NuQls for QuILTS

KEARA WALSH
IP Creative Portfolio
2021-2022
Quilts for Nudists tackles reformation and education of the damaging effects of fast fashion production within our society. Fast fashion, a methodology of clothing production and exploitative business tactic, prioritizes producing clothes as quickly and cheaply as possible to stay on par with latest trends and social media pressures. Through salvaging scrap and donated fabric into twin-sized expository quilts, I criticize how the popularity of fast fashion production has progressed over time, influencing an excess of consumptive greed, capitalism, and environmental damage. A manifesto can be found throughout the space: painted along the walls and printed on posters, serving as an educational aid and commentary on our obsessive consumption habits. I ask you, the audience, to question the scale of your own actions as an American Consumer. As consumers, we have the power to change the trajectory of the market! Increasing awareness and gaining supporters of slow fashion will be the only triumph of overthrowing fast fashion business strategies for the betterment of our societies’ future livability on Earth.
As encouraged and expected, my project took many forms and lulls before reaching its final iteration. Day one, I knew my subject matter. I have been struck by and passionate for educating on the harmful influence of fast fashion culture for approximately 3 years. It drives my soul, is my go-to conversation topic, and revolves around every consumptive good I intake. While it has taken me years to source a closet strictly from second-hand clothes, hand-me-downs, and slow-fashion items, I have remained confident in my desire to educate on the invisible reality of the fashion industry.

Thus my initial project statement read: “My project will come in 4 phases, each being separated by medium choice. Firstly, I will be composing 3 to 4 outfits entirely out of scrap, donated, and upcycled materials. They will turn out rather “ugly pret-ty,” as I am calling it, because all materials donated must be used. I will not be able to choose color usage or patterning of each material, only the assemblage in which they are sewn and tacked together. They will have a ‘maximalist’ energy to them, as the outfits may become clunky and heavy with large excesses of material on top of them.”

After the outfits are designed, I intend to style and photograph them in high contrasting areas. These locations include a dumpster or landfill, a chain store in the mall like Forever 21 or H&M and a thrift store. Once I have these photographs, I seek to create a catalog or publication with final proofs, process photos and other compositionally educational elements that will inform my journey in trying to enlighten those on the dangers of fast fashion. It will take form as a manifesto of sorts, both reflecting on my own explorations and trying to make the most impact as possible. I find that taking the form of a book publication will be the most effective medium for mass education, in reproducibility. The final phase will be an installation and culmination of the previous 3 phases: the publication, photographs, and outfits on mannequins within a gallery space.”
Having a strong social media presence, I have long followed McLaughlin for her high level of dedication to her craft, specifically in promoting sustainable fashion mentalities. Her work is grounded in taking “trash,” or discarded elements, and upcycling them into functional wearables. When I first started this project, I was in a constant debate whether functionality was a necessity or not.

The argument: Creating functional wearables could open the conversation to replication of mass production. My worst nightmare. Opposingly, if I were to create unfunctional wearables, would I subsequently be creating more useless waste? Or does educational art hold enough value, for me or my audience? These questions grounded out my first semester. Ultimately, how effective would it be for me to make more clothes out of clothes?
The daunting question: **Why make clothes out of preexisting clothes?**

Wouldn’t that, inevitably, create more clothes doomed for wasteland?
First semester, when I was still planning to upcycle a clothing line, I was heavily inspired by designers Yeohlee Teng and Christina Kim for their commendable efforts in zero-waste garment design and foundational cultural influence.

By definition, a zero-waste garment constitutes to seamless and efficient design, where the patterning of the finished cloth can practically be worn off the loom directly. I was vastly inspired by Kim’s cultural explorations of Jamadi Saris. How could I create my own zero-waste articles? Is it humanly possible to do so? Or live a zero-waste lifestyle at all?

My methodology of making became culminating sheets of salvaged, patchwork material. Where, afterwards, I could design a zero-waste pattern and sew the sheets into a wearable.

Kim puts an emphasis on the quality of handwork and talent, removing oneself (and brand) from factory manufacturing and exploitation of mass production. There is a beauty and validation in creating unique, one-of-a-kind pieces for their high quality and durability, compared to mainstream cheap fashion, by hand.

Yeohlee Teng is a Malaysian American fashion designer known for her strategic design of simplicity and function for the ‘urban nomad’ consumer. Her work has architectural energy and emphasizes efficiency, low-maintenance, and high quality. She can be found as one of the most innovative clothing designers of our current age in composing fluid, functional, walking art. Teng prevails her work as intimate, geometric and empowering for the wearer.

