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AN UNADORNED ADORNMENT: THE AESTHETICS EXPERIENCE OF AN ALTERITY IN THE JEWELRY

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Abstract

Adornment of the human body is a cultural practice commonly found among all races and nationalities. These adornments represent their identities. Humans have created decorative pieces called jewelry, and each item plays a different role. Jewelry made from valuable materials is often considered expensive and symbolizes a wealthy status, as in this capitalist world, expensive objects are associated with the rich. Jewelry reflects a person's character, which is often intertwined with various subcultures. The materials used in jewelry represent one's sense of self, with markings on the body showcasing their character and spiritual connection to the object. The selection of materials is driven by the desire to express different facets of their identities. Those who fail to grasp the true meaning of these identities will not understand the genuine reasons for wearing these items. In the 21st century, global warming has spurred a move towards more sustainable design. Environmentally friendly production has become the new trend, where materials are chosen to reflect the essence of true adornment, while also being

mindful of the environment. This growing environmental awareness has inspired action to support a long-lasting and eco-friendly environment.

Keywords

Jewelry, Belief, Relic, Appearance, Desire

1. Introduction

Precious metal and colorful gems are commonly known to many people when thinking about jewelry. In fact, we have found many pieces of jewelry which are made from glass, diamond, gem, metal, gold, human teeth, animal bone, seashell, coral and wooden rope, artificial materials, and many more. These are all valuable materials and have different forms. They are materials that humans used when making jewelry from the past to the present. In the archaeological work in which people were in search of man's ancient civilization, they found an object that represented a story of a man. The object was adorned on his body. Moreover, this object is an indication of the belief, culture, and society they live in around the area (Untracht, 1982). The jewelry has made its development in parallel to the local people's belief in the region which could form a connection or even become a part of among the social group. Sometimes, the jewelry forms a separate identity among the group which later formed a new personalized identity. In much research, as we uncovered the meaning of the different jewelry pieces, we have come to understand the history of their society and stories up to its present.

In this way, we can understand the different aspects of the changing way of life, and we would also be able to predict the future. As a result, jewelry is the representation of an object or a person because jewelry stays close to a person's body or connects to the person's spiritual awareness (Siti et al., 2019). Relationship within the time that links people together with a piece of jewelry. The close connection doesn't only keep people present at the time they wear the jewelry, but the meaning of the jewelry link to the past and make memory clear about our ancestor and as an item that has been passed down over generations (Harmeyer, 2018). Or maybe there is a connection of time that overlaps one another in another parallel world in which we cannot sense this existence (Siti et al., 2019). Therefore, we cannot use our bare eyes to judge the meaning of an object or a piece of jewelry but there are many details in various dimensions, not only do they represent taste, aesthetics, and social value but the precious piece links back through time, bloodline, inner emotion or even the materials that have been used to produce the

object are contributing to the unison between the object and man. When looking at its background, we can, therefore, explain the real reasons for its existence and why people wear those items. However, it has always been a question to ask surrounding the objective of a piece of jewelry. The question to ask is really whether a piece of jewelry is made to represent lineage, social status, duty, belief, or economic status or is the jewelry not to be a representation of these things or any memory but to be an object that displays goodness in itself? Nevertheless, in terms of searching for its meaning in the context of being considered an object of the representation as a piece of jewelry. It is crucial to take a moment to reflect on the value of the materials (Phillips, 2000) used in creating the jewelry piece and the profound connection that exists between these materials and humanity.



Figure 1: Example of different materials used in Jewelry that relate to the concept of time.

(Source: *Hand Mirror* (Lignel, 2013) by Otto Kunzli and *The Foam* (Dannischwaag, n.d.) by Danni Schwaag)

The time issue (Figure 1 Left) is mercury water in a palm of a hand. The mercury water acts like jewelry occurring at one point in time and then disappears into the air (Lignel, 2013). The Foam, Mother of Pearl soap (Figure 1 Right) is a contemporary piece of jewelry designed by Danni Schwaag. It used soap as a symbolic meaning of hand washing amidst the Coronavirus pandemic (Dannischwaag, 2022).

