



ghits Wondla



Craftivist Costumes: Contraception and Abortion

Introduction

This work is a combination of Craftivism and Activism. A journey from inspiration to creation, development and production, finally using the costumes and textiles made as a silent protest. It is a voice for women's rights to contraception and abortion in England and Poland.

Human rights, women's rights and freedom of choice all play a role in birth control. For example, abortion for Polish women is against government legislation, the Catholic Church's moral code and the medical profession.

(Appendix 1) Contraception and abortion are women's right but unfortunately, not yet in every country in the world. Thus, traditional, cultural and religious moral codes overpower our human rights. (Reader, S. 2008)

I want to create an awareness and show that the issue of women's gender inequality still remains today and is relevant in today's society. Freedom from the circumstances beyond our control imposed by religious and cultural oppression are all intrinsic to my art practice. (Maguire, Moria, J. (2001))

This report records the process of development of artwork from research, through creative design to the finished product.























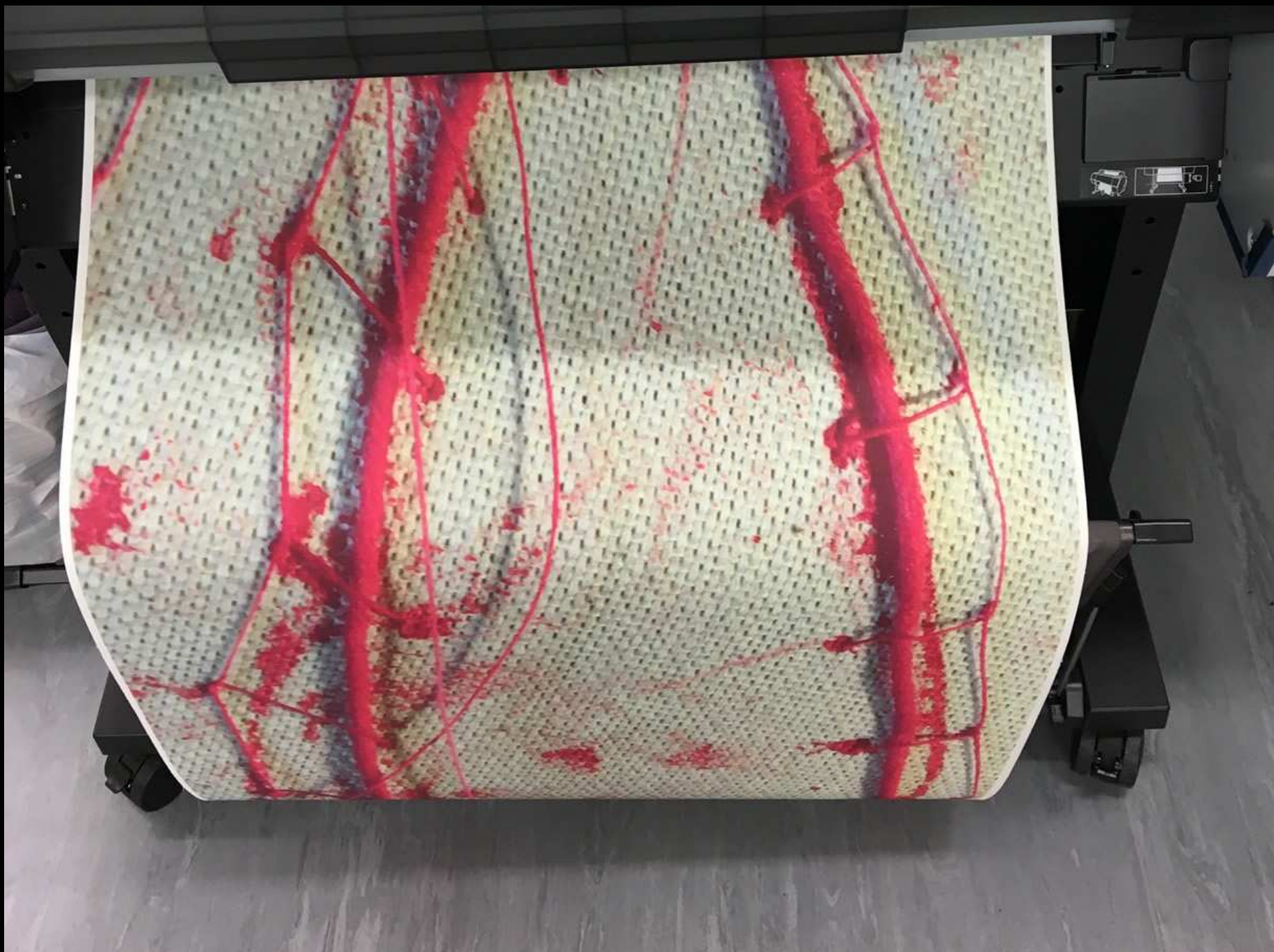




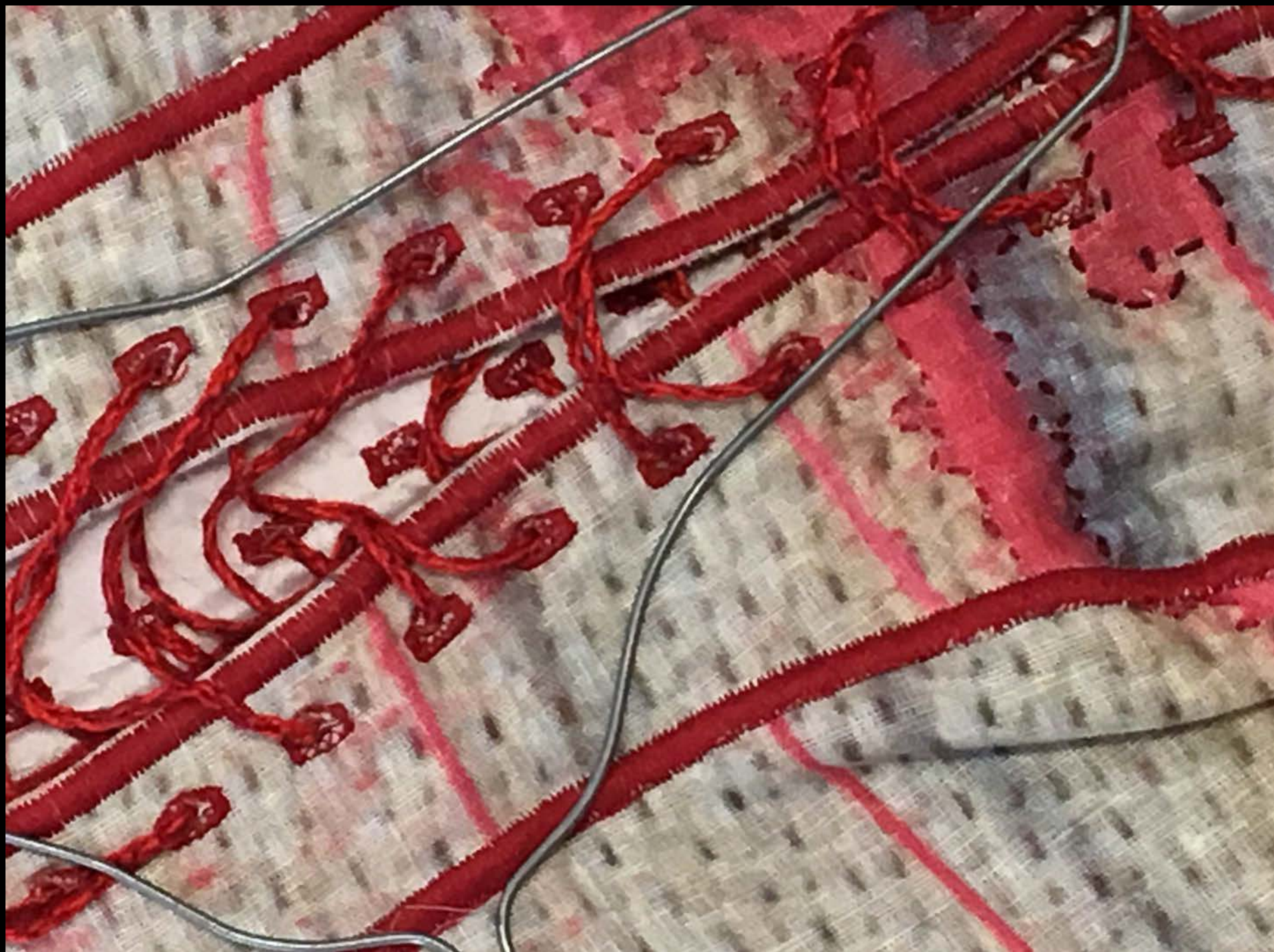
















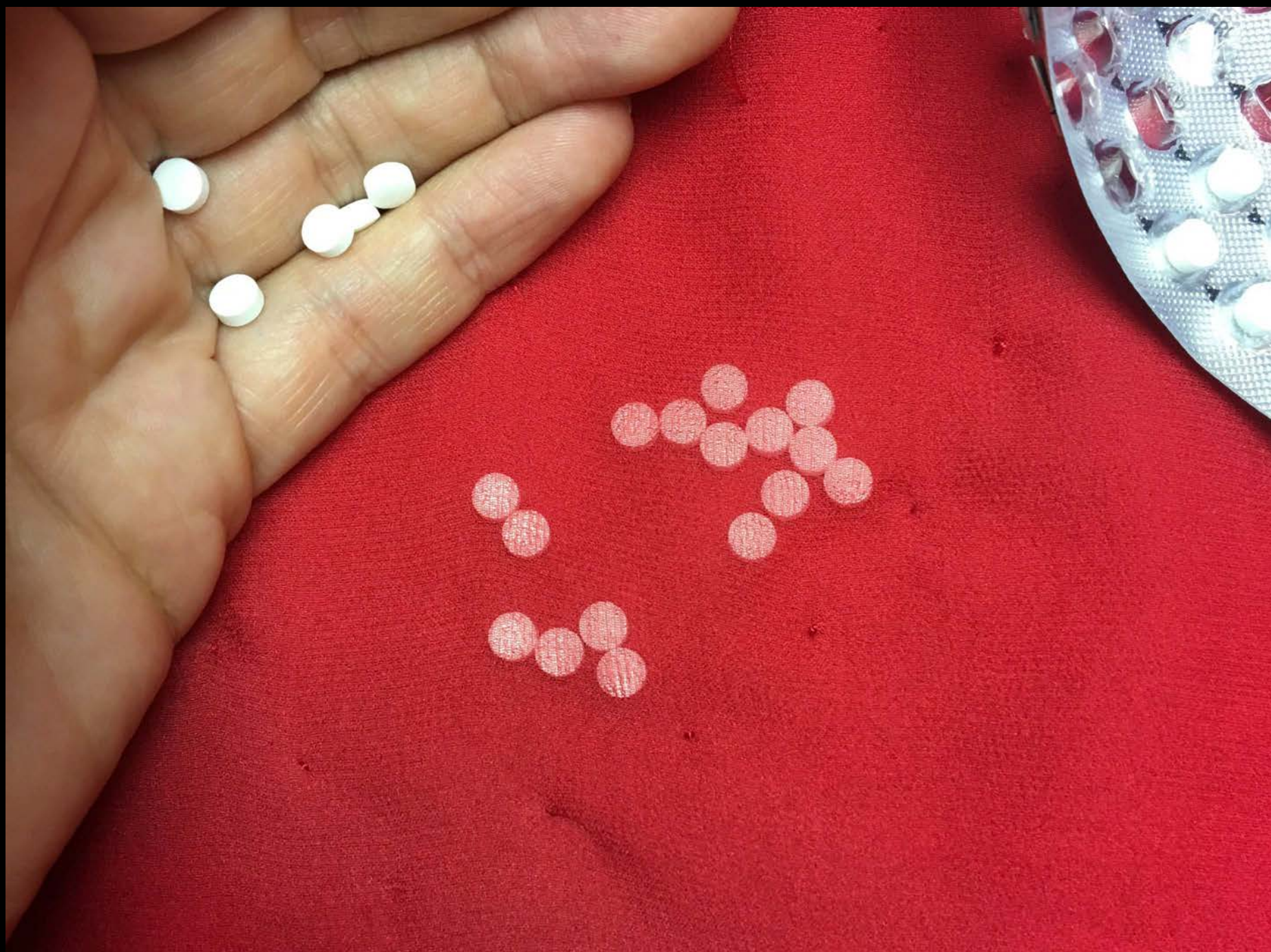




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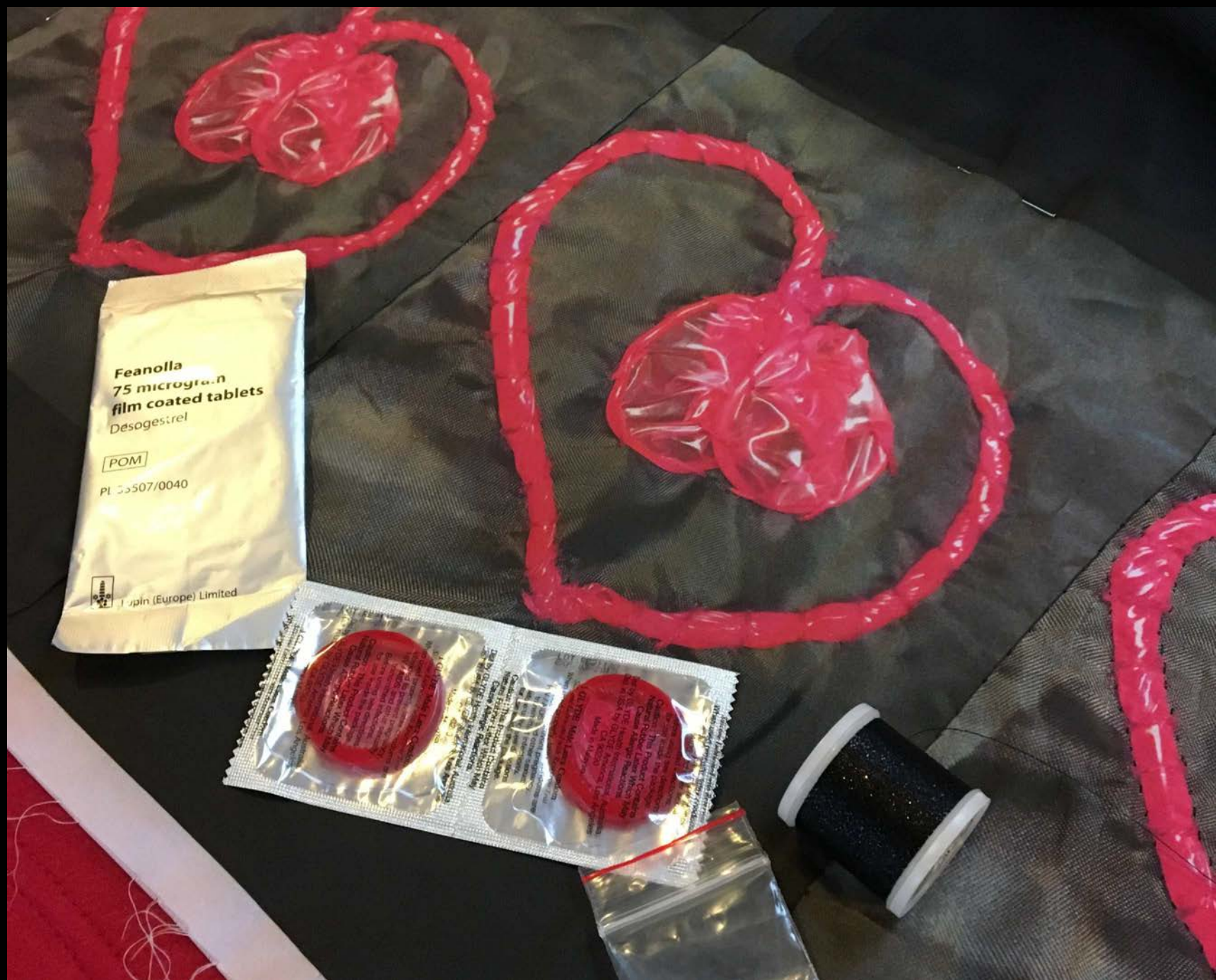














CHAPTER 3 **Performance**

My Street Performance and Survey took place in Poland, Scotland, England and Italy wearing my costume and walking around the streets in different countries. The object was to meet people and carry out surveys about women's attitudes to contraception and abortion. In my survey, I have included the same eight questions (Appendix 2). My activity attracted attention, and developed a special communication with my audience. The first impressions of my traditional appearance in my costume were broken when people realised the fact it is not traditional at all!

