materiality are the sweet spot where we, as two'individuals, overlap. In our current design studio at the GSD, the contemporary artist Nikita Gale guest lectured on the idea of archeology as a lens to understand how material carries politics and memory. For her, working on 2 and with materiality is a way of implying identities without overexposing the very subjects she is attending to. This loops us back to the conversation around the body and in this case forms of refusal. Material is a ____

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ARTICLE

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ENDNOTES/

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Identity and history of a contemporary art mediun

Germany, 2010), 41.

Textile studies (Emsdetten



Women as Cyborgs in Highop Videos. Shaviro asks of Missy's insection helmet and sunglasses, "Is this her embodiment of a fly?" to which I say nah, but he's doing a good job himself in giving Cronenberg's Seth Bundle a run for his money with that '80s academics-gone-wild look. I kid, Shaviro, but don't come for Missy. ENDNOTES,

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