2. Value of Jewelry Materials

2.1. Value of Jewelry Materials: Announcements That Do Not Want Embellishment

There are many definitions of jewelry. It can be viewed as an aesthetic object or as a pure art form. It is insulting to regard jewelry as a decoration object on clothing and that they are

just a symbol of social status, wealth, and taste that has no real meaning in itself. Many pieces of jewelry are made from expensive materials that have high economic value such as platinum, gold and diamond. Gold has a standard global market price as well as diamond in which price is varied according to its size, flaw, and color. Therefore, a diamond is easily judged for its price and value with the bare eye. The value of a diamond surpasses the aesthetic. In some ways, one cannot stop thinking that in this consumer world, different types of jewelry renders different experience of wearing it. Moreover, if the jewelry piece contains luxury branding (brand name) which is highly considered among the high society, are undeniably has brought man close to the ideal capitalist society.

Furthermore, in the past, aristocrats like to wear jewelry to show their wealth status. Their high status gives them the power to possess and seek for more precious jewelry such as gold, or valuable items in their country, for example, ivory, pearl, and shells as well as rare items that are difficult to find in the country. The 15th-century European history onwards indicated that the power to possess and acquire valuable items had heightened when society was governed by feudalism as well as the growth of capitalism meant that the greed was endless. As jewelry design changed quickly, wealthy aristocrats hired artists to paint themselves, their wives, and daughters in different costumes. The jewelry was later become short supply in the market because of the delicacy in the making while a high volume of demand. This caused low-end jewelry (fake jewelry) to become available as an alternative and was very popular (Cosgrave, 2000). The materials that were used in making this fake jewelry was colored semi-precious stone, which was cheaper than the precious stone, we called this Jewel Color (the jewel-colored precious stone are, diamond, ruby, blue sapphire, yellow sapphire, and emerald).

The new innovations to replace traditional materials and the function of jewelry have constantly changed. For example, the invention of plastic at the beginning of the 20th century was interesting especially right after the end of the 1st World War when metals were scarce in almost all of the industries including those of the jewelry industry (Schields & Vadukul, 1987). We witnessed jewelry that was made of plastic, a new material submerged at that time to replace metal that had been used in war. The beginning of plastic, we called it Bakelite. At that time, it was described as a pure new substance invention that replaced the missing materials from the earth. Plastic can be made to imitate natural materials such as turtle shells, ivory, and wood which were popular in the market. Because of its ability to imitate many materials, plastic

created many pieces of jewelry which at that time it was called the era of Bakelite jewelry. (Grasso, 1996). In addition, there are many more plastics invented and used in jewelry making, such as acrylic, plexiglass, resin, silicone, and rubber for example. Even though these synthetic materials may not present true beauty like other traditional precious jewelry, their low economic value, is not hard to find, and their reproduction capability. However, they are viewed as new and future material and the jewelry made from plastic are regarded as modern jewelry from the future that may play more role than just being the adorned object (Fallahzadeh & Rahbarnia, 2022).



Figure 2: *Example of bodice ornament*

(Source: *Phillips, 2000*)

The bodice ornament (Figure 2 Left) was a prominent piece of jewelry worn at the center of dresses on the chest. This specific piece consists of a bodice brooch and matching earrings (Phillips, 2000). It was crafted using Topaz and gold, adorned with rose-cut diamonds inlaid on silver (Figure 2 Middle). The intricate design features a flowering vine, created in Holland. Another type of bodice ornament also believed to be of Holland origin, showcased a gold perforated design with 208 square-cut diamonds arranged in a pyramid shape, accentuated with black and white enamel (Phillips, 2000). The State Portrait of Queen Charlotte by Allan Ramsey in 1761. (Figure 2 Right), The Queen was depicted wearing a bodice ornament with a large brooch pinned at the center of her dress (Phillips, 2000).

