

MUSEUM OF NATURAL CONSEQUENCES

end of the patriocene
feat. Winnie van der Rijn

"The role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible."

Toni Cade Bambara

I often wonder about power. I view menswear as symbolic of power. That maybe somehow the power is inherent in the clothing/costume/uniform. I wonder if the wearer brings the power or if the power is imbued in the clothing. I wonder if power is given or if it must be taken. Is it finite? Power is about, influence, access, control, security, confidence, strength, self awareness. It's authenticity without doubt or fear. Power is individual and institutional. Power is problematic because it is, in general, unevenly distributed. I wonder if it needs to be. **If power dynamics/relationships are constructed can't they be deconstructed?** I wonder what would happen if everyone was able to access their power. I believe that the power in menswear keeps the patriarchy status quo. I think the power is hiding in the seams and edges of the shirts because they hold all the labor and energy of the making. I am interested in finding vestiges of power in menswear, extracting it and redistributing it. I am dismantling the patriarchy one shirt at a time.

Patriarchy is a power structure that can and must be dismantled. As long as we ignore or passively accept the patriarchal structure there can be no real or lasting change and no true equality. We must keep ideas of change in the conversation or it won't happen. By approaching this project with some humor and a bit of absurdity, I hope to spark engagement in this deeply serious subject.

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing."

Arundhati Roy

Through my iterative intervention into menswear, I have created an army of 100 deconstructed and rebuilt shirts. I've also developed work to use my scrap - including collage, quilt, soft sculpture and accessories. As a 'nose to tail' artist of opportunity, I work in a mix of repurposed, new and soluble materials using a combination of deconstruction, sewing, embroidery, weaving and wire work. I start each piece by asking my self 'What if...'

"Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are."

Theodore Roosevelt

What if I wrote instructions?



These pieces serve as an introduction to the project. They are embroidered with suggested step-by-step instructions for dismantling the patriarchy. They are stitched in white on white and black on black - subtle, subversive, secret- in the tradition of 'white work' embroidery and a rich history of messages imbedded in textiles. Maybe the symbol of power in the patriarchy holds the secret to its own demise. It's all here in black and white.

- how to dismantle the patriarchy (#7 & #99)

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What if I trapped the excess?



Whilst dismantling the patriarchy one shirt at a time, I have accrued many shirt 'filets.' In this work, I've repurposed the shirt meat by turning the left overs of the patriarchy into collaged abstract decoration. Trapped. Objectified. Impotent.

- objectification of the patriarchy 2
- objectification of the patriarchy 3/dirty work
- objectification of the patriarchy 4/dirty work
- objectification of the patriarchy 6/white meat
- objectification of the patriarchy 7/white meat

What if I made armor?



Armor is one of the veins of this project. While building these pieces, I think about what I'm trying to protect. Is the danger coming from the outside or the inside? Is it physical? Spiritual Emotional? Does the protection need to be hard or soft?

- armor (#1)
- office armor/ready to rumble (joan of arc+chimamanda ngozi adichie+lady gaga+a.o.c) (#51)
- visionary armor/looking/seeing (#40)
- formal armor/the future is female/backwards and in high heels/for kamala harris (#50)
- armor 2/sometimes the best defense is a good offense (#2)
- defense against all abusers corporate and domestic/showing her mettle (#70)
- swish armor (#49)
- don't fence me in/how ya gonna keep'um down on the farm? (#68)

What if I only had scissors or a seam ripper?



Repurposed menswear meticulously cut or torn between each stripe. The cutting has rendered the shirts flaccid. It was an exercise in limiting my intervention to one ubiquitous tool and a universal skill in an attempt to democratize the dismantling.

- neutered (#13)
- shred (#11)
- stripes (#12)
- castrated & castigated/fight fire with fire/laid bare (#63)

What if I installed them like the terra cotta warriors?
listed back to front, left to right





- earth (#93)
- office party armor (sequined jack of plate) (#61)
- armor 3 (#3)
- corporate retreat/under de-construction (#87)
- soft armor (#16)
- badass bitch/try me (#64)
- air (#94)
- armor amore/breast plate (#52)
- casual friday/pulling strings/corporate crop top (#9)

- ready for battle (#85)
- rewoven (sometimes you need to deconstruct something to see its essence) (#4)
- prickly bitch/you've been warned/barbed (#81)
- water (#95)
- all or nothing/it's just a facade (#73)
- wiggle room (inspired by the drawings of Noah Pica) (#26)
- detention/re-education/ back to basics (#82)
- cut down to size/propagating my ideas (#77)
- tarnished (some days I'm a little rough around the edges) (#8)
- fire (#96)
- hackles raised/don't touch (#35)

of note: The elements - earth, air, water and fire - for my sister-in-law, Amy, retired Battalion Chief. During her 40 years in the fire service she only ever had the option of uniform shirts designed for men.

