

Mend To Be

"All she did was to take her glove and rub hard at a spot on the window-pane. She rubbed as if she would rub something out for ever—some stain, some indelible contamination. Indeed, the spot remained for all her rubbing, and back she sank with the shudder and the clutch of the arm I had come to expect. Something impelled me to take my glove and rub my window."

- Virginia Woolf, An unwritten novel

BACKGROUND

Add-to is a brand founded in 2019 by Theodor Vange and myself. Theodor studies service-design at AHO, and *mend to be* is his master-project as well. We collaborate on the project from two different angles, me, situated at KHIO, and him at AHO; the meeting point would be that we make services for clothes and repair.

We have a literary approach to fashion, and our most central method is to compose a narration while we go. To do so we created a symbolic city where our projects take place.

"...(And how many houses or streets does it take before a town begins to be a town?) Our language can be seen as an ancient city: a maze of little streets and squares, of old and new houses, and of houses with additions from various periods; and this surrounded by a multitude of new boroughs with straight regular streets and uniform houses."

- Wittgenstein, philosophical investigations

PISAN

The city is named after Christine De Pisan, author of «The book of the city of ladies» from 1405. In her work, she builds a symbolic city where every building block honors a woman who had a significant voice in society. Our building blocks draw on repairing and craft traditions that aims to inform and inspire alternative solutions than consumption to gain the feeling of new.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through interviews and interactive sketches, we have been collecting insight on people's relationship with their clothes. Our project focused on reuse of materials and solutions on longevity and repair. A part of this project was a mended heart – symbolising windows in Pisan based on Virginias Woolf use of windows in her work. When school shut down the heart became the main thing, simply because we didn't need any other instruments than needle and a thread. We wanted to test the product and invited participants to try the kit; and by that we got positive insight. We learned that people are willing to repair and care for their clothes, as long as they get guidelines on how to do it.

MODES OF DESIGN

With a focus on longevity and repair - we work with creating and facilitating an infrastructure where we challenge our ideas about clothes and fashion. We bring tools, information and support—in order to bring about a culture-change.

MEND – INCLUDE PARTICIPANTS – DOCUMENT – SPREAD

We started simply by mending our own clothes with the idea of a signature-mend. We thought of how empowering it is to read Virginia Woolf, and when doing so you notice the centrality of the windows. When the pandemic broke out and with this in mind, we developed a mending kit and a delivery service. We posted invitations to join our project through facebook and Instagram. We sent by post, but mostly we delivered the kits by foot in Oslo. After this stage in the process we interviewed the participants to improve the product, and worked on making a store in the form of a skirt for the product. Further we work on documenting the process of the whole journey.

"Having mended her glove, Minnie Marsh lays it in the drawer"

- Virginia Woolf, an unwritten novel



ADD-TO



**Mend
To
Be**



allow me



**SPEED
Delivery**



MALL OF PISAN



50/50

Two blocks joined by a corridor
PISAN - TIME PASSES - WINDOW
(a pair of brackets)



Woolf window viewer from "A corset of one's own and the invisible corset"
published by add-to publications 2019.



Woolf's window interpreted in participants repair.