2.2. The Value of Jewelry in Exhibiting the Human Self in the Subculture: The Appearance of Unadornment

Jewelry found in ancient time were often made from materials found locally or by accident that was possible during the daily meal preparation, for example, stones that were found on the way to hunt for food, kernels, leftover shells, potteries, etc. People wore them around their necks and kept them as personal items. Each person gave their own definition of why they were wearing or keeping it and any other reasons which were related to personal emotions that no one understood. These types of jewelry were still often found in local ethnic tribes and subcultures with simple meanings to the pieces (Kamuiru & Maina, 2019). When talking about ethnic groups which are a subculture, one must understand what the subculture is first. Subculture blends with the main culture or culture that most people belong to. Subculture has their own value and different ways of life. This could be any particular ethnic group in a country or a combination of minority races. These small ethnic minorities may have different values, and beliefs through jewelry which we call ethnic or tribal jewelry. Ethnic or tribal jewelry is important to the ethnic group as they were the creative pieces that displayed the history of the group. The belief in supernatural powers and spirits in nature had a great influence and impact on them (Siti et al., 2019). For the ethnic group, it was so hard to distinguish between what was real and what was natural superpowers (Fisher, 1984). Their jewelry had a clear identity and forms that were eye-catching. The jewelry displayed relationships that came from the same root, the way of making a living and living on the same earth shared the same culture and myth, and the belief in descending from the same ancestor as well as we can also witness that these small ethnic groups believed in the jewelry' supernatural powers or surreal experience that influenced on the jewelry. The significant role of the jewelry was, therefore, to communicate with the unknown powers.



Figure 3: *Example of material from ore in the jewelry of the subculture*
(Source: Fisher, 1984)

The jewelry of one of the African tribes in Kenya (Figure 3 Left) is made from forged aluminum beads. The aluminum came from an old pot and was turned into beads or strings for bracelets.

The women tribe in this area who are married wear headbands. Asante, one of the richest tribes in Equatoria, Africa, (Figure 3 Right) has the traditional ceremony when the King passes away, the King and Queen pick who would follow them to the afterlife. Women who had been chosen wore white dresses and many gold pieces of jewelry (Fisher, 1984).

The appearance of materials used in making the jewelry in order to express themselves usually came from natural materials, from sticks and leaves or animal parts such as bone, fang, or horn.

Gold is a symbol of wealth, supernatural power and represents the Sun and eternal life. It is an important material that linked back to the birth of the tribe or important events. It is often used in religious ceremonies. Normally, one subculture does not accept another subculture except when that subculture had grown to become the main culture in the area. The old culture will then diminish to remain only a subculture. If the subculture does not open to another subculture or other races, that subculture will maintain a unique character, and creative technique with its hidden meaning. The subculture group has low development in machinery. They focus on handmade and handicrafts which is the only production technique that still shows their own tradition and displays their culture which is unique to the group (Christensen & Askegaard, 2001).

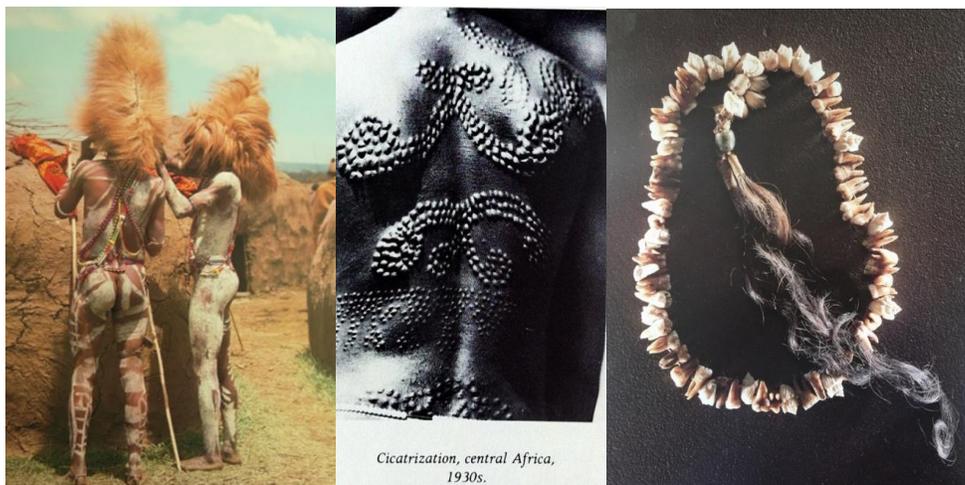


Figure 4: *Example of the human body and organs used in the jewelry creation in the subculture, (Source: Fisher, 1984 and Butor, 1994)*

