

CHOOSE REAL LESTHER - BRAZIL COMPETITION 2026

The collapse of identity, under continuous industrial production

Made by: Maria Fernanda Rocha Nabak

Hello, my name is Maria Fernanda Rocha Nabak, and I am a fashion design student, at PUC Campinas. My work explores the relationship between the human body and the systems that shape it, focusing on themes such as time, control, and the impact of continuous production on contemporary life.

I am particularly interested in how modern society has transformed the way we experience time, often reducing it to cycles of productivity and repetition. Through my designs, I investigate the gradual loss of individuality within these structures, questioning the boundary between being human and becoming function.

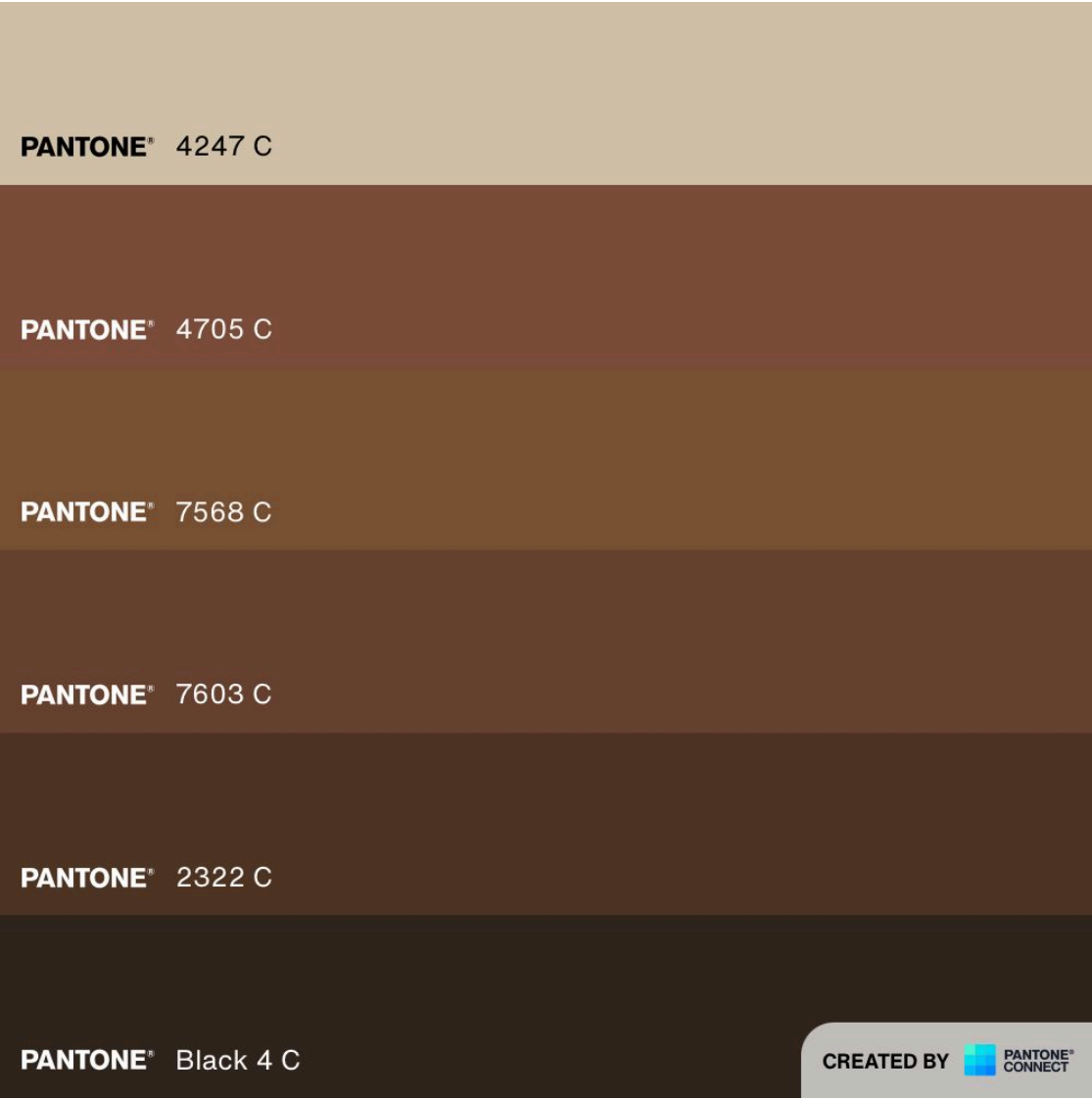
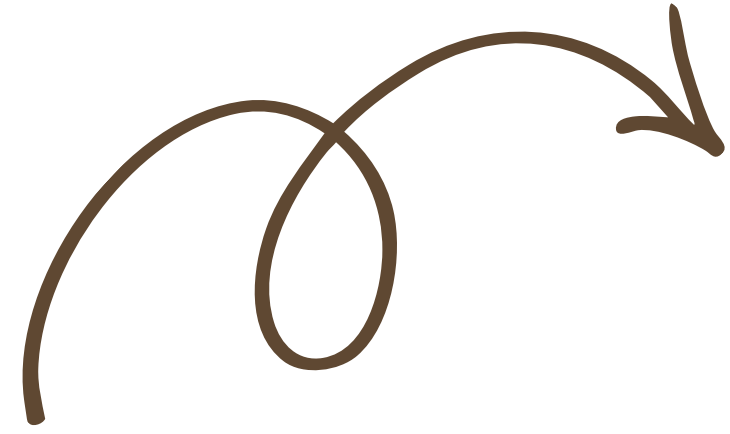
I enjoy working with materials that allow me to build strong visual narratives, using texture, structure, and form to express tension, restriction, and transformation. My creative process often involves reinterpreting familiar elements, reshaping them into something that carries a deeper conceptual meaning.

