

A transformation of Greek and Cypriot regalia.

Despina- Argyri Manolopoulou

3D Design and Craft

Level 6

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What I am interested in, is exploring crafts of Greek and Cypriot tradition, starting from 1800. Jewellery, embroidery, costume and basketry are the “chapters”, which have inspired me most, particularly the patterns, the colours and the materials that have been used. Back then, the more spectacular the costumes and accessories a person wore, the more prestige he/ she exhibited. People “showed off” by wearing impressive ornamental pieces, but they also wanted to show the festive and celebratory meaning of each one of them, a fact which still applies today. My aim is to pass the emblematic and impressiveness of these pieces by creating work that is reminiscent of these past traditions and to merge this with the contemporary. In this document someone will experience a timeline and a narrative of the journey that I have experienced during this joyful last university year.



any aspects to explore within the greek and egyptian traditions..



For every project, I always start from the sketchbook by doing a brainstorming and then begin to collect information but more importantly images which will help me identify the elements that will “stimulate” me the most.



Circled words : aspects interested in investigating, examine the technique identify the patterns and colours, identify reasons that describe particularly why & how they were

Costume

Cypriot costumes as well as Greek costumes, are an integral component of the traditional culture of these countries. Each one is distinctive of a group of people who lived on these Mediterranean places and who, despite their idiosyncracies, maintained a uniform identity. Keeping alive the consciousness of their common origin and history. Studies of the different types of costumes, reveal the relations with neighbouring through trade or conquest.

Each individual costume is a complex work of art, combining not only techniques of processing the raw materials, weaving and embellishment but also skill and sensitivity in the manner in which it is cut and sewn. The costume is the true expression of folk artistic creation.



name of
"spania",
"sayio".
late 19th
century.



costume of
"Nicosia",
"sarkha".
late 19th
century.



costume
"Kari".





↳ multi-colored cross stitch.

↳ 'deppharitico'



Jewellery

Silvermithing



↳ necklace w small dark charms woven with spiral wire

↳ necklace w small dark charms woven with spiral wire

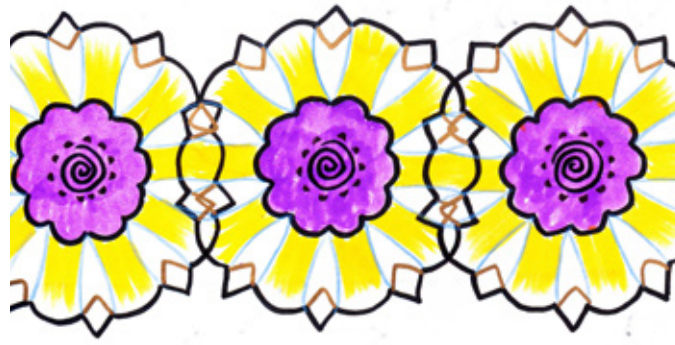
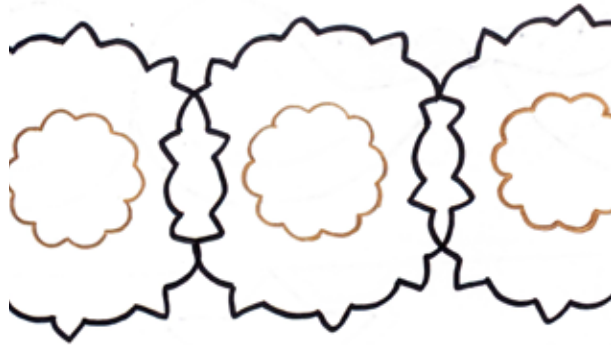


↳ bracelet with sil charms.

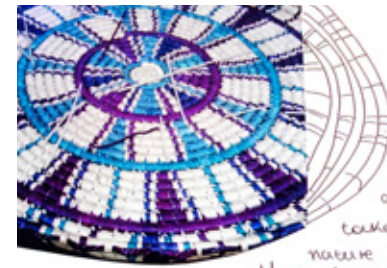
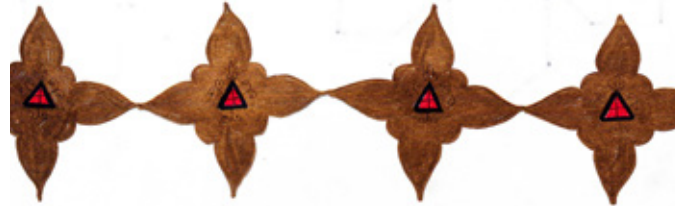
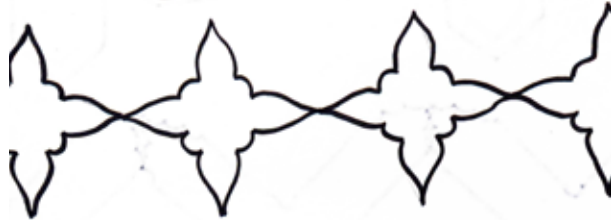


↳ necklace



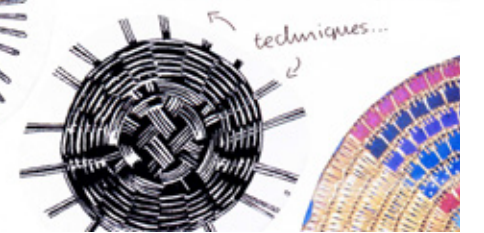


creating patterns w. outlines



basketry.

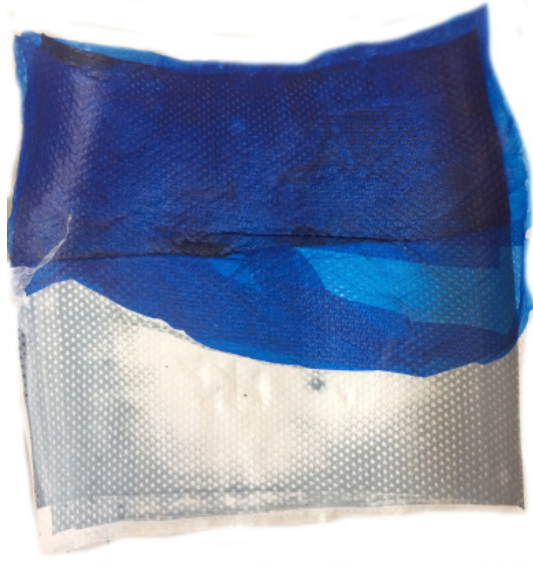
In order for humans to learn the collection of fruits, porcupine, olive, he had to improvise and take the materials that mother nature provided to him and create. Most of the times, baskets were naturally coloured but sometimes they dyed the materials in bright colours. These materials were also used for the construction of roofs, furniture, mats...



Having my research done, it was really easy to identify the elements that interested me most.
Elements like chains, colours and shapes.

I noticed that the shape of the circle was everywhere. A fact which had unconsciously influenced me. From the very start I began
“playing” with pieces using circles and by the very end of my project, circles would dominate.

And so the journey of experimenting began. . .



These are some first samples I made, out of melted plastic bags. The idea of playing around with circles was really fun and many great ideas came up.

As I began experimenting in polymers, I decided that my pieces would be made out of plastic. But I also wanted to give the traditional touch which led me to the conclusion that I had to choose a second material and that would be metal.



I bought some steel, because I wanted to experiment with something different rather than silver, bronze or copper. Turns out it was a success because the sound that steel makes, is really festive and fun. It was the perfect excuse to link this with my project.

SOUND & CHAINS.