Body painting of one of the African tribes (Fisher, 1984), the Maasai, (Figure 4 Left) who like to decorate their bodies with paints before adding bead jewelry over the body. The focus is on the warrior which is represented in the headpiece made from a lion's fur, showing the perception that

they can kill a lion during a fight. The raised scars (Figure 4 Middle) were made on purpose to decorate the body (Fisher, 1984). This technique is called Cicatrization and appeared on the body of Central African people in 1930 (Fisher, 1984). The teeth necklace (Figure 4 Right) was made with human teeth with Jade stone at the end. This jewelry is believed to be an amulet. The jewelry maker intended to use materials simple straightforward materials which can be interpreted as supernatural powers. This was found in the 19th century in New Caledonia, a new country located in the South Pacific and was part of the French colonial (Butor, 1994).

With the limitation in the tools as well as frequent relocations, these people used their own bodies to be the jewelry. Therefore, the human body was used in the jewelry creation, for example, a stone powder color was used to paint the body with many patterns or perform multiple cuts that left with raised scars. This raised scar technique is called Cicatrization. This symbolizes seniority, skill, or social status. Human body parts were also from the enemies who were brutally killed. Their parts symbolize victory.

It is interesting to see how jewelry represents a person's identity in a subculture. There are many different biological layers. Jewelry appears on the body or as part of the body. The meaning of materials or techniques has a strong focus on their method rather than their appearance (Christensen & Askegaard, 2001). Nevertheless, the strong identity and the culture set apart from the rest of the world have often created an influence over modern jewelry design in terms of meaning, and artificial reproduction.

2.3. The Value of Jewelry and its Spiritual Recollection: The Unadornment Desire

The cultural prosperity in the Victoria era saw the grievance of Queen Victoria to the loss of Prince Albert, the Prince Consort. Queen Victoria's black outfit influenced many mourning pieces of jewelry or Memento Mori Jewelry (Harmeyer, 2018). One can see jewelry made from human body parts, many left memorable stories and still are desirable from the past to the present (Phillips, 2000), for example, jewelry made with human hair lock were often locket jewelry group in that the hair lock of their loved one or with the jewelry owner and their loved one together was a symbol of togetherness (Lutz, 2015). Those hair locks were a representative of love, desire, and thought or sometimes a desire to have a miracle on the jewelry object. There were many types of lockets. Some lockets can see hair from the inside, and some came in beautiful shapes such as flower bouquets or woven craft work which were hard to tell

that inside a glass box with the surrounding chain was a hair lock (Eken, 2017). Some had a safety pin at the back of a locket which could be used as a brooch pinned closed to the chest symbolizing the desire to be near their loved one which was the owner of the hair lock (Lutz, 2015).



Figure 5: *Example of spiritual jewelry*
(Source: Phillips, 2000)

This jewelry (Figure 5) shows how memory was kept within the locket. Locketts are widely popular in the Victoria era. It is a small cassette with an opening and closing. It came as a pendant on the necklace and were used in keeping picture, hair, or tiny personal item of their loved one that was given by them on a special event such as Valentine's, wedding anniversary, or leaving for another place. In those days, lockets were made of valuable metals such as gold, and silver decorated with diamonds and precious stones. In 1860, lockets were more popular than mourning rings because of the memory of Queen Victoria's mourning the loss of Prince Albert (Phillips, 2000).

Jewelries made from human body parts were not only used in public but were also found in religious groups. Religious objects were made from the body parts of religious saints usually the arm bone was used in creating symbolic sculptures. This is called a relic which is an object worshipped in the Christian church. It represents the holy god (Walsham, 2010) which is to say that any body parts of the respected religious saints or other religious objects were kept for people to pay respect. The belief in relics was also evident in other religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Shamanism for example. There are usually stored in a trunk or a chest box inside a religious place, for example, a cathedral, church, or temple. The belief in relics is like those of Buddhism. Buddhists pay respect to the relics of the Buddha or pratyekabuddha or Buddhist saints. The relic of the Buddha is called the holy relic. The worship of the relic dated back to the

Buddha period. As a tradition and belief for many people to cremate the body after performing meritorious deeds.



