

Grace Hughes

For my wearable object for our final The Body project, I wanted the object to connect people but also keep them separate. When COVID-19 first started I wanted nothing more than to be with everyone that I loved, but because of health issues it was risky to be by them. The hardest part of Covid for me was not being with my friends, so for this project I wanted to create our own personal bubble. The bubble attached to the body like a helmet or a hood. I used hardened fabric, a zipper, two foam rings, shoulder pads, and half of a foam circle to create the bubble. The fabric was hardened to support the whole idea of it being a bubble. The bubble is very large and does not touch your head when you have it on, the only part of the body that it connects to is your shoulders. This bubble is your own personal oasis. On the front there is a letter that says "My love it has been hard being apart for so long" and on the back it says "Intimacy and Distance". The letter is supposed to represent the intimacy between the people around and how the distance made them feel lonely. Also, on the front there is a zipper which can open and close to communicate to others in front of you, in addition to the zipper in the front there are two ear holes on the side.

When I was constructing the bubble, I knew I had to bring this into public and see how people reacted. So, for the photos I went to the Dayton mall, the Greene, a park, and a parking garage. I wanted to get peoples raw reactions to this helmet, but people did not react in the way that I thought they would. While having my subject stand in the middle of people, all we got was a few very confused glances and a couple stares. But after they looked, they looked away and didn't give it a second glance. I was so taken back by the way they reacted because everyone is so used to seeing people wearing masks that they didn't even get bothered by someone standing in front of them wearing a bubble. I wanted people to get a new experience and feel almost connected to the bubble even without knowing why it was in front of them. Overall, my bubble seemed to connect to the idea of connecting to people around us but also keeping a distance between.