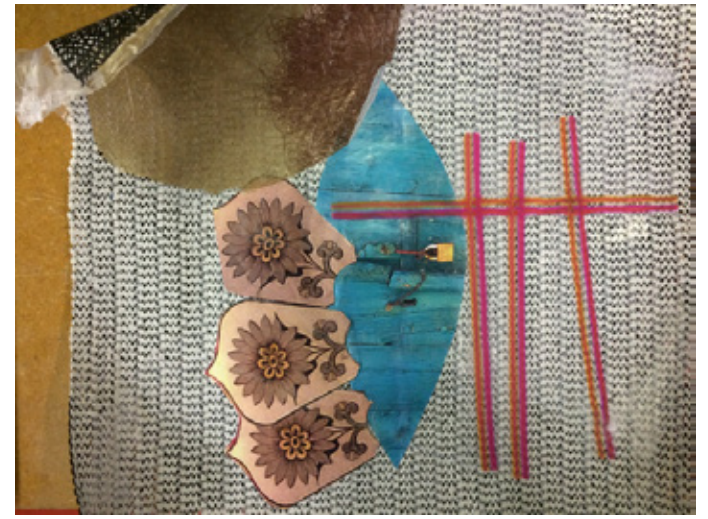
Chains were used a lot back then to show wealth, prestige and to prevent the evil eye because of their deafening sound. Moreover, using chains is very interesting mean of bonding things together and a bold one.



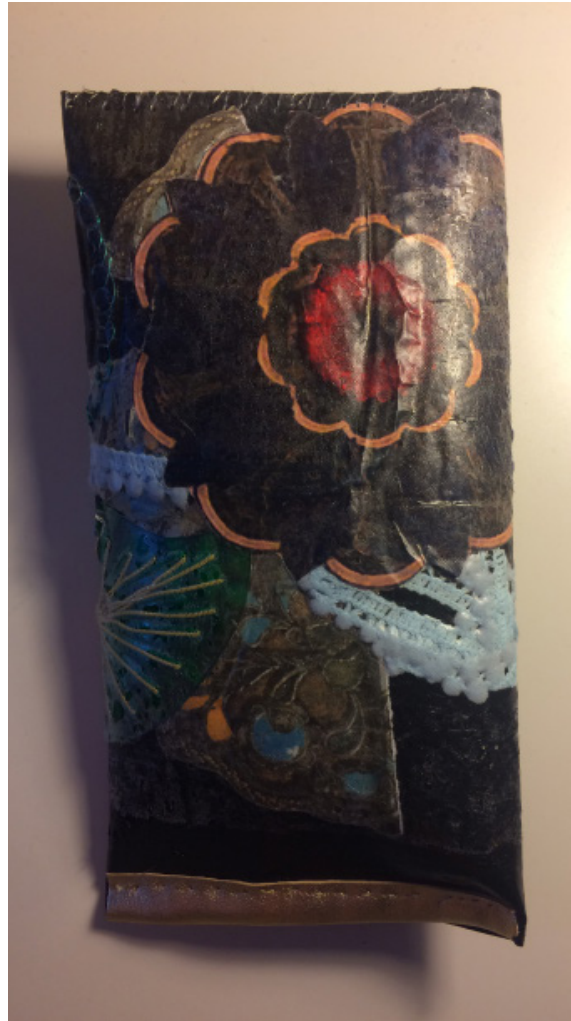


I was really pleased with the result. It is a chain that can be worn in many ways. When you move intensely, the chain makes this tambourine sound, which makes you want to move even more. And it kind of reminds an armour, a fact which again can be easily linked to my project, since jewelleries back then offered this “protective” appeal.

Meanwhile in Polymers.... I wanted to somehow show all these magnificent images and patterns taken from the books. Which is why I decided to experiment with plastic materials and paper using the heat press.



As soon as I had my plastic sheets, I started playing around with them, wondering what I could use them for. The most rational thing to do was to make envelope bags. And this is how I decided that for the degree show, except of jewellery I would also have a series of bags.

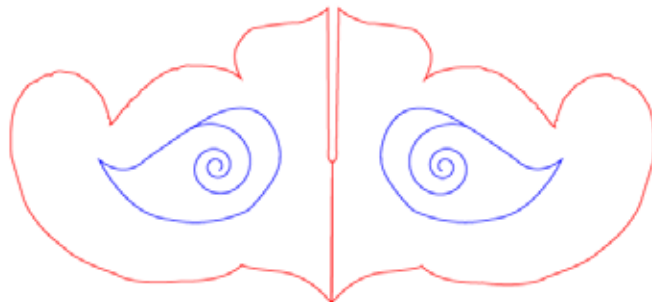
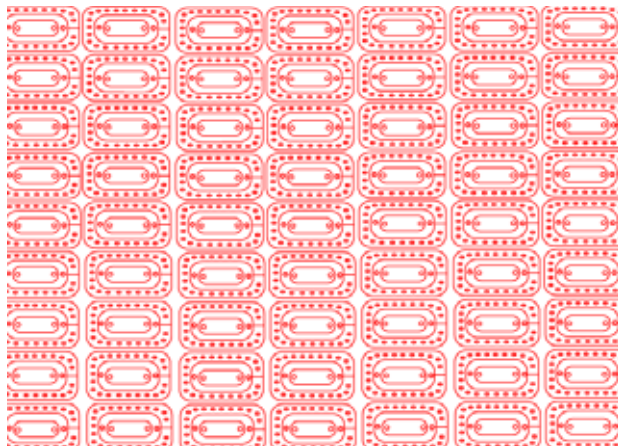
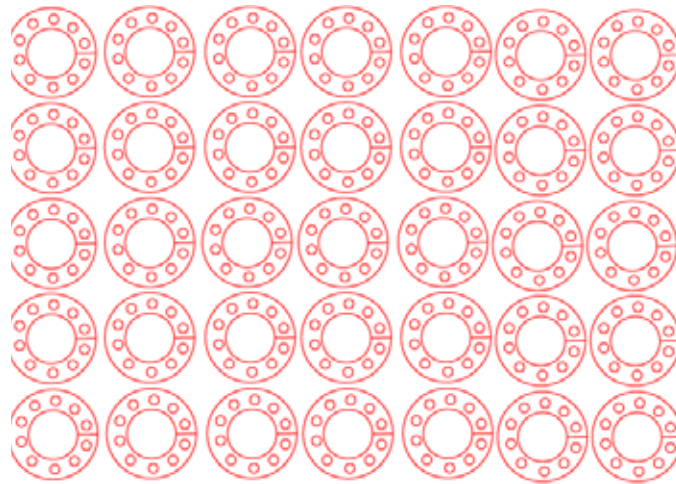
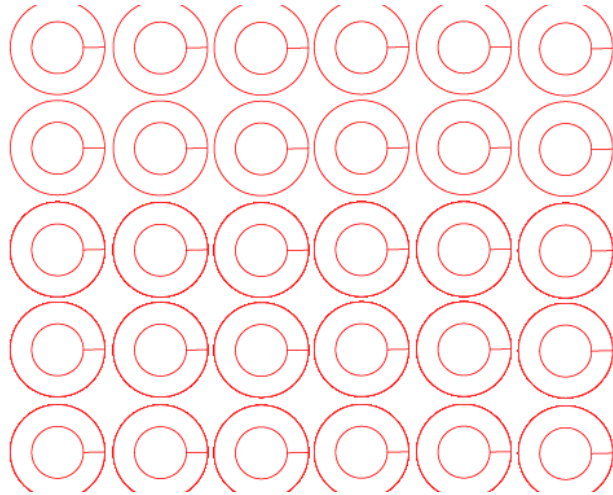


But envelope bags are too flat, while I wanted a 3D result.



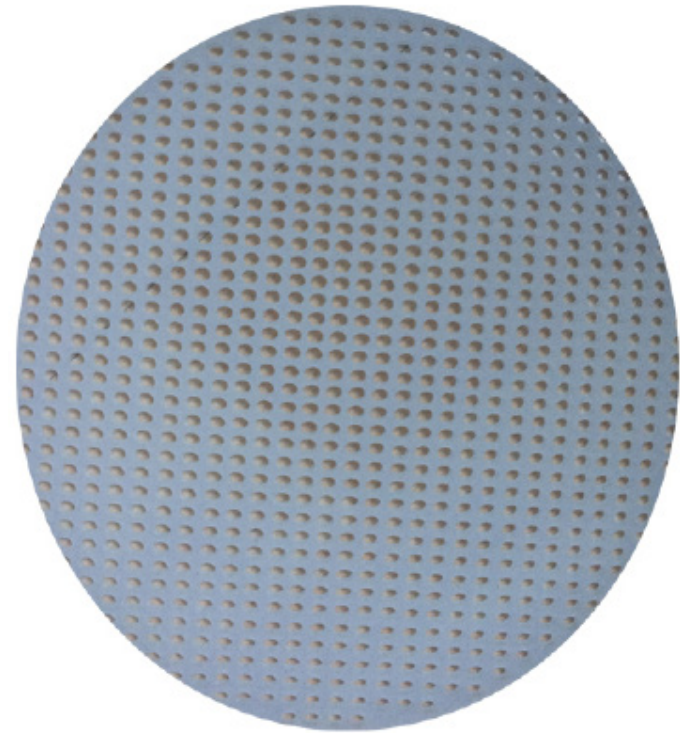
Combining acrylic sheet with materials which can be relate to my project such as threads and fabrics that bring out the traditional sense, really caught my interest.