Figure 6: *Example of Arm Reliquary*

(Source: Bohm, 2011)

Arm Reliquary (Figure 6) was found in the south of the Netherlands in 1230. The object stored the arm bone of the religious saint in the shape of a priest's robe. It was thought to have a force of protection. The object is kept in The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, United States of America (Bohm, 2011).

In the Buddhist tradition, we could also see examples of objects that represent memories and thoughts, however, in Buddhism they have cremation and what is left will be relics from their loved ones. Buddhists keep the relic as a memory from the body which was now disappeared into ashes. What is left is just a relic that is kept in a small box or stored in a waterproof inlaid frame which can be carried everywhere as a memory piece or amulet. The purpose may not be for decoration, but it is used as a comfort piece and remind people of being mindful in life or doing good deeds because death will come one day as well as reincarnation according to Buddhism preaching, they will meet in the afterlife (Sharf, 1999).

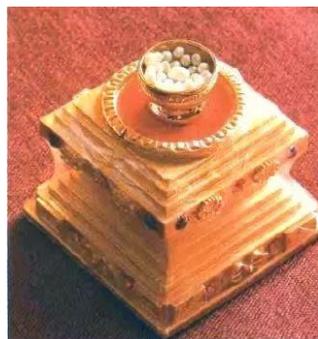


Figure 7: *Example of Buddhism Relic*

(Source: Tsenshab, n.d.)

The purpose behind the use of human body parts in this group is different from those that were used in subcultures. The desire to use part of the body of the beloved one as jewelry created a deep spiritual connection between the two of them. This has been openly accepted but it isn't well publicized, however, it is evident that human body parts have a significant emotional impact on people, they are regarded as a mental anchor in one's soul and has always been considered religious object from the past to the present. Man has allowed supernatural stories and miracles to have influence over the reality and logical sense in human beings who belong to any religion (Walsham, 2010). The strong desire when death has not taken their lives and Christianity that belief that any person who died will be eternally gone from this world has left heartbreaking emotions to many Christians. Therefore, jewelry that is made using parts of their loved one's body is the only comforting piece. Hair and nails are non-decomposed which can be strange for a person to keep these parts of someone they didn't know close to them. The reason must be love, respect, and fond memories that have strong power beyond common sense. They overcome the fear of being close to death. This type of jewelry is specifically worn for special purposes, to keep the memory of their loved one, their family members, and hope that one day they will meet. That is the only purpose that is not for decoration (Wildgoose, 2018).

2.4. The Value of Symbolic Jewelry in the 21st Century: The Awareness of the Unseen Decoration

The status and the context of aesthetics had enormously changed after the post-modern world. People are interested in jewelry that is deeply connected to the real happiness and stability that their way of living (Sirinkraporn, 2022) before realizing that the course is uncertain, nothing stays the same, the emergence of something new or the destruction of the original. The new world places human value on every status, every gender and sexuality, every rich and poor, every man or animal. Individual rights should apply to all; however, nothing can guarantee that equality remains in every aspect and in every social class. This inequality caused stress because it is confusing between the idealist world and the reality people are facing.

The jewelry design has also sparked some questions. The material world has driven every mechanism in this 21st century. Different types of jewelry have reached their highest definition. We found that commercial jewelry and industrial production played an important yet defined role. People are satisfied with what they bought and have layers of

different buying options according to their interests and how much they can afford. This different interpretation will not cause any burdens for us to fix but we openly criticized through an analytical viewpoint based on individual experience. Nowadays, there is attention on society led by positive criticism that will make art and design progress further. We often see more jewelry objects made to test human responses, especially in modern pieces of jewelry and jewelry art.

