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ESE 100: Creativity & Innovation
Transformative Practice Project Summary

My TP can be summarized thus far in four main stages, as follows:

Phase 1 – Transforming morning routine:

I began this practice while getting ready in the morning, which I identified as the most routine part of my day. I initially began by just taking as long as I wanted to get ready. This reminded me of “fooling” getting ready for bed as a child and making costumes or outfits with my towel.

Phase 2 – Dressing as Random Stimuli:

I then began moving from simply changing my routine getting ready to using random stimuli I experienced throughout my day to decide my attire for the following day. Some of the outfits I wore were inspired by a miniature poodle, a bullfrog outside my window, a poster on my wall, and a chair in my room.

Phase 3 – Sketching the Dress of Random Stimuli:

I became frustrated when I was limited by the contents of my wardrobe one morning, as I wanted to dress like a red sports car I saw the previous day. I decided to draw the dress I had imagined for my outfit instead, and a whole world of possibilities was suddenly open to me. I hadn't really even noticed that my wardrobe was limiting me in the animals and things I could personify through my dress.

Phase 4 – Creating the Dress of Random Stimuli:

I wanted to take my practice to the next level by actually physically creating the clothing I imagined for the random stimuli I experienced throughout the day. I took the opportunity when a tree I saw while walking reminded me of the myth of Daphne and Apollo. I envisioned a dress inspired by Daphne's transformation from a nymph into a tree. Originally I had considered using paper, but since the material was so close to the tree, I decided to go with a dark brown satin.

For the next phase of my TP, I would like to explore using unconventional materials for clothing, because, although unexpected for me in terms of the subject I was trying to capture with my dress, the satin I used is not really unexpected for clothing in general. In thinking about exploring this, I remembered the slide of a furry teacup by Meret Oppenheim from my high school art history class. The texture was an extreme departure from the norm, and garnered a questioning, contemplative reaction in me which I would like to provoke in others as well, as it has stayed firmly in my mind for over 3 years now.