Then, I started thinking of designing my own designs in Illustrator. I definitely wanted to use the laser cutter, because it gives me the opportunity to cut out shapes that inspire me and cut them in precision.



These are some of the first designs on Illustrator.

These are the results of the first samples using the laser cut.



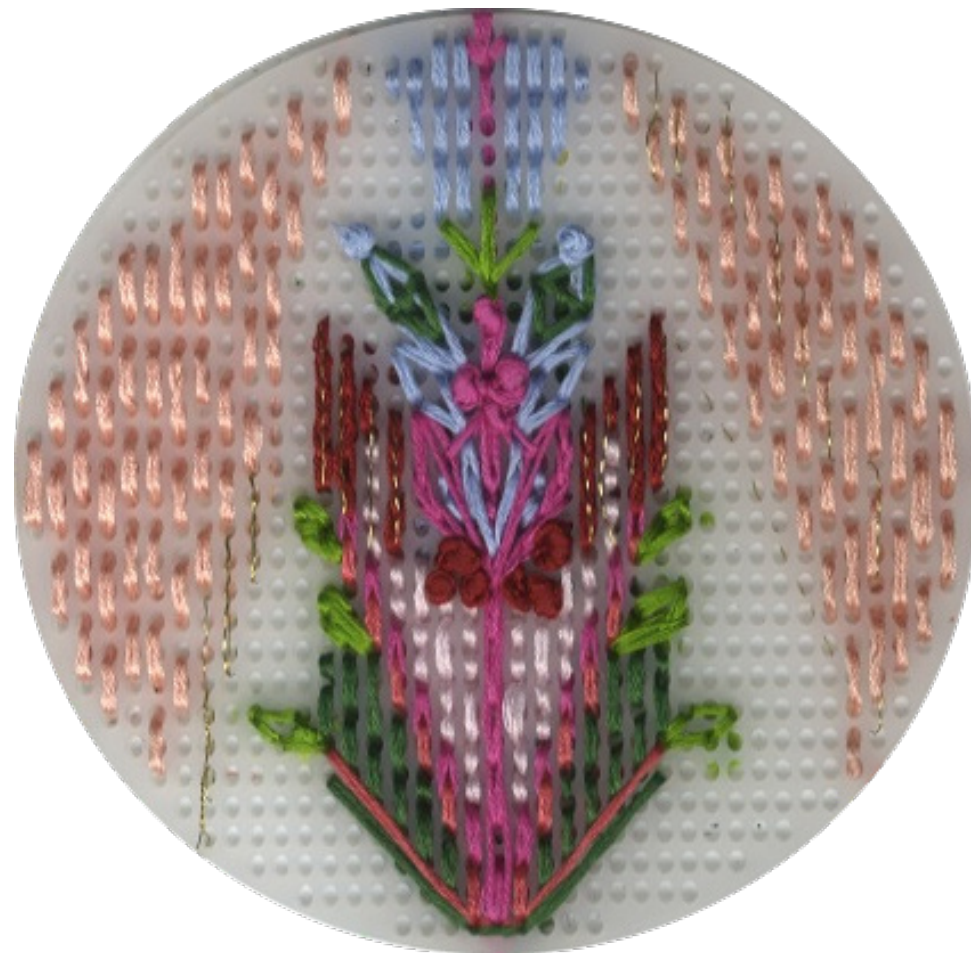
Meanwhile, I was really interested in embroideries...



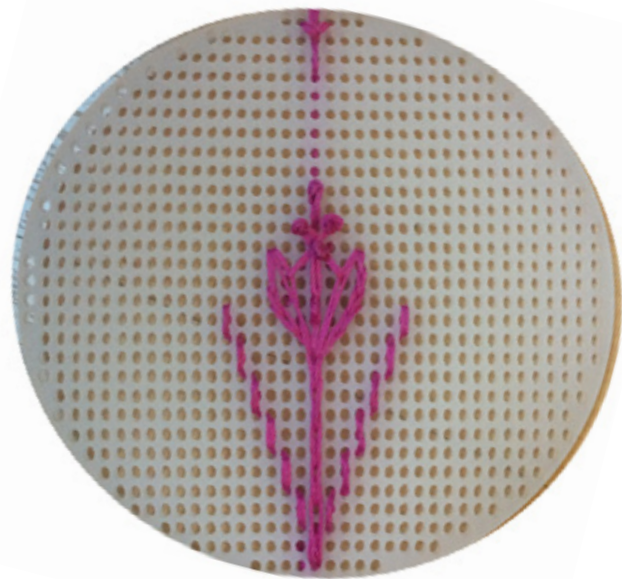
Like I already mentioned I find the idea of embroidering on acrylic sheets really interesting but most of all very modern. Here, I tried to create a contemporary version of a traditional cross stitch piece.



My piece.



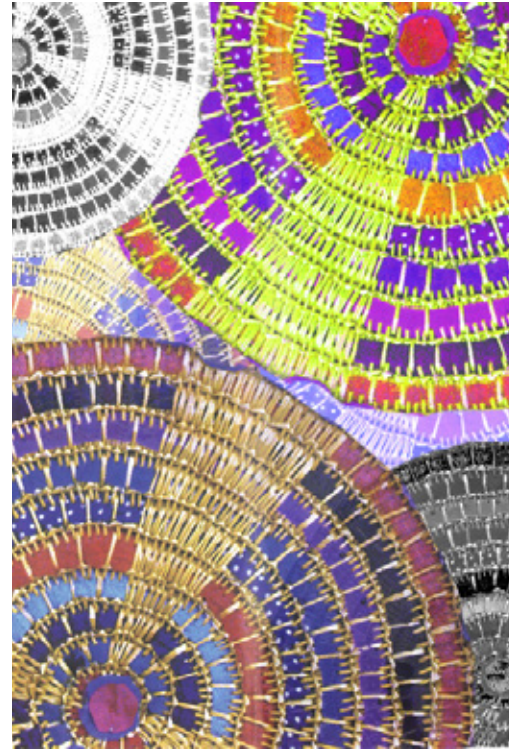
Traditional piece.



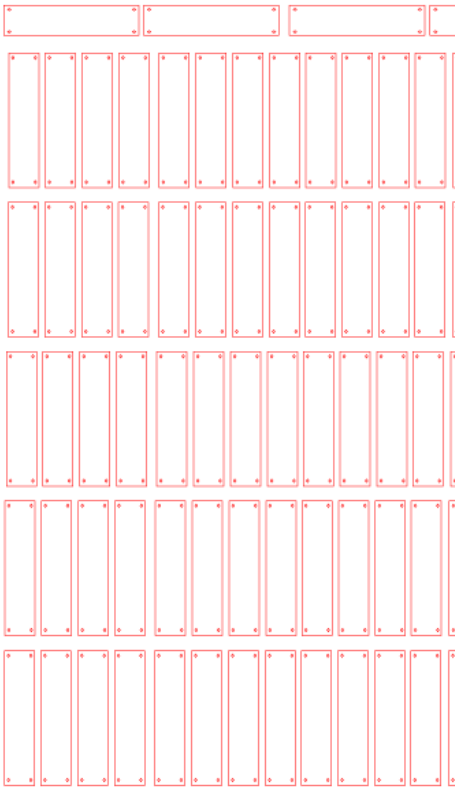
This is what I did with the little piece of chain. I embroidered through the little holes in order to combine the contemporary with the traditional.



I then started thinking methods of how to demonstrate real images and patterns on my objects. There is nothing better than printing on objects, which is why I chose to dye sub(limation) on plastic sheets. But first, I had to design my own images on Photoshop.



