Contextualizing

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25/02/2025

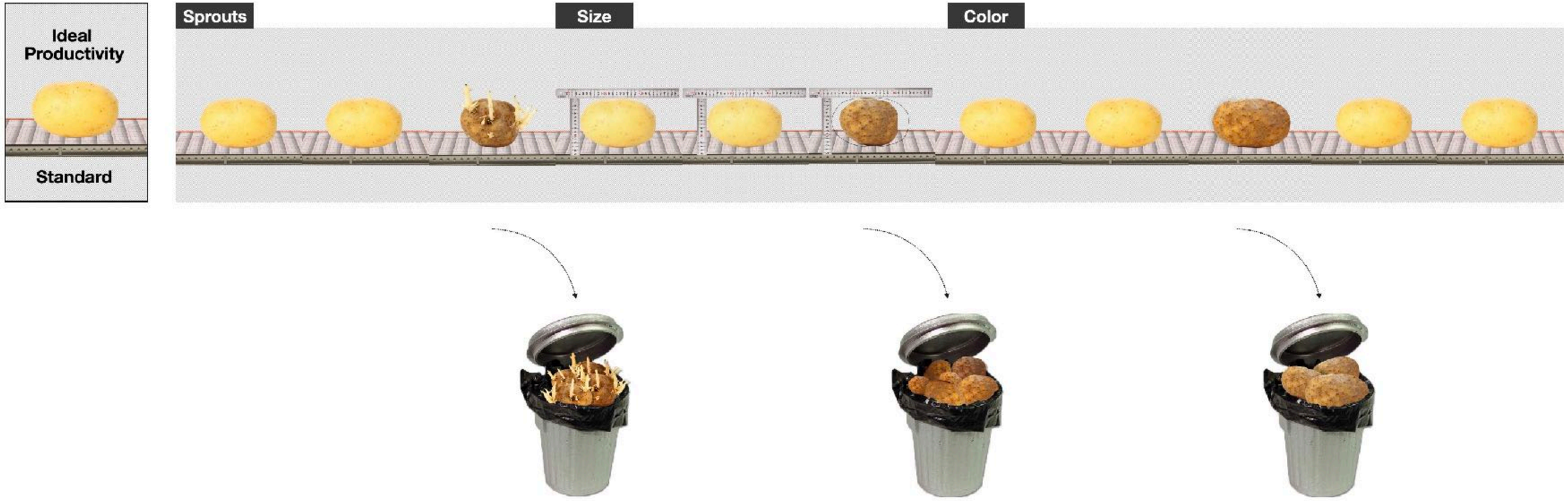
"When you're ill for a long time, your body takes over. Your brain wants to do one thing, and your body does something else."

I know this because I have a body that does not match up to my level of ambition. I would love to "follow my passion" but some days being able to shower is an epic achievement in itself. In trying to be an *actual writer*, I am regularly thwarted by chronic pain and fatigue due to fibromyalgia bullshit expectations of what it means to be a writer.

When I realized I could no longer physically sustain a 9-5 job, I feared for my future. I hadn't even worked long enough to be eligible for Social Security disability. The solution I came up with was to return to academic life, to go to graduate school and get my Ph.D. and maybe, if I was lucky enough, to become a professor. It was, and still is, the only way I could see to support myself in crip time.