In noting that the majority of her work is one size fits all, this reintroduces the idea of efficiency in maximizing patterning. The seam of a garment is a decorative element to a singular piece of fabric that gives the material function. The combination of simplicity of form and identifying what is essential is effective in creating powerful designs that communicate directly to a wearer’s aesthetic look and ease of fit.


Surpassing the oxymoron of myself creating more clothes (waste) out of previously discarded clothes, I settled on the medium of improvisational quilts similar to the practice of community members of Gee’s Bend, Alabama. The historical context of quilt making, in salvaging and utilizing all scraped fabrics, simultaneously fits perfectly with the culture of upcycling I was already delving into.

Residents of Gee’s Bend are direct descendants of Civil Rights Era enslavment and segregation. The tradition of quiltmaking amongst this community has remained fruitful and inspiring, composing abstract designs that are revolutionary for the realm of quilting.

I am particularly moved by the asymmetrical and imperfect quality many of the designs have. I hoped to similarly inspire a level of free-formality and spontaneity, not becoming overly concerned with the final aesthetic of the quilts but more, the complex and overwhelming reality of the vast amount of scraps used.


“Housetop” - “Half-Log Cabin Variation
Askar Carson Mosley
C. 1950

“Broken Pieces”
Marlene Bennett Jones
2008

“One Patch,” Tied
America Irby
1970
All We Can Save
By Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katherine K. Wilkinson

All We Can Save is a collection of essays, poems, and stories written by a variety of verse and insightful women to inspire a sense of hope on our current climate crisis. The book, being entirely composed of female authors, empowers women to speak up and bring about the change we as humans, and certainly women, deserve for our future. I found myself increasingly engaged with the text as the read didn’t feel burdening. Rather, there is a sense of attainable change and resolution in collectively acting as a community, a band of power in numbers. It is beautiful the way the book welcomes all voices, opinions, and ideas to the table. Oftentimes women do not have the same opportunities to participate in governing panels, they are not offered a seat in the “room” of decision making. However, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katherine K. Wilkinson, the editors, were successful in composing a range of courageous writings to catch the reader’s eye. Through these writings, each author hopes to gain traction and support of overthrowing our current climate crisis. The book, being entirely composed of female authors, empowers women to speak up and bring about the change we as humans, and certainly women, deserve for our future. I found myself to be in a state of disgust and sadness after watching the film. It’s uncomfortable to imagine how my actions can greatly affect the world we live in. To that degree, I do believe that everyone should watch this film and be moved to enact minimalism as the correct option to sustainable gratification. There are other, more satisfactory, ways of living life to find fulfillment. For Millburn and Nicodemus, it means finding purpose in every possession. We must join together as a community under one goal, environmental equilibrium, where we will only be heard when there is an entire deconstruction and reconstruction of our governmental structure. The climate crisis is detrimental to all life, humans and other organisms. Yet, it is wealth and racial prejudices that divides the crisis unjustly. Those in power are at much less risk of life-altering realities. It is the minorities, is wealth and racial prejudices that divides the crisis unjustly. Those in power prioritize individualized self-gratitude, profit, and domination. It is the minorities, the underserved, that will suffer first and longest. Thus, we need voices to set a new precedent and invoke unity. Through these writings, each author hopes to gain traction and support of overthrowing our current climate crisis. The book, being entirely composed of female authors, empowers women to speak up and bring about the change we as humans, and certainly women, deserve for our future. I found myself to be in a state of disgust and sadness after watching the film. It’s uncomfortable to imagine how my actions can greatly affect the world we live in. To that degree, I do believe that everyone should watch this film and be moved to enact minimalism as the correct option to sustainable gratification. There are other, more satisfactory, ways of living life to find fulfillment. For Millburn and Nicodemus, it means finding purpose in every possession. We must join together as a community under one goal, environmental equilibrium, where we will only be heard when there is an entire deconstruction and reconstruction of our governmental structure. The climate crisis is detrimental to all life, humans and other organisms. Yet, it is wealth and racial prejudices that divides the crisis unjustly. Those in power are at much less risk of life-altering realities. It is the minorities, the underserved, that will suffer first and longest. Thus, we need voices to cause commotion and get attention stirring. We need these brave women. The True Cost
By Morgan