What If I got what I was worth?



- show me the money/pay me like a man/currency (#84)

What if there were guards?



- disarming the patriarchy (jack of plates+pangolin) (#56)
- ode to a suffragette/the dicky/harnessing her power/she was strapped (#100)

What if I took up more space?



- My Body is NOT your Battleground/large & in charge/claiming my place (#46)

(she had grown so large in the last few minutes that she wasn't a bit afraid of interrupting him)
Alice in Wonderland

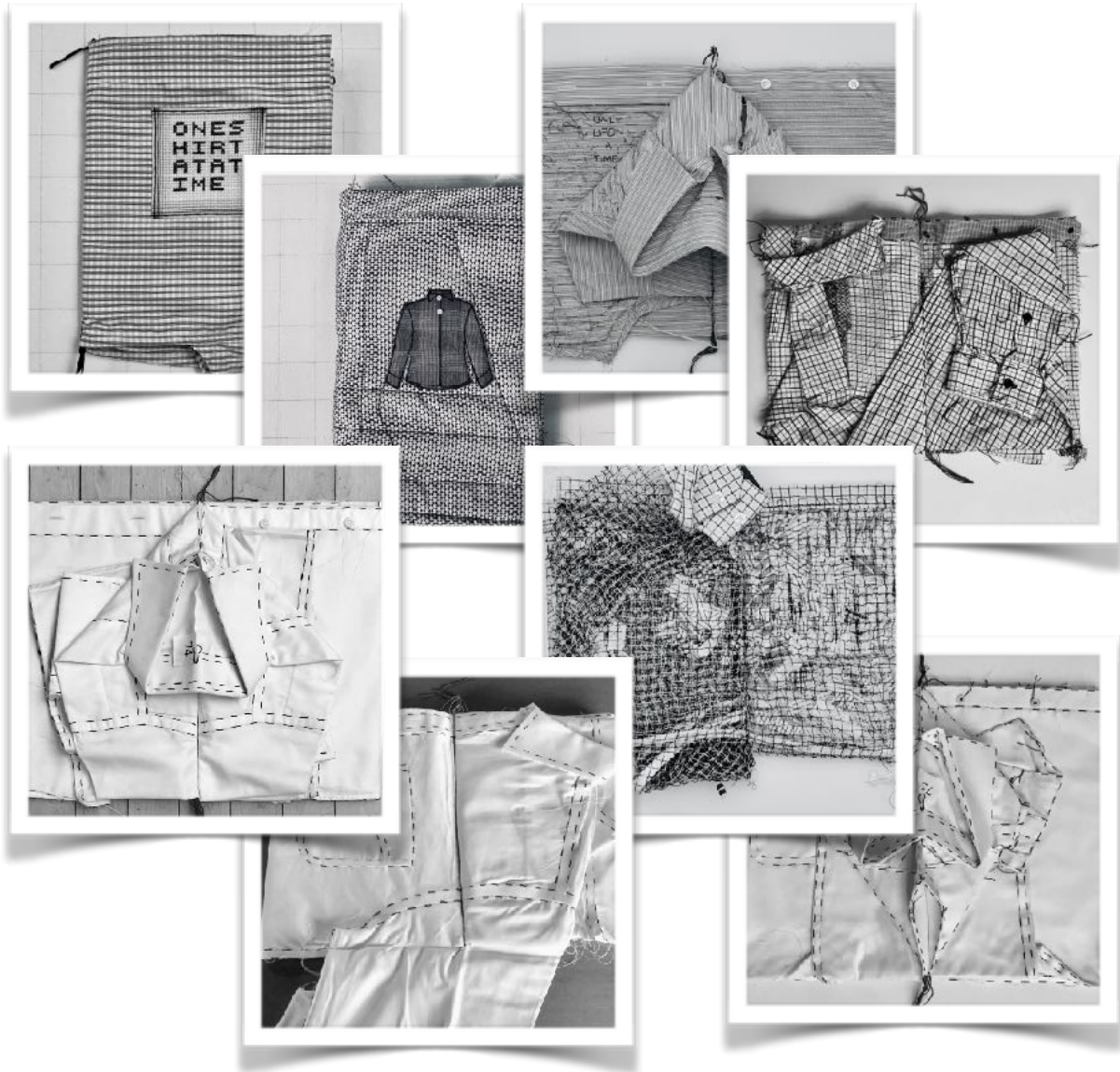
What if I shared the experience?