“For activist crafters, such making is a way of life, a way of voicing and participating, of expressing, and of raging that reaches a public directly, sometimes drawing them in.” (Garber 2013, p. 55)

I travelled to Poland on 14 of June 2017. I visited the most conservative and Catholic town of Lowicz, where I attended the religious Catholic Church Service and Corpus Christi Procession. I walked in complete silence, wearing my 'condom costume' which is very like the regional traditional costumes normally worn on this occasion in the Church and Procession. I successfully obtained six surveys. On 17th of June 2017, I continued my street performance in the city of Lodz. This is my home town in central Poland, and there I conducted a further twenty-one surveys. On the 21st of June 2017, I once again performed in my condom costume in the small town of Zelow where I conducted ten surveys. I then travelled to Scotland. In Edinburgh, I performed by walking around the main city streets and spoke to 21 people. On 22nd July 2017, I performed in England in Bishops Castle, which is my UK hometown. I managed to get 40 surveys. The interesting and unusual costume in which I performed, attracted a great deal of interest and attention and subsequently was exhibited in the local Pharmacy. Additionally, in June/July in my workplace in Shrewsbury, 11 people took part in my survey. On 22nd September 2017 in Lido in Venice, Italy, 5 people took part in my survey. Thus, I had spoken to 114 people during the whole of my Street Performances.

I was impressed by my audience and the level of their understanding of the role of modern women, and their role in society. They were well-informed about contraception and the facilities available to women regarding abortion and their knowledge and experience of freedom in a heterosexual context. My next destination to perform was Venice, between the 19th to 21st September 2017. Italy is a Catholic country with romantic art which hugely influences love, romance and an erotic life style. Italy was therefore the best location to finish my survey and Street Performance.



























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