The True Cost is a documentary that seeks to expose the dangerous reality of fast fashion production on both our environment and the humans behind the making. Instead of 2 seasons a year, there are 52 profitable weeks to produce and sell clothes. The structure of the film falls as an interview-style narration in which Morgan travels to a variety of countries to reveal the true story of how we got to this point. He immediately grounds the unjust exploitation of Western ideologies on third-world countries as the basis of corruption. I found myself to be in a state of disgust and sadness after watching the film. It’s uncomfortable to imagine how my actions can greatly affect the world we live in. To that degree, I do believe that everyone should watch this film and be moved to enact minimalism as the correct option to sustainable gratification. There are other, more satisfactory, ways of living life to find fulfillment. For Millburn and Nicodemus, it means finding purpose in every possession. We must join together as a community under one goal, environmental equilibrium, where we will only be heard when there is an entire deconstruction and reconstruction of our governmental structure. The climate crisis is detrimental to all life, humans and other organisms. Yet, it is wealth and racial prejudices that divides the crisis unjustly. Those in power are at much less risk of life-altering realities. It is the minorities, the underserved, that will suffer first and longest. Thus, we need voices to cause commotion and get attention stirring. We need these brave women. Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things
By Joshua Fields Millburn & Ryan Nicodemus

“Love people and use things, because the opposite never works.” Joshua Fields Millburn and Ryan Nicodemus call themselves the Minimalists, a best-friend duo who seek to promote the beauty of living a life filled with only necessities. Opposing the stereotypical American view of consumerism where bigger, more, and just owning “things” is better. Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things follows Millburn and Nicodemus on a 10-month book tour, where they desire to spread the knowledge and wealth of living a life that feels satisfactory and fulfilling, by consuming less. We learn about their journey in becoming minimalists, through experiences of death, divorce, abuse, illness, and general dissatisfaction with life. The epiphany of how consumption is an addiction. We, as Americans, are wired to become dissatisfied and constantly seek more. Yet, the hole we aim to fill via consumption will never make us whole. The film exclaims that ‘The American Dream’ is a template of living to gain wealth and success. Yet, it doesn’t have to be the template. There are other, more satisfactory, ways of living life to find fulfillment. For Millburn and Nicodemus, it means finding purpose in every possession. The idea that every item has a joy factor to it, it brings the owner contentment. Where, minimalism seeks to encourage living more deliberately with less. Millburn quotes “I don’t think there’s anything wrong with consumption. The problem is compulsory consumption. Buying stuff because that’s what your supposed to do.” I find this to be a moving philosophy. In which, you don’t have to change your entire lifestyle to enact minimalism as the correct option to sustainable gratification. Rather, this mentality seeks to inspire that your possessions have purpose. If that looks like a rock collection for you, then so be it. As long as you find it perpetually fulfilling. It comes down to the basic structure of quality over quantity. Minimalism doesn’t have to be a radical lifestyle, just a quality one.
Final Exhibition
Quilts for Nudists
2022
Consumers Hold the Power

Final Poster with Text From Manifesto
Quilts for Nudists

2022

You are Guilty

Final Poster with Text From Manifesto
Quilts for Nudists

2022

There are a thousand and one things wrong in our society. The perpetuation of killing our environment, our beloved home we know as Earth, should not be one of them. To blame those with power. To blame: those with wealth, white skins, a penis, and the desire to become more powerful than those around them. To blame: American Culture and our inevitable consumerism.

The idea of economic prioritization over the well-being of human life is sickening to my core. Yet if fact: the rich get richer and the poor are abandoned. The fashion industry has so successfully molded and perpetuated this cycle that it wastefully received a title Fast Fashion.

Worse, YOU have surely been a victim.

As have I.

Of being an American Consumer that has greedily and selfishly acted for the betterment of their own indigence rather than our society. Or our environment.
Detail Photos of Textile Quilts and Nudist Mannequin
Quilts for Nudists
2022
You and me, the American Consumers, have been culturally structured and “raised in a world in which we put profit over people and the planet in an attempt to grease the wheels of capitalism and keep the machine running.” -First Things First Manifesto 2020

There are a thousand and one things wrong in our society. The perpetuation of killing our environment, our beloved home we know as Earth, should not be one of them. To blame: those with power. To blame: those with wealth, white skin, a penis and the desire to become more powerful than those around them. To blame: American Culture.

The idea of economic prioritization over the well-being of human life is sickening to my core.