I cut these pieces using the laser cut, dye- subbed a pattern and tried to make a bag.



It was not a success but I was only in the beginning. The idea though, was really interesting.

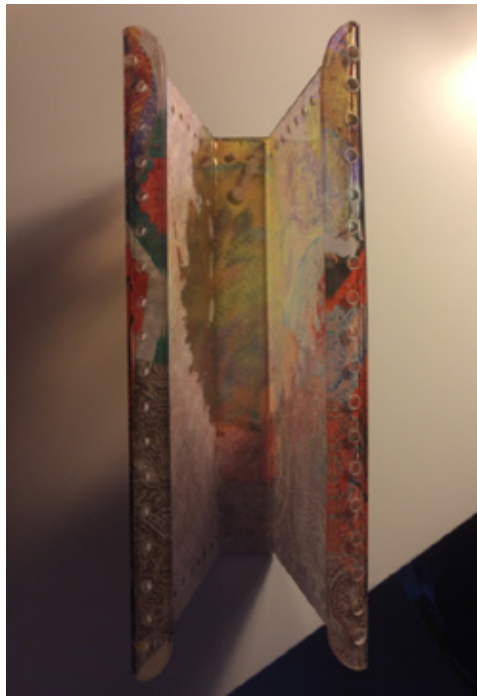
The second attempt of making a bag was more successful but not perfect. However, the shape of the bag, the prints and the whole design was very likable.



This is the final outcome of the first attempt of making a bag which would be meant to be for the degree show. Very likable design, but many imperfections regarding the sewing techniques.



Another attempt with a complete different design. Same procedure as before.





Second attempt of the same design. Getting there...



I also had to make a third attempt which was the last one. After all these attempts I found an easy and neat way to make the bag.

After the first attempt of making the oval small bag, this is the second one.



Third attempt.







Jewellery embracing the body.
bold.
chunky.
delicate.
Amour jewellery



Nikos Koulis Jewellery
Greek designer.
Inspired by Byzantine motifs

→ refers to a category of jewellery called mirmidi



↳ leather lasered cut in combination with feathers.



again bright intense colour.



Mary's Kourantzon collection inspired from Greek mythology, Greek Designer. Vibrant, bright colours, amazing patterns!



connections.



light weight

embracing the back



CATWALK Accessories.

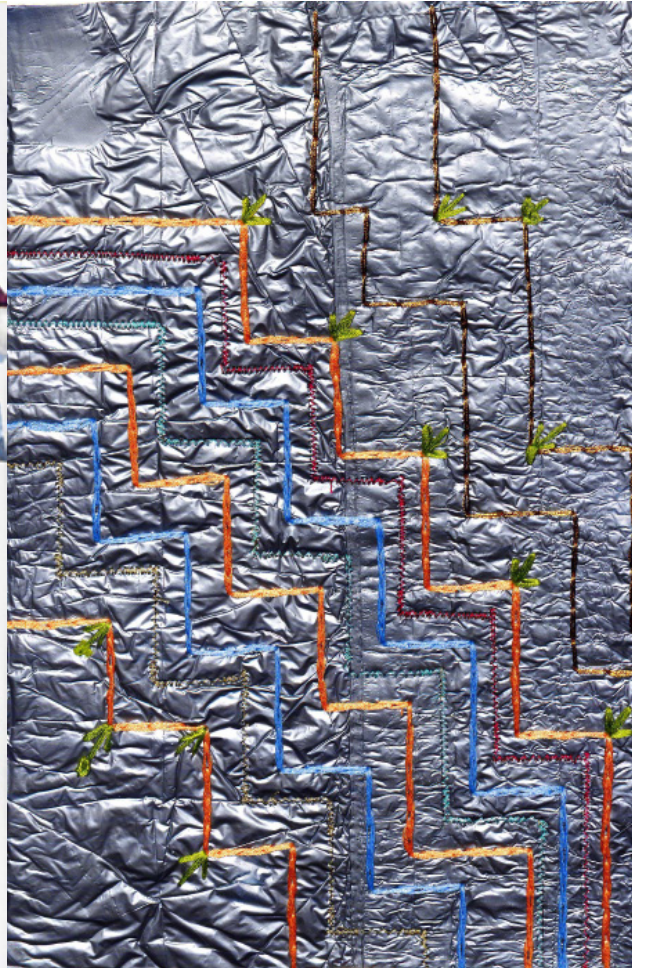




*Gripping mat,
and worked really well.
Dive effect.*



*using the
collages I
have created in
the heat press.*



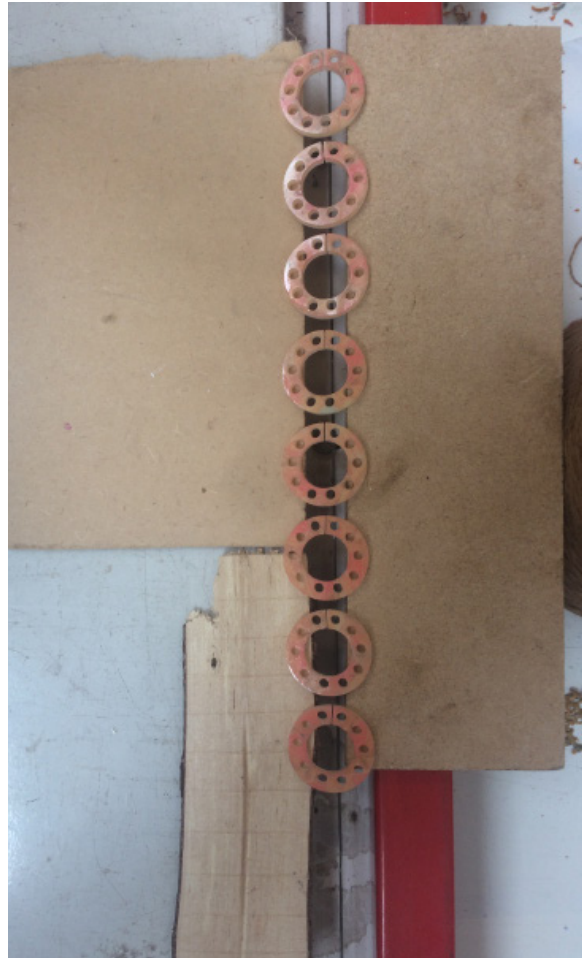
My colour palette out of water colours.



Back to chains... I wanted to see how plenty of chains combined together would look like, which is why I created some potential designs on Photoshop.



The potential designs above helped me finalize the two chain- pieces that I would showcase in the degree show. My aim was to make a very long plastic chain and a metallic one (out of steel). I first started with the acrylic one.



It was getting longer and longer... I embroidered through the holes in order to “offer” the handmade element to the chain and to add the traditional touch.