Incidentally, commercial jewelry has traveled through many important stages of the history of regimen, and many eras of world economics (Dauriz et al., 2014). However, the definition of the jewelry piece represents financial status and strongly displays the class of society to those who wear it. One change that may possibly occur is the brand identity changed with social value, for example, the change in the brand ambassador according to social popularity. The brand ambassador could be former noble people or Western celebrity persons but however, this could now be popular Asian celebrities who have high influence over today's generation. Also, real-time communication technology from around the world has quickly created great popularity and also quickly decline the demand in a short time. Every brand must then understand the impact of globalization that constantly changes global demand. Brands must be able to predict the changes as close to reality as possible. Wearing luxury brands has caused reassurance in the ability to stay in trend and are above the average society norm especially luxury jewelry brands that are at the top end of the market, the brands have been long established and they have earned trust in the luxury market to the Kings, royals, nobleman for over hundreds of years.

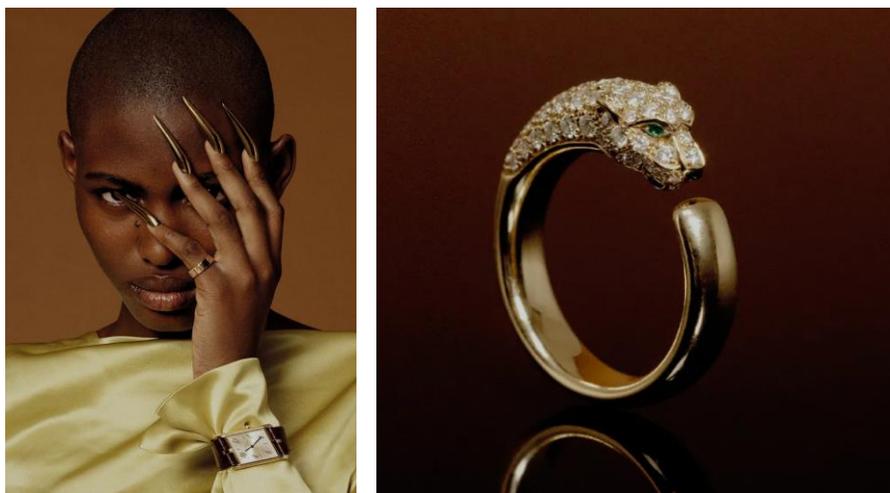


Figure 8: *Cartier gold ring*

(Source: Thomas, n.d.)

Gold ring (Figure 8) made by global luxury brand, Cartier which is a French jewelry brand established in 1847. The brand has won the heart of many people until the present day. Cartier has been serving as a fine jewelry maker for many Kings, Queens, Royals, and noblemen. There is evidence that Cartier received royal seals from royalty around the world and became the royal goldsmith (Thomas, n.d.).

Products that have strong brand images certainly use their brand label in their jewelry design. Their actual brand logo is worth more than the material itself (Ratakam & Petison, 2023). Therefore, if that gold ring belongs to a famous brand or even contains its logo, the price of that ring will be much more expensive than anyone could imagine. We can say that the monetary value of the brand is worth significantly more than the standard gold price. Those who wear the ring will not feel that they are wearing just the 18K gold ring but the feeling is being in the same social status as the former oligarch. What they see is not just the decoration but an intangible implication of the brand logo that they believe to be in the high society group.

The realm of jewelry art and contemporary jewelry has witnessed significant transformations since the 1970s (Campadelli, 2012). During this era, a multitude of questions, narratives, and explorations of controversial issues arose, challenging traditional production techniques. Contemporary jewelry has given birth to a new artistic domain that garners widespread support from collectors seeking fresh perspectives, non-conservative admirers in pursuit of novel ideas, and ideologists looking to forge connections between jewelry and government, politics, the dimensions of time, and the essence of existence in a religious context.

Inescapably, the central theme of the 21st century revolves around sustainability and circular economy. These notions have emerged as a response to the pressing urgency of the environmental crisis, which has brought the world perilously close to its tipping point. Collaborative efforts are now geared towards extending the state of normalcy by reducing resource consumption, promoting essential usage, prolonging product lifecycles, and adopting recycling as recurring concepts within the design industry of the 21st century.