- the other white meat/bite me (#90)
in collaboration with the incomparable Jenny Reinhardt
- washed boy (#42)
This piece is an experiment in collaboration, creation and activation. It is the residual artifact of an experience. The shirt was created out of water soluble material in collaboration with Noah Pica. It was activated by my son, Eli, dancing in the fountain in Washington Square Park as it dissolved off his body. This was an experiment to see what we could wash away. Could we dissolve masculinity, patriarchy? gender?
- hiding in plain sight/read between the lines/xxxxx (#23)
- work from home/barely there (#6)

What if I turned some of the shirts into books?

special thanks to Jamie Boyle who helped me figure out the 'zine of it all



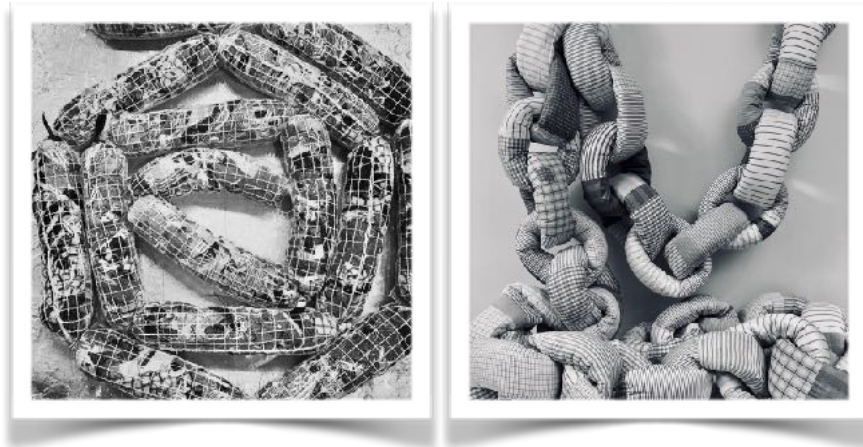
- the sampler - vol VIII (#98)
- and so she did - vol VI (#79)
- little book of stuffed shirts - vol VII (#97)
- xx/biological warfare/stratagems for dismantling the patriarchy - vol IV (#76)
- centerfold - vol II (#74)
- what remains when the lies are washed away? - vol V (#78)
- once upon a time - vol I (#71)
- gaping maw - vol III (#75)



- specimen

carbon dating indicates middle management from the late patriocene

What if I used every little bit?



I am a nose to tail (or rather collar to cuff) artist. I am committed to using all of the scrap I generate.

- byproduct of the patriarchy/patriarchal sausage/eat me

shrank a bit when immersed it in water to dissolve the casing

- chains of patriarchy

patchwork of shirt meat as a giant chain. Soft. Heavy. Bloated.

What if I dissolved the power?



Shirt fabric created by stitching on a water soluble substrate.

- dissolve (#5)

dissolved in a washing bin in an attempt to scrub the patriarchal power out of the clothing

- ebb & flow/riding the waves of grief and life (#80)

cathartic dissolve in puget sound

- redacted/censored/coverup/fashion edit (#67)

- net worth boy (in collaboration with Noah Pica) (#41)

- messenger boy (in collaboration with Noah Pica) (#43)

snap dragon=deception; iris=a message; bittersweet=poisonous truth

What if I concentrated the power?



- upwardly mobile (#29)
- upwardly mobile (#34)
- neutered (#38)
- edges of power (#18)
- edges of power (#19)
- skeleton shirt (#20)
- skeleton shirt (#36)
- skeleton shirt (#37)
- undone/unseamly/power release (#39)

What if we looked really close?



Dissecting a Complicated Symbol:

Adopting a Scientific Method to Examine the Tailored Shirt

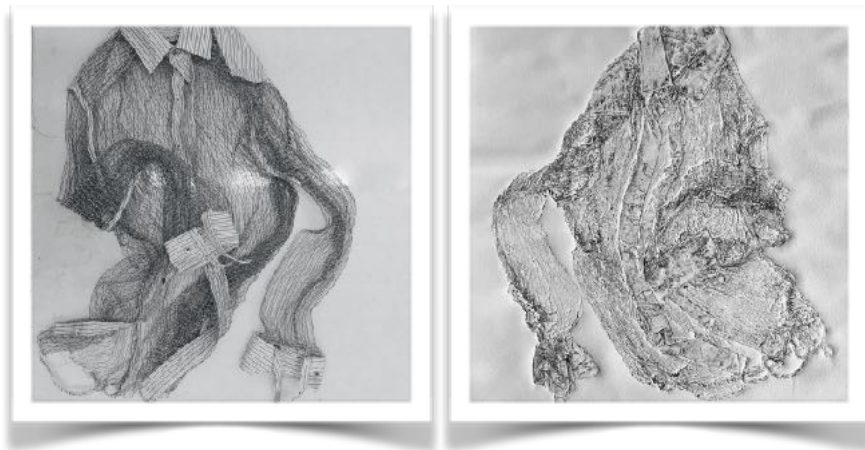
curated by the incredible Noah Pica

- anatomy of the patriarchy/full of himself (#89)