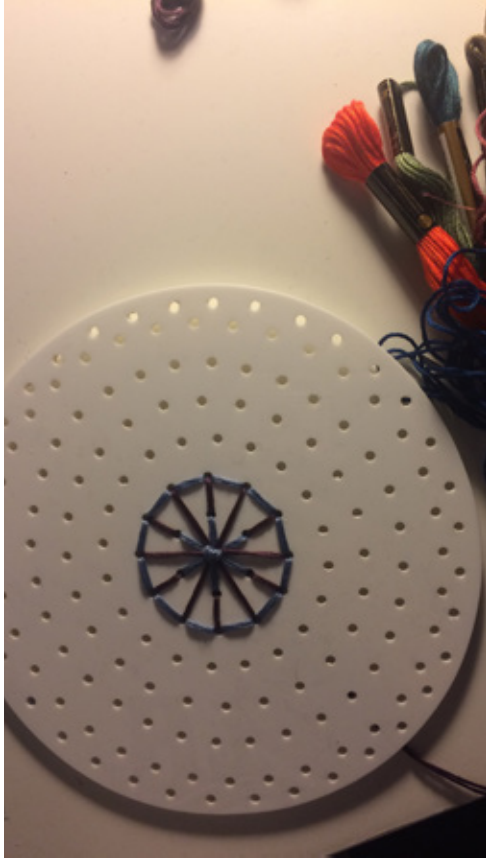
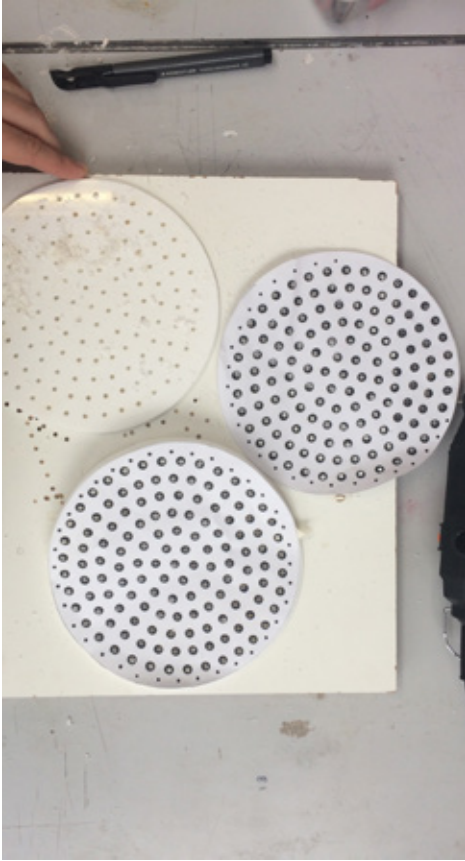
P.S: So far 4 meters..

Back to 2D bag making... Even though envelope bags are too flat, that does not mean that are out of question. It was an easy way to once again show my patterns and elements of Cypriot and Greek tradition.



Another sample. Circle is a pretty shape to use for shoulder pads. So I folded the circles in order to fit better in the shoulders. But this is just an unfinished sample. However, thanks to this unfinished sample, I got inspired for one of my final pieces.





I cut these pieces for a second time, aiming for a final bag, regarding to the first attempt of this version. But, while a was playing around with them, this came up. As a result of making this a final piece of jewellery for the degree show...



Once more, another interesting sample.



In the meantime, I kept designing my own patterns on Photoshop.



In general, the idea of creating my own sheets really fascinated me because it was the perfect opportunity to demonstrate all of my designs, patterns and images.



However, the result in the specific experiment was not as sophisticated as I wanted it to be, so I let it by.

After seven months of experimenting, designing, playing with materials, making samples....there comes the moment where I put down all my ideas and start thinking of the final 3D outcomes that I would present at the degree show. All the research that I have done and all the sample making, really helped me finalize my ideas.

The following pages will be about the progress and the process of the final pieces.

Here we go!

The 7 meter plastic chain.

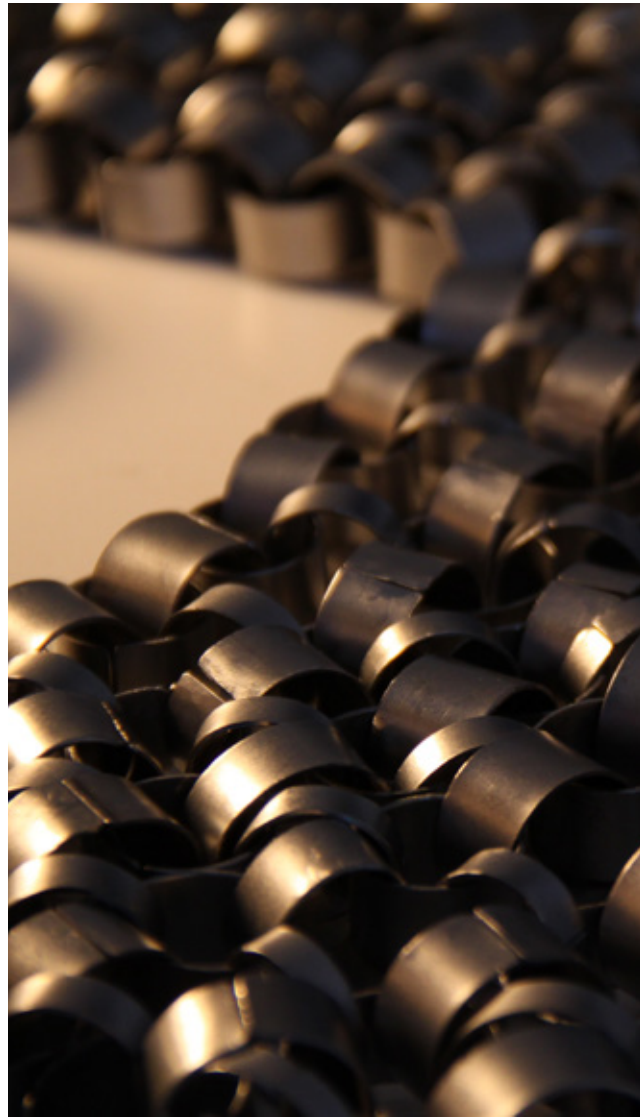
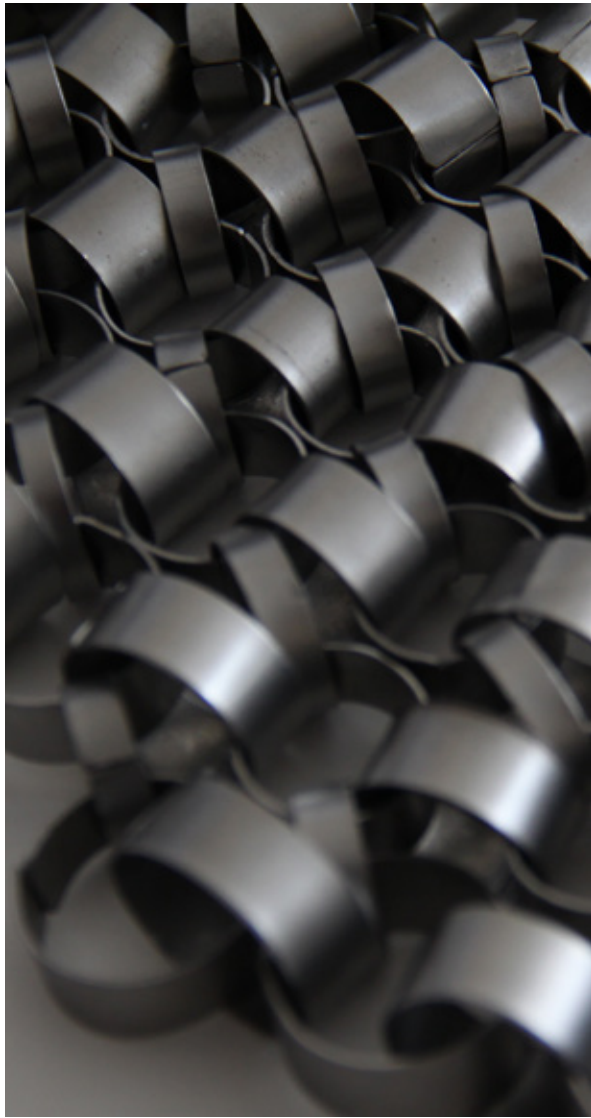
I have demonstrated the process above, so here is the final outcome.



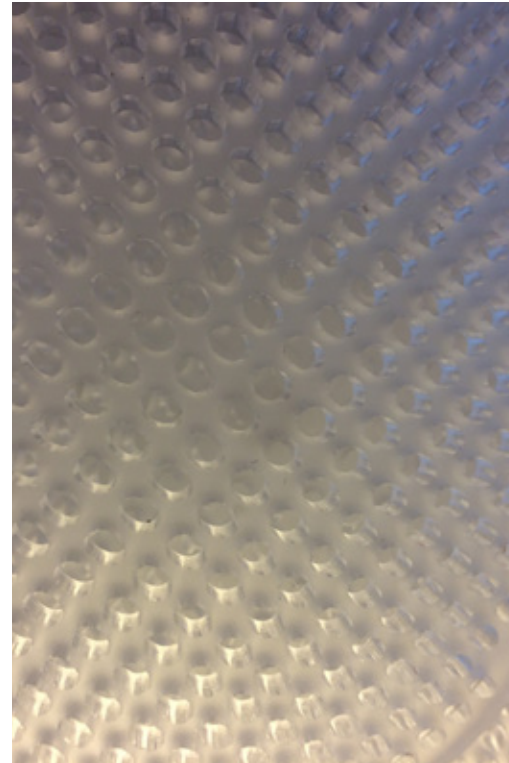
The metallic chain.