The Corporate 9 to 5 system

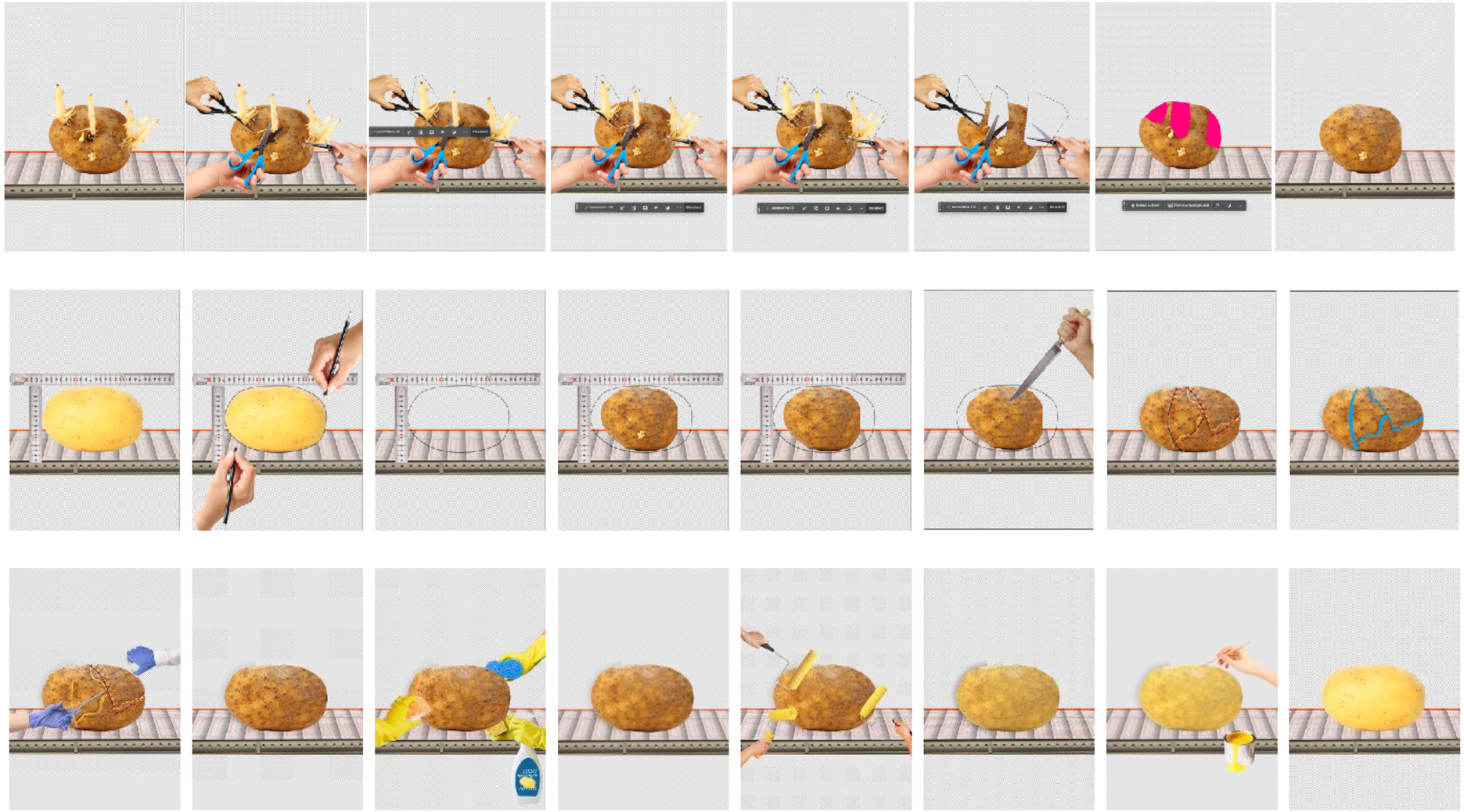
The potato machine sorts out imperfect potatoes from perfect potatoes.
The standard of perfect is determined by if it is possible to make profit from the potato or not.
It doesn’t matter how you are imperfect, what kind of difficulty you’re experiencing, as long as you’re not up to the standard, you are out.



For the machine, to be a perfect potato is to be able to be sold to generate profit.