My current work is inspired by the subworld of HADESTOWN and the historical impact of the Industrial Revolution, drawing parallels between past industrial systems and the pressures of contemporary society. Through this, I aim to create a single piece that not only exists as an aesthetic object, but also as a reflection on the conditions of modern existence.

Mood board



Color pallete

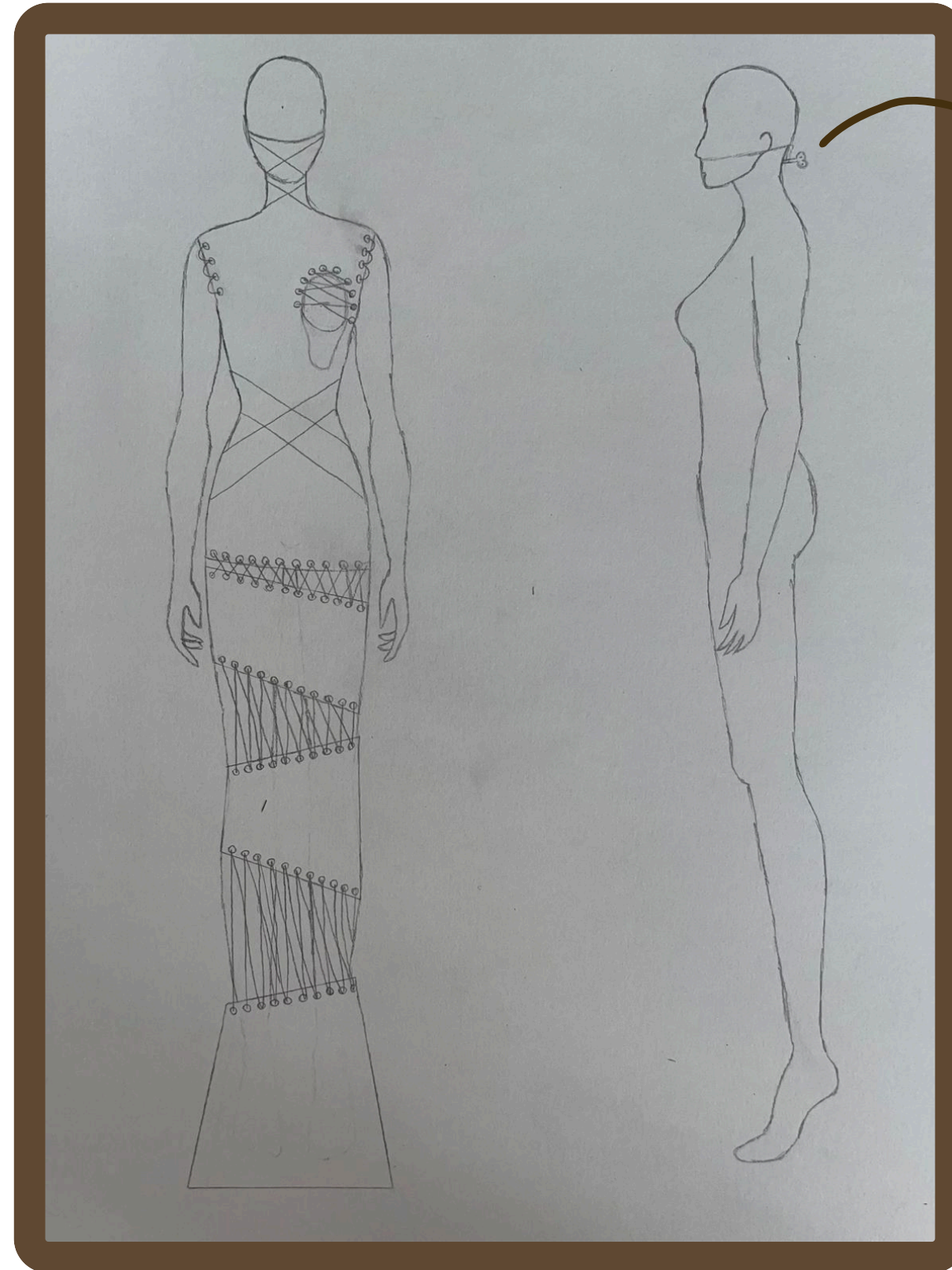


Building on these ideas, I began to sketch a piece that could embody them. The garment constructs a narrative inspired by the underworld of the musical Hades and the figure of Hades, where this space is already presented as a system of control in which time and life no longer belong to the individual.