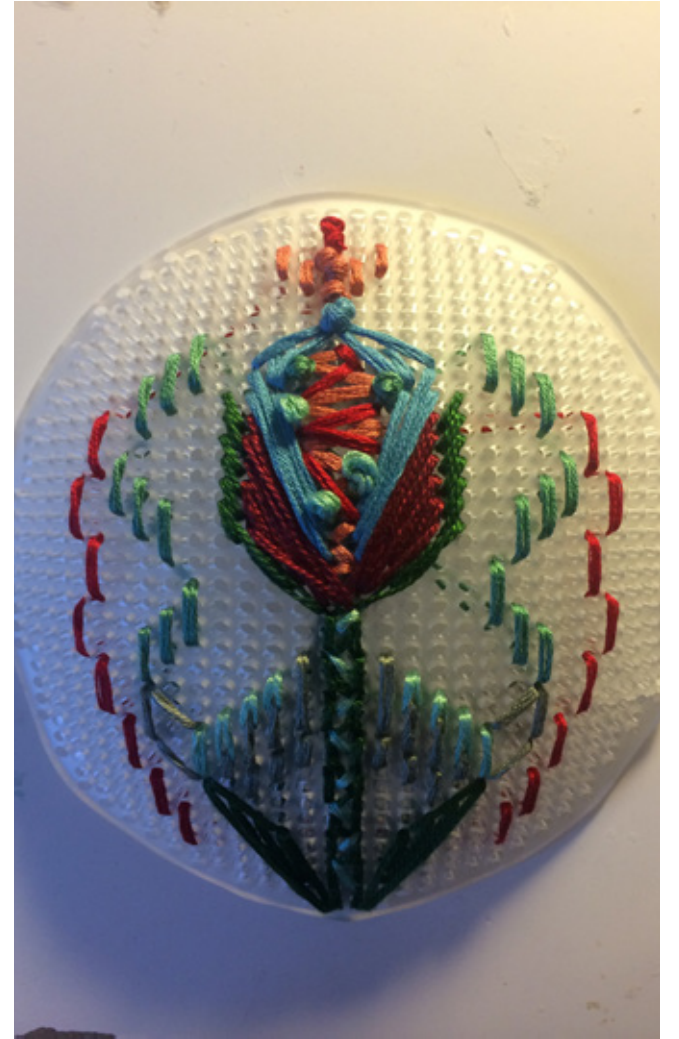






The shoulder pads.

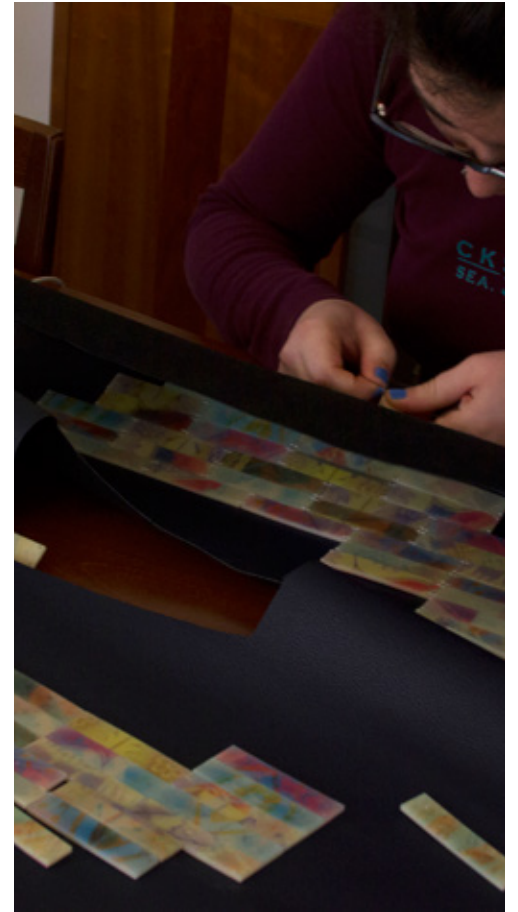






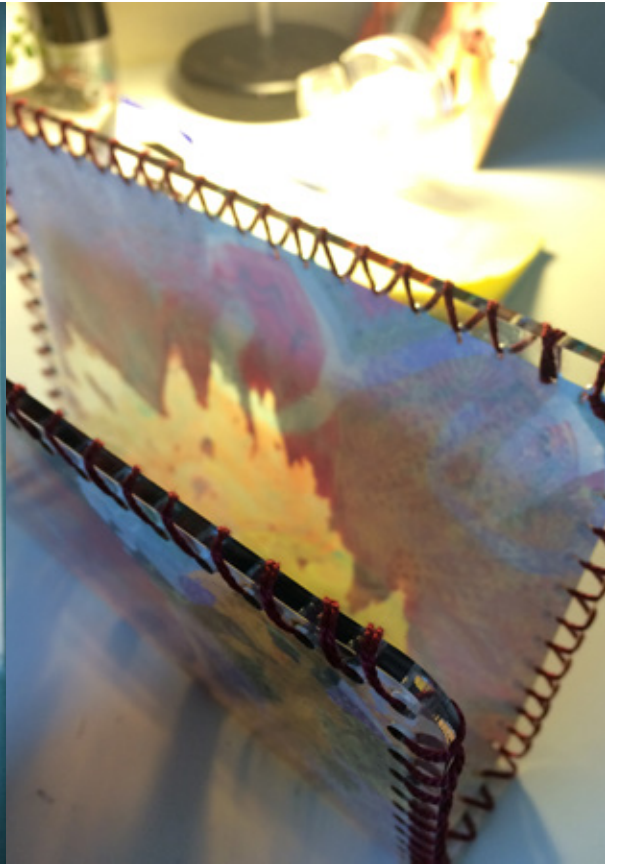
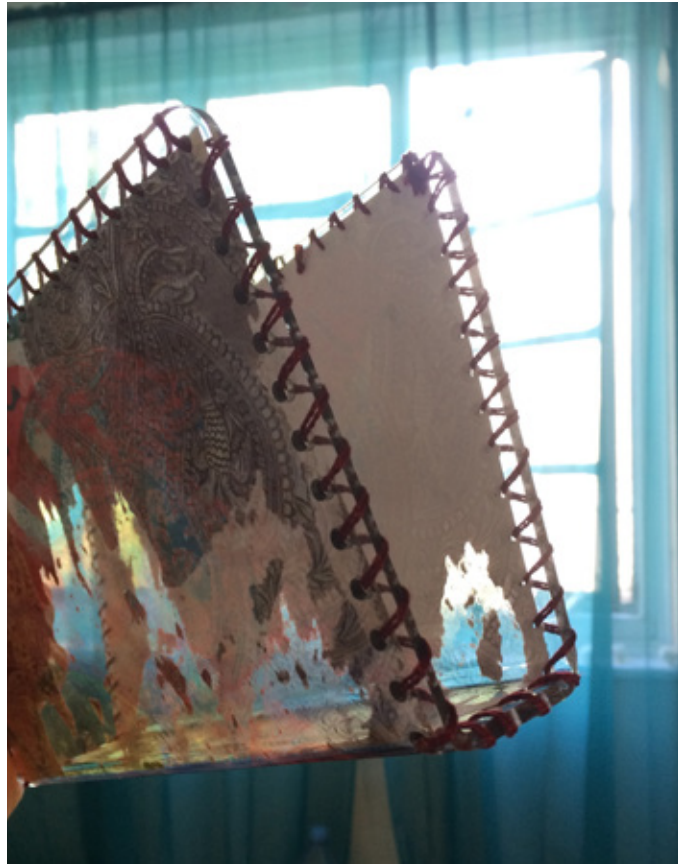


The “armour” jewellery.





