



Cocoon of Isolation

SHORT DESCRIPTION

A large, heavy cocoon-like cape made from patchworked denim scraps. The garment fully envelops the body, featuring a helmet-like hood with a minimal opening, creating a sense of isolation, protection, and emotional withdrawal

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

The garment is inspired by the emotional state of isolation—when a person feels overwhelmed by dark thoughts and withdraws from the outside world. The cocoon-like structure represents a protective but restrictive space, where the individual becomes enclosed within their own mind.

The addition of embroidered words and facial elements—eyes and lips—creates a fragmented identity, suggesting inner dialogue, unspoken thoughts, and the presence of multiple emotional layers. The piece reflects how isolation can feel both safe and suffocating at the same time.

SUSTAINABILITY

The garment is made entirely from reused denim scraps, repurposed and assembled into a new textile structure.

Eco-responsible Methods:

The piece is created through upcycling, transforming discarded denim into a new garment. Patchwork construction minimizes waste, while hand-based techniques such as embroidery add value without additional environmental impact.

The collaborative process also emphasizes slow making and conscious production.



PARTICIPANTS



Inge Bollen

I am a textile designer and artist with over 20 years of experience in fashion design, graphics, and prints. I have decided to return to my roots in textile art, my true passion, exploring new techniques and creative approaches to grow as a creator and connect emotionally with the audience.



Users Participating

Mariajo, Naomi, Ana, Luisa, Mark, Mariángeles, Rocío



Cocoon of Isolation/finished garment



Cocoon of Isolation

METHOD AND PROCESS

The process began by assembling multiple denim scraps into a large textile surface through patchwork. Through draping workshops, the group explored how the material could wrap and structure the body, eventually leading to a cocoon-like form with integrated false sleeves.

A large hood was developed as a key feature, designed to function almost like a helmet, with only a small opening for vision. This creates a strong physical experience of enclosure when worn.

Separately, participants created embroidered patches featuring words and phrases that emerged during group sessions, along with symbolic elements such as eyes and lips. These were later applied to the garment, building a layered narrative.

CULTURAL RELEVANCE

The piece loosely references historical garments such as monastic cloaks, particularly those associated with isolation, introspection, and withdrawal from society. This reference is reinterpreted in an exaggerated and contemporary form, transforming a traditional silhouette into an expressive and emotional statement.

The use of denim—an everyday, widely used material—contrasts with the conceptual depth of the piece, grounding it in contemporary culture.

Cocoon of Isolation/design process