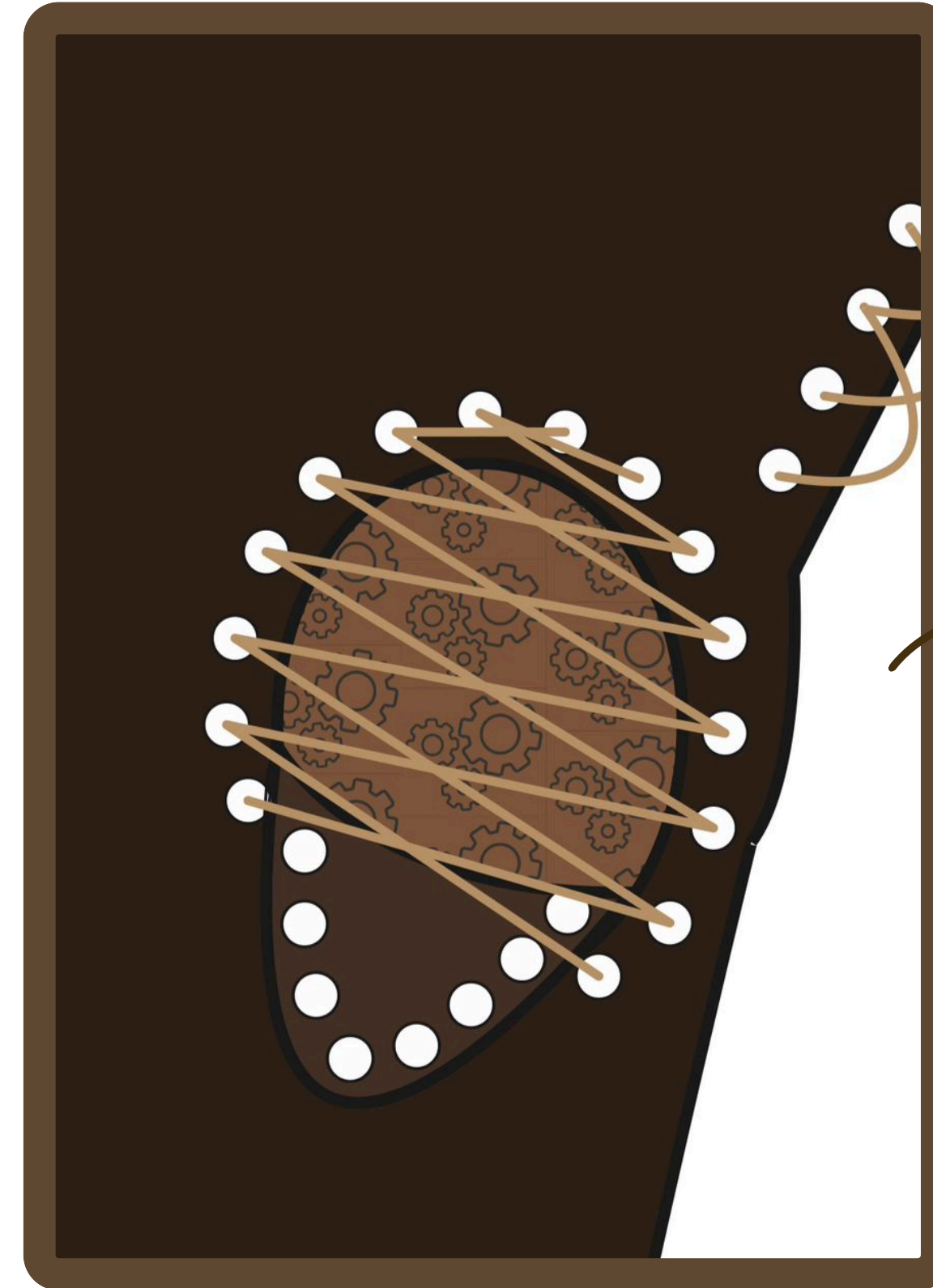
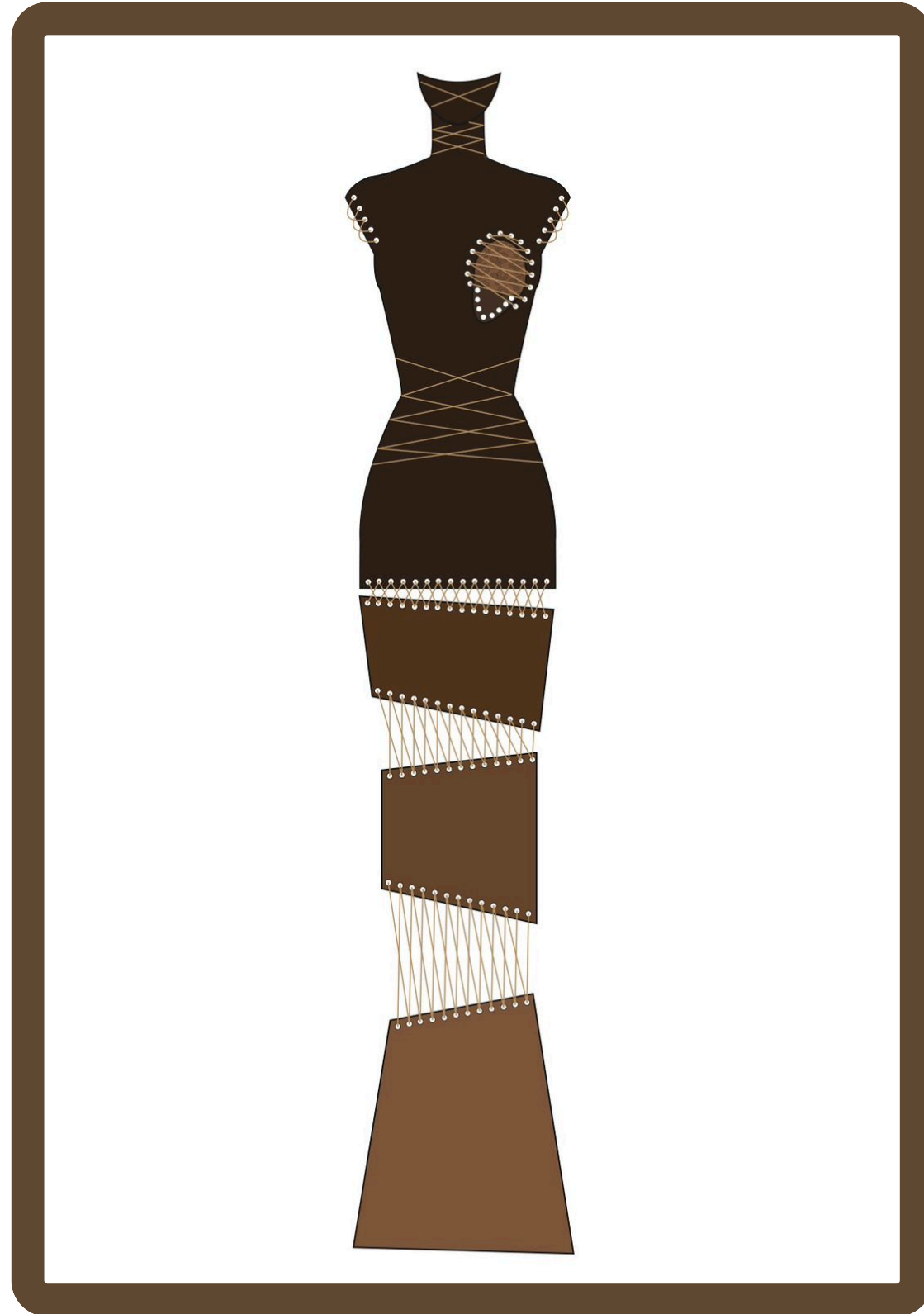
The underworld, parallels the transformations initiated by the Industrial Revolution, when human time became regulated by production, replacing natural rhythms with repetitive and continuous cycles. Within this context, bodies are no longer guided by identity or desire, but by an imposed logic in which existence is reduced to constant functioning.

This condition extends into contemporary society, marked by constant acceleration and the pressure of continuous productivity, where living and functioning become almost indistinguishable. The piece therefore reflects on this state of being, in which the human is gradually absorbed into a larger system, losing autonomy and becoming reduced to function.

Sketches



Adobe Illustrator version



Gears

Rendering made by AI



Explanation of the piece



The high collar that rises to cover or restrict the mouth symbolizes the silencing of the individual. It prevents expression, suggesting that within this system there is no space for voice, choice, or resistance.

The ropes surrounding the body represent containment and control. They not only structure the garment but also suggest that the body is being held in place, unable to escape. The repetition of these bindings reinforces the idea of continuous cycles, reflecting the endless, mechanical routine of labor.

The rigidity of the leather and the tight fit around the body express physical and psychological restriction. The garment appears to limit movement and even breathing, creating a sense of suffocation, directly connected to the loss of freedom within productive systems.

The division of the garment into separate sections suggests a fragmented body, almost disassembled. This reflects the idea that the individual is no longer perceived as a whole, but as functional parts, like components within a machine.

List of materials

- Leather (dark brown and lighter brown tones).
- Leather cords/laces.
- Metal eyelets (grommets).
- Sewing line