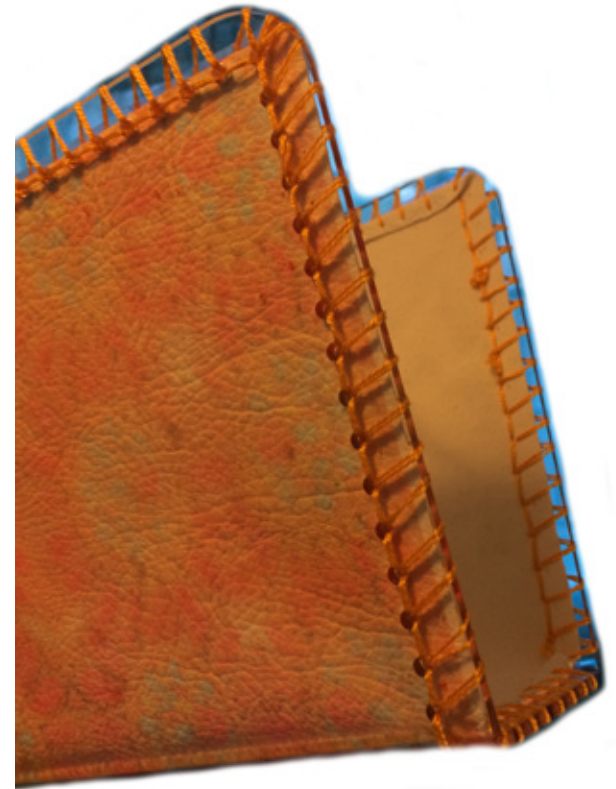
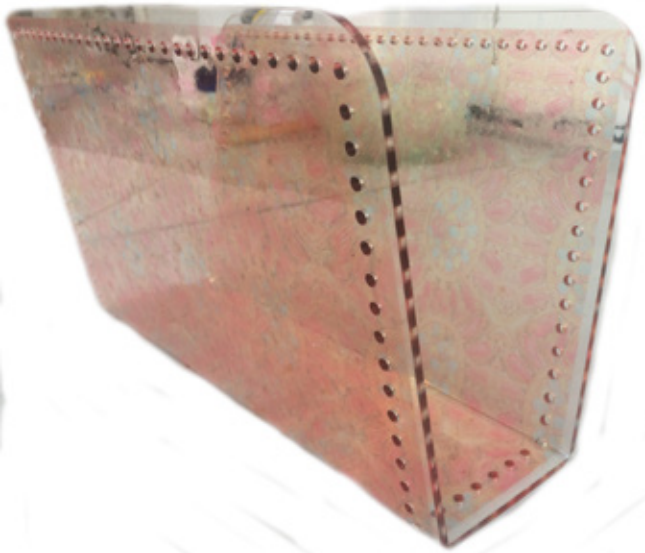
Small folded bag.

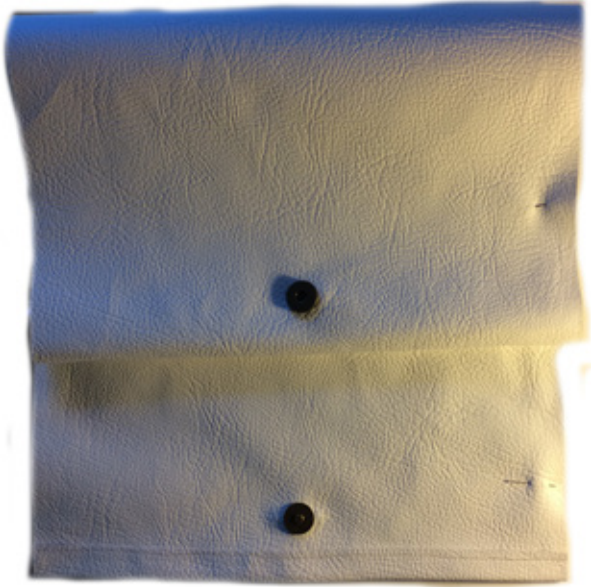


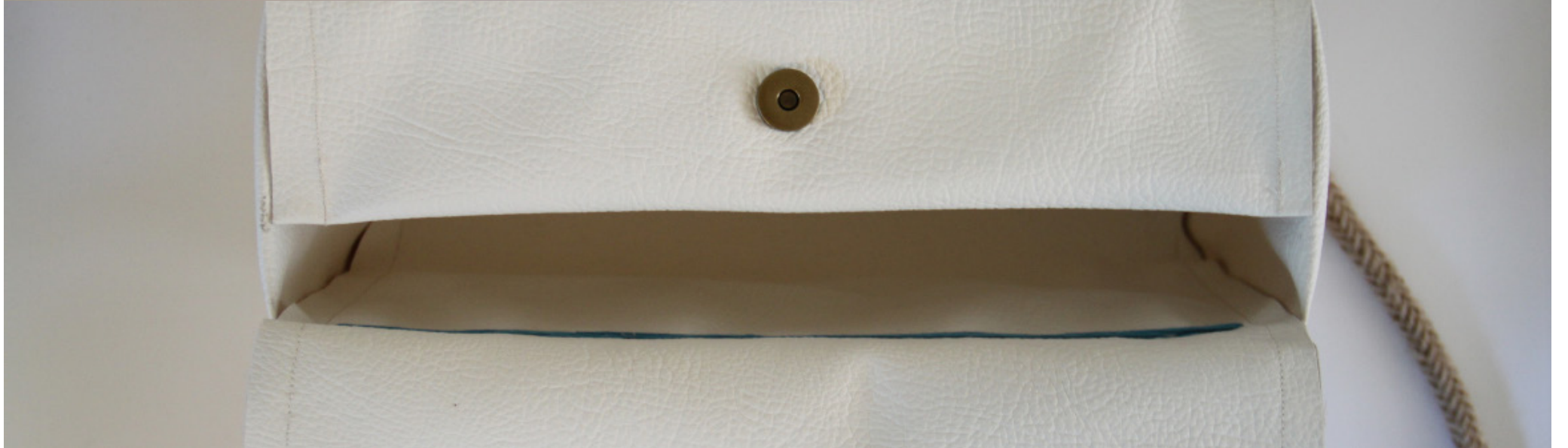




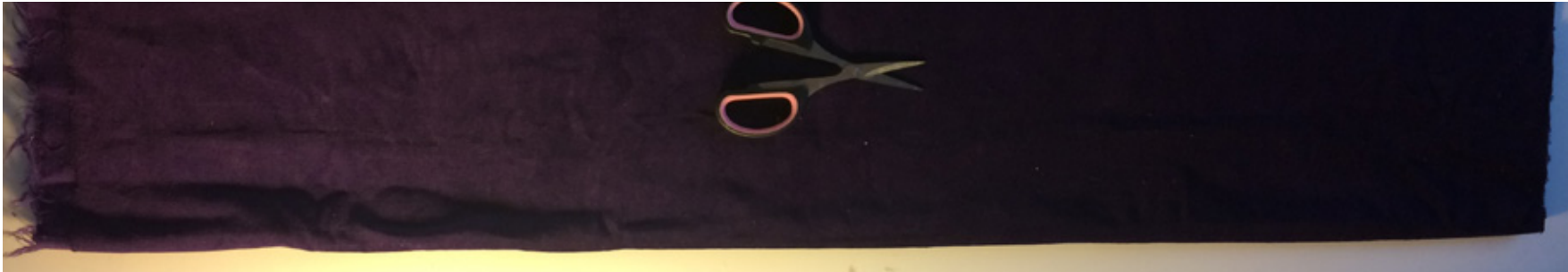
Big folded bag.







Oval bag.





The chain of the bag.