Yet it’s fact: the rich get richer and the poor are abandoned. The fashion industry has so successfully molded and perpetuated this cycle that it woefully received a title: Fast Fashion. Otherwise known as ‘disposable fashion,’ fast fashion can be defined as a methodology of clothing production and an exploitative business tactic in which producing clothes as quickly and cheaply as possible to stay on par with latest trends and social media pressures is prioritized over everything else. Which includes fair working conditions and wages for employees, disposal of unsold clothes (‘deadstock’) into landfills, unsustainable shipping methods, and anything of environmentally conscious consideration really. Worse, YOU have surely been a victim. As have I.

Dev-2 culture has become the perfect breeding ground for fast fashion companies to gain traction, especially in marketing and creating a desirable social media presence. Notable companies like Zara, H&M, Forever 21, Shein, with the list continuing for miles, were able to democratize fashion. Aiming to create a variety of styles to appeal to as many consumers as possible to stay on par with latest trends and social media pressures is prioritized over everything else. Which includes fair working conditions and wages for employees, disposal of unsold clothes (‘deadstock’) into landfills, unsustainable shipping methods, and anything of environmentally conscious consideration really. Worse, YOU have surely been a victim. As have I.

The kicker? These companies are very aware of the vicious cycle. In fact, they play into it and use it to their competitive advantage. Of course, they want you to buy more clothes as your initial purchase starts to crumble and the newest collections are released, it is money in their pocket. The cycle happens time and time again, there’s an addictive quality to shopping and even more so when it’s cheap. The Man is producing for the sake of eventual burn out. As pieces begin to fall apart, lose shape or go out-of-style, the consumer will feel the need to go back and replace these items. In a way, one could make the comparison of fast fashion to fast food. It’s cheap and not beneficial to consume in the long run, yet satisfying in the moment. Addition ally, you want to fuel that level of satisfaction as readily as possible, forcing an addictive behavior. It is hard to convince oneself that the splurge of money will be a greater investment in the end, when the cheap and fruitful option is right in front of you.

The Greedy Begs the Greedy

Gen-Z culture has become the perfect breeding ground for fast fashion companies to gain traction, especially in marketing and creating a desirable social media presence. Notable companies like Zara, H&M, Forever 21, Shein, with the list continuing for miles, were able to democratize fashion. Aiming to create a variety of styles to appeal to as many consumers as possible to stay on par with latest trends and social media pressures is prioritized over everything else. Which includes fair working conditions and wages for employees, disposal of unsold clothes (‘deadstock’) into landfills, unsustainable shipping methods, and anything of environmentally conscious consideration really. Worse, YOU have surely been a victim. As have I.

The kicker? These companies are very aware of the vicious cycle. In fact, they play into it and use it to their competitive advantage. Of course they want you to buy more clothes as your initial purchase starts to crumble and the newest collections are released, it is money in their pocket. The cycle happens time and time again, there’s an addictive quality to shopping and even more so when it’s cheap. The Man is producing for the sake of eventual burn out. As pieces begin to fall apart, lose shape or go out-of-style, the consumer will feel the need to go back and replace these items. In a way, one could make the comparison of fast fashion to fast food. It’s cheap and not beneficial to consume in the long run, yet satisfying in the moment. Additionally, you want to fuel that level of satisfaction as readily as possible, forcing an addictive behavior. It is hard to convince oneself that the splurge of money will be a greater investment in the end, when the cheap and fruitful option is right in front of you.
well aware of your importance on
to come from the consumers."
they have the buying power. The
over their supply chains. Con
because they're the ones that
As a Consumer
Again, I am sick to my core.
landfill waste and human death.
production techniques. Including, but
taxifying byproduct of poor pro
put on my body are the same
materialistic, and societally desired
How iconic is that? The luxury, ma
falling short to the oil industry.
biggest polluter in the world, only
industry has become the 2nd
direct inflictors of this perpetuat
The owners, managers and CEOs
does not mean it gets a free pass
it is illegal otherwise. But just
tence of needing clothing. Society
mostly chosen to be ignorant
environment. We, as society, have
how they are individually affect
knowing what they are buying and
gies limit consumers from actually
point. Those same Western ideolo
the problem and seek change. We
environment, no matter how much
is a core of American culture and
will never be satisfied. Materialism
tiable consumerism. Americans
convince you that we all must
What can be done? What can we
Sooo, fuck The Man. Got it.
This cycle and willingly participate.
times, consumers are aware of
designs on trend, which we know
lures the customer in over and
 portray to some, but the truth is
viewing the new thing is
popular, or enticing for a mass audience.
be expensive and ethical. It is time
to craft ads that look "good." Good
manipulative of marketing teams
advertising of environmentalism
was only an attempt to look "good."
Among the fast fashion industry
The clean shapes and lavish feel
In exploring the true faults of fast
the clean lines of the new trend, that
They will not be satisfied. Why?
products will never be satisfied. At the
tunity is, these brands have a long
at a company to want to save money
when they are not all should have been
"be sustainable," you are putting your
as a loudmouthed activist. I will not
be left unnoticed.
the most important choices
will need to come clean. Start
produce ethically, each company
subsequently backed themselves
rapid clothing production have
The pioneers of fast fashion
The Future seeks a Future
well aware of your importance on Earth,
will never be satisfied. At that time,
will be inadmissible and selfish of
amongst todays culture, it would
world-ending climate change
Satisfaction.
that happiness is consumption.
The basics of advertising is pro
of cheap quality. Right?
this cycle and willingly participate.
And seemingly what a hypocrite I
who are slaving away to make the
innocent people around the world
habits, am single handedly killing
American. It seems as if, by both
myself an American. It seems as if,
not convinced we have those
forward are better than none, I
am not convinced we have those
years to spare. We need radical
more steps to prove beneficial results.
be effective in proving benef-
while my steps forward are better than none, I
am not convinced we have those
years to spare. We need radical
workforward.
Me, a Nudist, Reflecting
Quite frankly, I am embarrassed for myself as an American. It seems as if, by both
association and my consumerism habits, am single handedly killing innocent people around the world
who are slaving away to make the clothes on my body. How dare I,
entirely fresh to the world of fashion. It
It has become trendy within its
It has become trendy within its
masquerades itself as a technique to
As a Consumer
The "best thing people can do is to help put pressure on companies because they're the ones that ultimately need to get control over their supply chains. Con
harmful, or making money as much as they can. The effectiveness of any measure has to come from the consumers."
- Osita Vitali