in collaboration with my daughter, Maddy, as she studied for the first part of the medical boards

- the reorg (#83)

What if I worked with others to replicate the effort?



- sacrificial shirt (#65)

- patriarchal roadkill

(limited edition print in collaboration with APSU, Michael Dickins & Patrick Vincent)

What if I was seen?



What Are You Looking At?

These pieces have been altered to accommodate the female form thereby usurping the power of the shirts and re gendering them. Turning the male gaze back on itself.

- breasts (#47)
- just FOCUS (#59)
- sequin nipples (#60)
- my eyes are up here (#58)
- i'm looking right back/ surveillance (#86)
- rhinestone nipples (#57)
- peekaboo corporate nursing shirt/mother lode/from blade to chalice/a new order of the ages (#69)
- breasts (#88)
- evil eye/talismanic shirt (#10)

What if I hung the patriarchy out to dry?





Tally

curated by the phenominal Jamie Boyle

- corporate camouflage (#22)
- hiding in plain sight (#21)
- flasher (#31)
- vulnerable/punctured/perforated/pierced (#91)
- can you see me? (#28)
- reinvent (#25)
- soft power (#14)
- soft power (#15)
- diminishing (#24)
- a presidential portrait/the flimflam man/he speaks with a forked tongue (#45)
- when there are nine/talismanic shirt for ruth bader ginsburg (#48)
- corporate mullet (#30)
- good trouble/talismanic shirt for john lewis (#32)
- property of... (#33)
- cinched (#27)
- one shirt at a time (#44)

What if I processed my grief through my hands?

My father passed away in May of 2021. After he died, my mother gave me several of his shirts to use in this body of work. As I considered how to integrate his shirts into my work, I determined that dismantling the patriarchy is quite a bit different than dismantling the patriarch. So I decided to repurpose my father's shirts in the manner of talismanic shirts that are worn under armor- offering protection and guidance to the wearer. They are heavy with both comfort and grief.



- matriarchy rising/mantling my mother (#62)

Talismanic mourning shirt made in collaboration with my mother, Penny Gooch.

Processing shared grief. Language alone can't express all the dimensions of loss.

- the space between (#66)

Reversible talismanic mourning shirt made in conversation/collaboration with my sisters - incorporating the symbols and ideas that best represent our dad - an attempt to memorialize our shared childhood and our shared grief.

- part 1 for my older sister, Jennifer Statham.

She embodies his strength, wisdom and courage - always searching for a better way.

- part 2 for my younger sister, Laura Faudree.

She embodies his determination and humor. She is power, freedom & transcendence.



- armor for my eponym/sword & shield (#72)
 - deboning of the patriarchy/all seams/breastplate/apron
 - domestication of the patriarchy/it all fall down
- Repurposing residual shirt meat as quilt. Domesticated. Inert. Flaccid.

What if I turned the scraps into accessories?



- Lending Library of Power for the occasionally overlooked and otherwise invisible
- finding my voice/all the things i cannot say/i will not be silenced
 - chainmail gorget (throat armor)
 - deboning the patriarchy/all seams/neckpiece
 - spoils of war/trophies of the hunt/collars and cuffs as jewelry

What if I took advantage of climate change?



As an artist of opportunity, I make use of anything that comes my way... which led me to dissolving a trio of shirts during tropical storm Henri. Fates meet climate change.

Fates Accompli

- clotho represents the present - starts a man's life and spins it into a thread (#53)
- lachesis represents the past - measures a man's thread of life (#54)
- atropos represents the future - cuts the thread and ends the man's life (#55)

What if I created a new form?



- god's head cocoon/infinite possibilities (#17)

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museum of natural consequences...

natural consequences are simply what happens as a result of a person's actions, without any intervention by an outside party

end of the patriocene...

future perfect:

at the end of my project, i will have dismantled the patriarchy

The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me.

...because the patriarchy isn't gonna dismantle itself

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