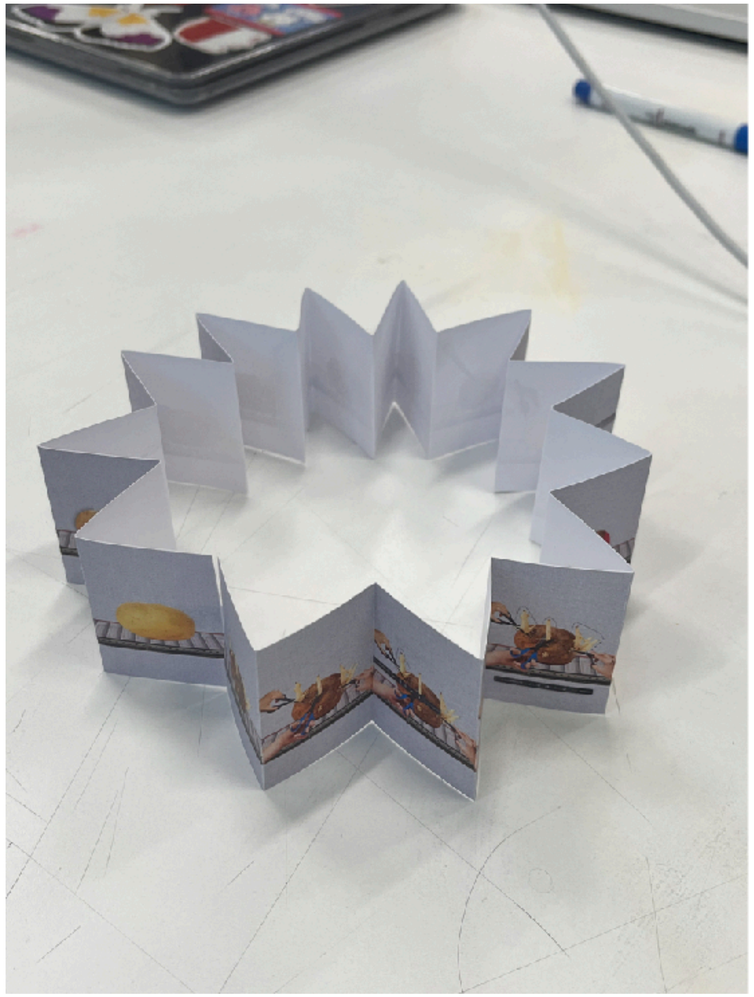
For the corporate, to be a perfect employee is to be able to work 9-5 to generate profit.

Shaping the imperfect potato to perfection so the machine won’t sort them out.



Previously on the Concertina Experiment…





There is no end to the rhythm, once it has shaped the perfect potato there will always be another imperfect potato to be shaped into perfection.

Do the machine cares if an imperfect potato puts in all the extra efforts to be perfect?

Do the corporate cares if an employee who struggles to be productive* puts in all the extra efforts to be productive?

*be it from chronic illness, physical impairment, mental illness, or any other reasons

Is this how the machine sees the process?