The Future seeks a Future

In exploring the true faults of fast fashion companies, they become less and less idealized with time. The clean shapes and lavish feel begins to fade as secrets are revealed and the truth becomes impossible to avoid. Truth be told, they intentionally drag their customers into a vortex of buying low quality products and expecting people to capitalize on consumer weaknesses, wants and desires. They listen to their customers so they can then directly target them with what they believe they need.

If true, I beg of you to do better.

Be the best consumer you can be.

We need radical steps to prove beneficial results. While any steps forward are better than none, I am not convinced we have those years to spare. We need radical
workforward.

Quotations:

Me, a Nudist, Reflecting
Quite frankly, I am embarrassed for myself as an American. It seems as if, by both
association and my consumerism habits, am single handedly killing innocent people around the world
who are slaving away to make the clothes on my body. How dare I,
entirely fresh to the world of fashion. It
It has become trendy within its
It has become trendy within its
masquerades itself as a technique to
As a Consumer
The "best thing people can do is to help put pressure on companies because they're the ones that ultimately need to get control over their supply chains. Con
harmful, or making money as much as they can. The effectiveness of any measure has to come from the consumers."
- Osita Vitali

The Future seeks a Future

In exploring the true faults of fast fashion companies, they become less and less idealized with time. The clean shapes and lavish feel begins to fade as secrets are revealed and the truth becomes impossible to avoid. Truth be told, they intentionally drag their customers into a vortex of buying low quality products and expecting people to capitalize on consumer weaknesses, wants and desires. They listen to their customers so they can then directly target them with what they believe they need.

If true, I beg of you to do better.

Be the best consumer you can be.

We need radical steps to prove beneficial results. While any steps forward are better than none, I am not convinced we have those years to spare. We need radical
workforward.

Quotations:

Me, a Nudist, Reflecting
Quite frankly, I am embarrassed for myself as an American. It seems as if, by both
association and my consumerism habits, am single handedly killing innocent people around the world
who are slaving away to make the clothes on my body. How dare I,
entirely fresh to the world of fashion. It
It has become trendy within its
It has become trendy within its
masquerades itself as a technique to
As a Consumer
The "best thing people can do is to help put pressure on companies because they're the ones that ultimately need to get control over their supply chains. Con
harmful, or making money as much as they can. The effectiveness of any measure has to come from the consumers."
- Osita Vitali

The Future seeks a Future

In exploring the true faults of fast fashion companies, they become less and less idealized with time. The clean shapes and lavish feel begins to fade as secrets are revealed and the truth becomes impossible to avoid. Truth be told, they intentionally drag their customers into a vortex of buying low quality products and expecting people to capitalize on consumer weaknesses, wants and desires. They listen to their customers so they can then directly target them with what they believe they need.