Figure 9: *Example of the sustainable jewelry piece from falling leaves and plastic waste*
(Source: Wichaikul & Sirinkraporn, 2021)

The work of body accessories and ring (Figure 9) from the thesis of Doctors of Philosophy in “The Jewelry – The Thread of Self-Sufficiency” (Wichaikul & Sirinkraporn, 2021). The jewelry work by Orn-uma Wichaikul who thought of ways to reuse the non-biodegradable plastic, bringing back its life and to see plastic used for creativity in jewelry design. This has entirely changed the perception of unwanted materials. The beauty that is unlikely to happen from falling leaves and plastic waste has brought back values to the materials much more than the eyes could see. This new form of decoration has created a new style made from plastic waste. It created great value and beauty than just any ordinary jewelry. The important goal of sustainability is everyone must work together as much as they can (Wichaikul & Sirinkraporn, 2021).



Figure 10: *Example of the Sustainable Jewelry Piece Using Biomaterial to Create a Fabric without the Use of Fiber or Raising an Animal*
(Source: Aliman, 2021)

The chest piece no. 1 (Figure 10) is the prototype work of the future clothing from the thesis of Doctors of Philosophy for a project named Din in one, (Nakpan & Sirinkraporn, 2023). Apart

from the idea of reusing and using as much as needed, there is another idea in finding replacement material which is an extra effort working in parallel to help tackle global warming. The newly invented material has also been used for creating jewelry. His idea to create fiber color matching human skin tone perfectly fit in with the initiative to introduce this material in the jewelry design. The color of the soil in different parts of the country has emphasized different geographical identities which link human and their habitats as well as climate altogether to form vision, perspective, and response to issues or ways of living. The newly invented material and collective knowledge of the 21st century will, therefore, earn unique value that is more important than what our bare eyes can see. The new invention reflects on human and their living soil that is stimulated the sense of the coming natural disasters which will make an impact on everyone on earth. The jewelry made with this new material isn't, therefore, intended to decorate in a traditional way.

3. Discussion and Conclusion

In summary, this paper presents a focus on the value of the materials which are being used for producing the jewelry piece and the connection between those materials and humans. the meaning and the importance of jewelry to human beings not superficially as adornment of the body but rather in depth in their relations with beliefs, religions, ethnicities, and spirituality, and also in connection to ontology, epistemology, and methodology philosophy. Jewelry must always portray some meaning to it, for example, to be part of the evidence of the cultural existence, to display social status, or intention, or to be a symbol of communication between men (Lewis, 2016). The use of jewelry can begin with the individual wearing the jewelry piece for their own desire right to pieces of jewelry representation in the subculture group or in the main culture. The material used in production are varied and have always emerged with new styles from past to present. An encouraging sign that allows the jewelry to communicate its purpose and to work with the identity of the person wearing it. The material of the jewelry is not only important in terms of money value, but it is much more complicated in the meaning behind the design work.

The method of wearing such as pins, hanging or in pockets which are adorned on the human body, creates a deeper meaning in its content and beyond what the eyes can see. The feeling of touching the jewelry provoked the soul and feeling and inner thoughts which are like strong mechanical work that determines the material selection, controls the form, creating the

relationship and bond between man and jewelry, causing the communication to the public (Cunningham & Fitzgerald, 1996).

On the other hand, the jewelry is hiding some secrets because jewelry locates close to the body tying close knots some privacies are not exposed outward but simply display experience, desire, and memory that one object contains so much meaning to humans underneath its design. The feeling of it being against the body can shake our emotions and stimulate its importance. Is this the true purpose of the jewelry? My focus is on material selection in jewelry creation. I believe that the material can communicate for the jewelry. It is clearly the key to communication for man.

The interconnection between jewelry and humanity is undeniably profound and intimate, giving rise to a profound sense of consciousness and remembrance of individuals or meaningful experiences that enrich human existence and contribute to personal growth and fulfillment (Audi, 2011). This exploration aims to shed light on the various dimensions of significance attributed to jewelry, fostering a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between objects and human beings. It is my aspiration that these insights will inspire further research and contemplation on this captivating alliance between art and human experience.

The significance of jewelry transcends mere adornment; it becomes a vessel that carries memories, emotions, and cherished moments in human lives. Each piece holds its own unique story, symbolizing love, achievement, belongingness, and cultural heritage. Jewelry has the power to evoke nostalgia, anchoring individuals to their past and instilling hope for the future. Moreover, it serves as a medium for self-expression, allowing individuals to manifest their identity, values, and beliefs to the world.

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