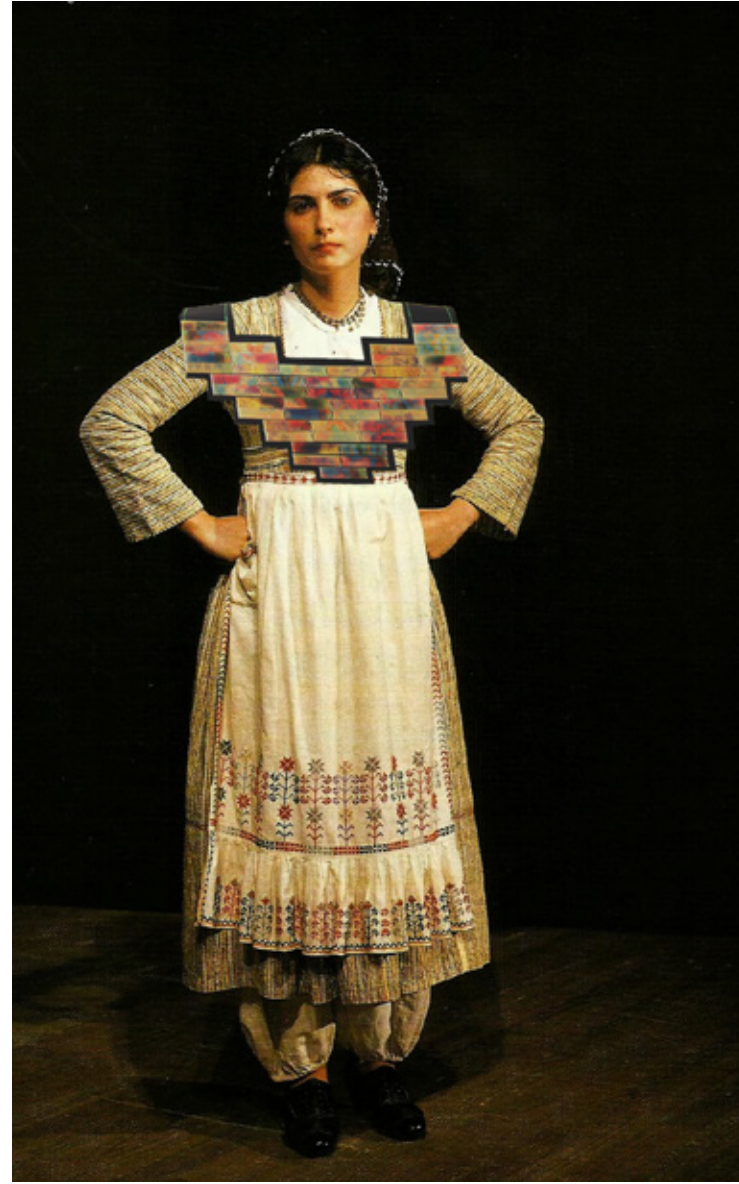




Envelope bag.



Instead of photo shooting my pieces on a model, I thought of a more fun way to demonstrate them, by attaching the accessories on ladies wearing traditional costumes. I found these images online, so the quality is not the best, but it gives that vintage feeling of an old photo.





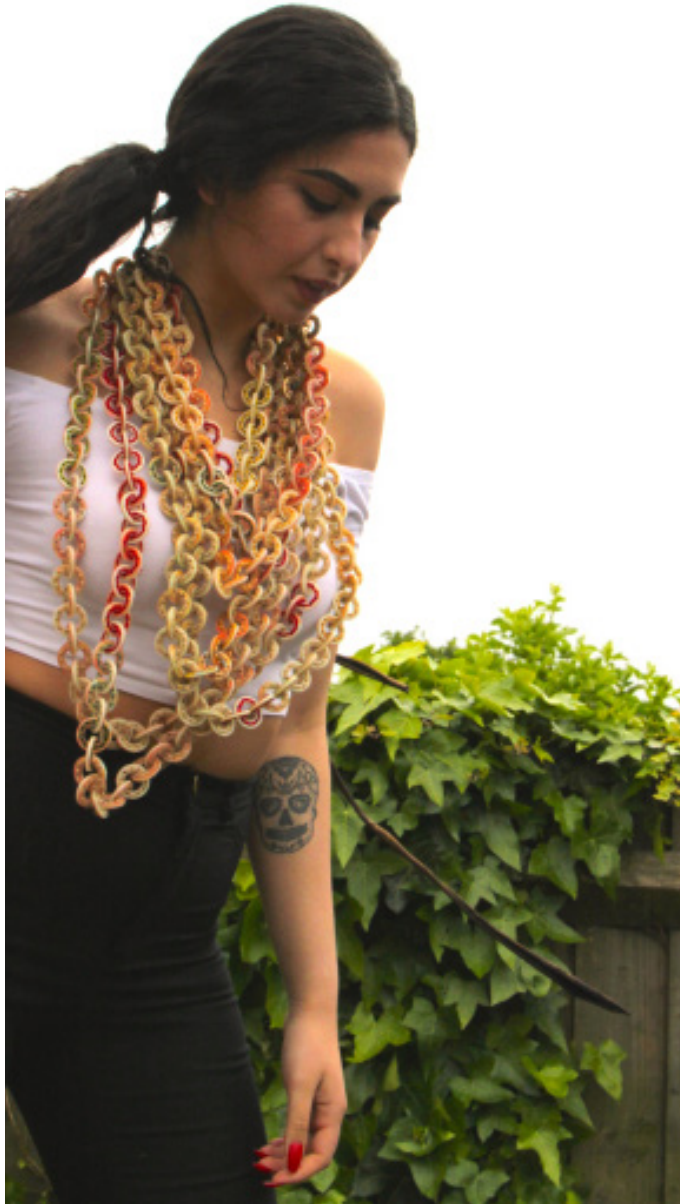
But then, I used a real model to showcase better my pieces. So here is my friend Riana!

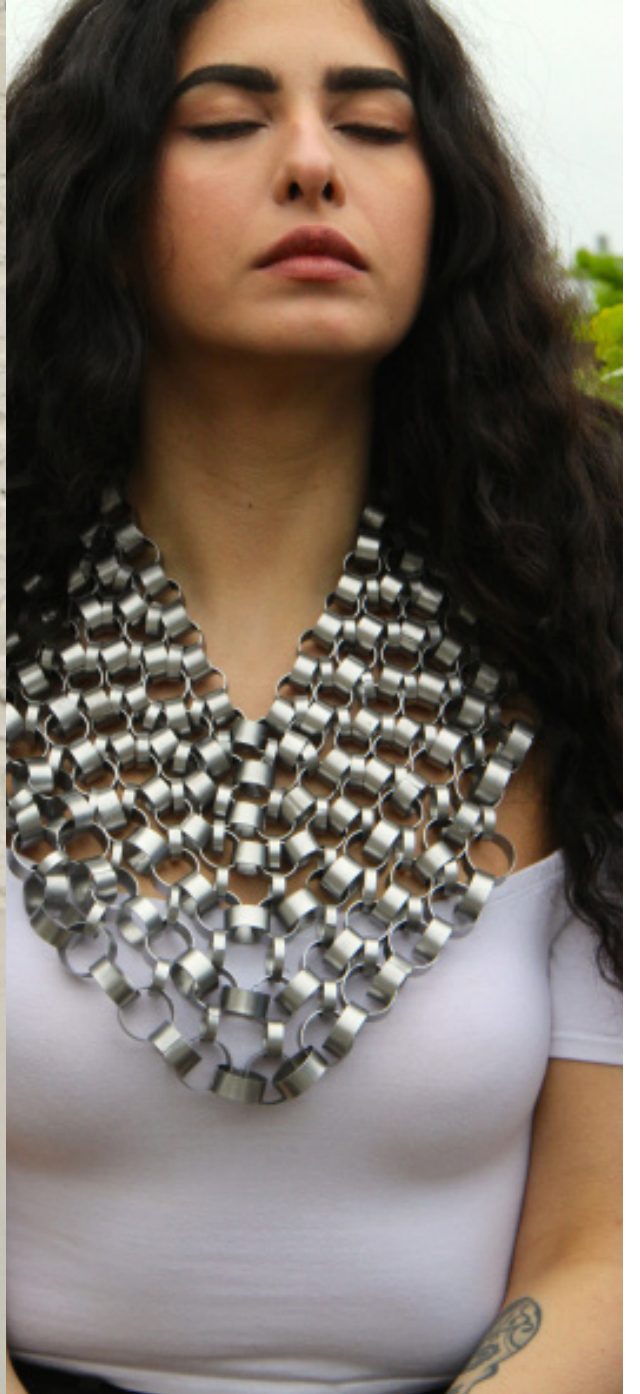
















THE END.