If true, I beg of you to do better.

Be the best consumer you can be.

We need radical steps to prove beneficial results. While any steps forward are better than none, I am not convinced we have those years to spare. We need radical
workforward.

Quotations:

Me, a Nudist, Reflecting
Quite frankly, I am embarrassed for myself as an American. It seems as if, by both
association and my consumerism habits, am single handedly killing innocent people around the world
who are slaving away to make the clothes on my body. How dare I,
entirely fresh to the world of fashion. It
It has become trendy within its
It has become trendy within its
masquerades itself as a technique to
As a Consumer
The "best thing people can do is to help put pressure on companies because they're the ones that ultimately need to get control over their supply chains. Con
harmful, or making money as much as they can. The effectiveness of any measure has to come from the consumers."
- Osita Vitali

The Future seeks a Future

In exploring the true faults of fast fashion companies, they become less and less idealized with time. The clean shapes and lavish feel begins to fade as secrets are revealed and the truth becomes impossible to avoid. Truth be told, they intentionally drag their customers into a vortex of buying low quality products and expecting people to capitalize on consumer weaknesses, wants and desires. They listen to their customers so they can then directly target them with what they believe they need.

If true, I beg of you to do better.

Be the best consumer you can be.

We need radical steps to prove beneficial results. While any steps forward are better than none, I am not convinced we have those years to spare. We need radical
workforward.

Quotations:

Me, a Nudist, Reflecting
Quite frankly, I am embarrassed for myself as an American. It seems as if, by both
association and my consumerism habits, am single handedly killing innocent people around the world
who are slaving away to make the clothes on my body. How dare I,
entirely fresh to the world of fashion. It
It has become trendy within its
It has become trendy within its
masquerades itself as a technique to
As a Consumer
The "best thing people can do is to help put pressure on companies because they're the ones that ultimately need to get control over their supply chains. Con
harmful, or making money as much as they can. The effectiveness of any measure has to come from the consumers."
- Osita Vitali

The Future seeks a Future

In exploring the true faults of fast fashion companies, they become less and less idealized with time. The clean shapes and lavish feel begins to fade as secrets are revealed and the truth becomes impossible to avoid. Truth be told, they intentionally drag their customers into a vortex of buying low quality products and expecting people to capitalize on consumer weaknesses, wants and desires. They listen to their customers so they can then directly target them with what they believe they need.

If true, I beg of you to do better.

Be the best consumer you can be.

We need radical steps to prove beneficial results. While any steps forward are better than none, I am not convinced we have those years to spare. We need radical
workforward.

Quotations:
I, in recognizing myself as an individualized society-affecting being, have become overwhelmed with the anxiety of greedy, capitalistic desires destroying our Earth. Specifically, through the rise and popularity of fast fashion production imposed upon our shopping habits. Something about my own interactions within consuming culture has led me to question the scale of myself within this world. How much do I actually matter? How much do I actually understand? Will I ever be able to make change, or influence change?

Earth is falling apart. However, in my Western culture, and yours, that is a hard reality to visualize, for many reasons. The bubble. My bubble: a white suburbia with more privilege I can fathom. Yes, that bubble, would never have to think about our dying environment if we didn’t want to. Climate change is a silent killer, invisible to the naked eye if you aren’t willing to look for it. Nonetheless, a violently pressing issue. An overlooming image of Earth dying a slow, painful death is constantly swirling above my head like a raincloud. As anxiety-inducing as that is, I have found a mixture of calmness and urgency in recognizing that as an artist I have the individualistic power to make whatever statement I feel necessary for social change.

Thus, here it is: I pledge to become a full-on nudist. Because, the lengths at which we, Western Culture, actively cultivate a system to exploit underdeveloped countries to satisfy our own consumptive greediness is sickening. In promoting my half-joking pledge of nudity, I genuinely cannot fathom the harm I am afflicting on less fortunate workers around the world by consuming the clothes they make for $3 a day. I refuse to serve and satisfy the greedy fashion industry as they continue to prioritize profit over basic human decency. There must be another way.

Reflecting. If you’ve stuck with my rambling this long, I would assume that you agree there is an unavoidable global climate crisis we are in. Moreover, you agree that the fashion industry needs an entire reform in order to ever be sustained. Best, you pledge to take a stand with me and become THAT conscious consumer (or nudist in my extremist case)!

THANK YOU.