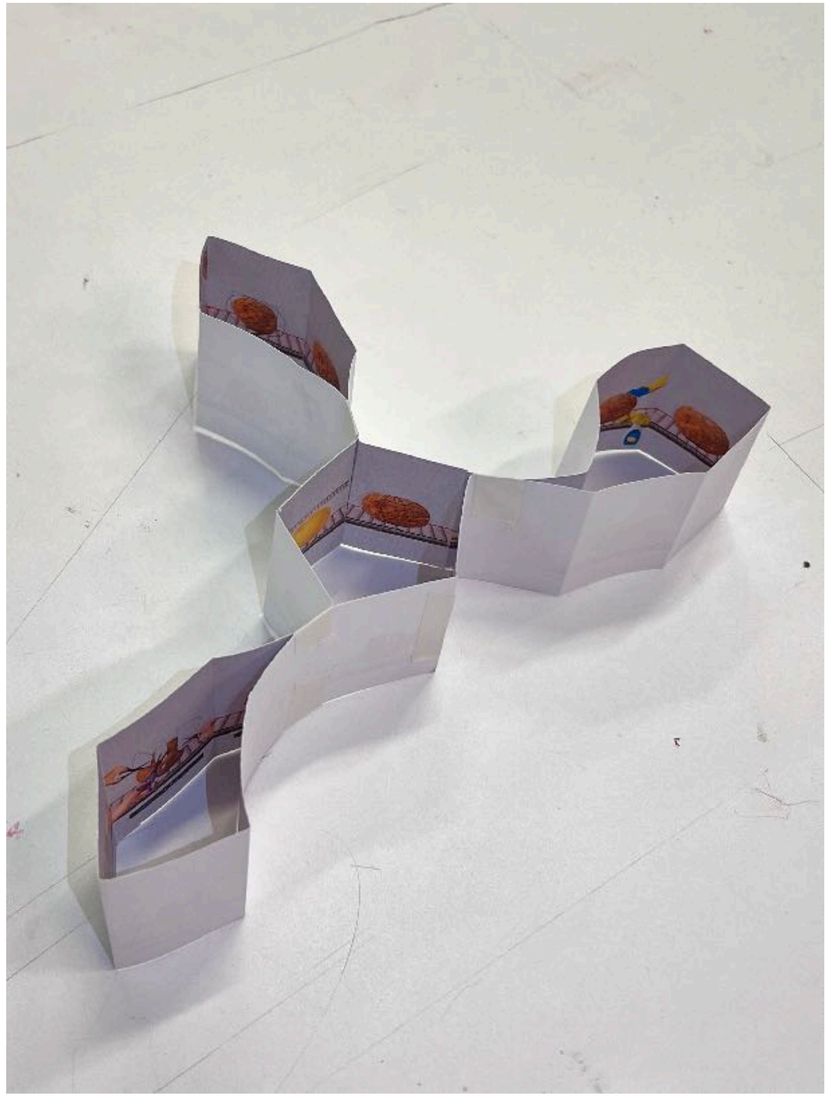






hiding the shaping process



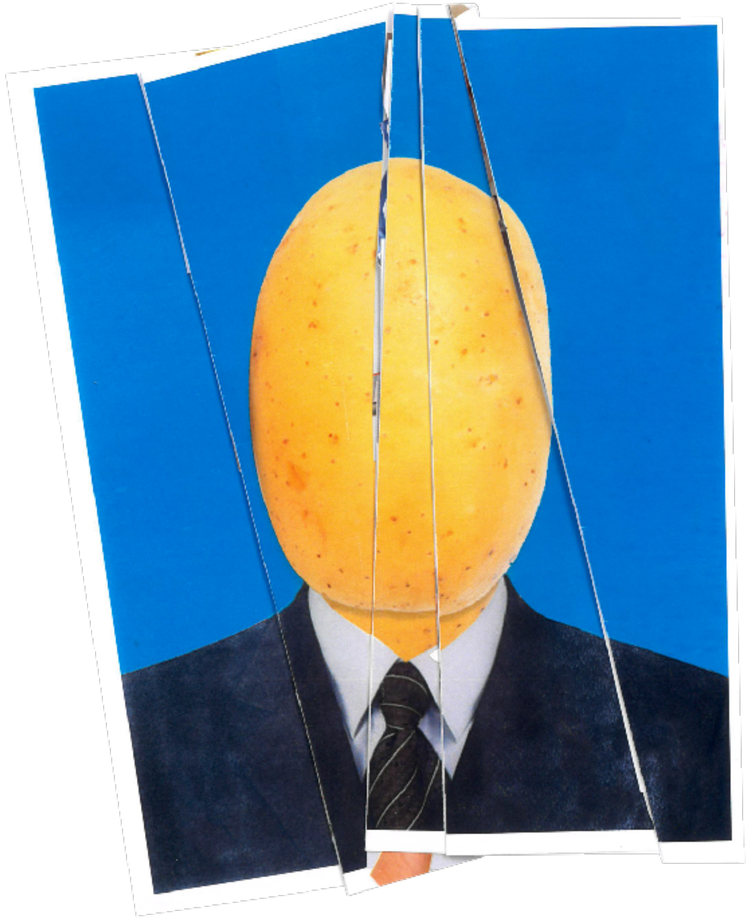


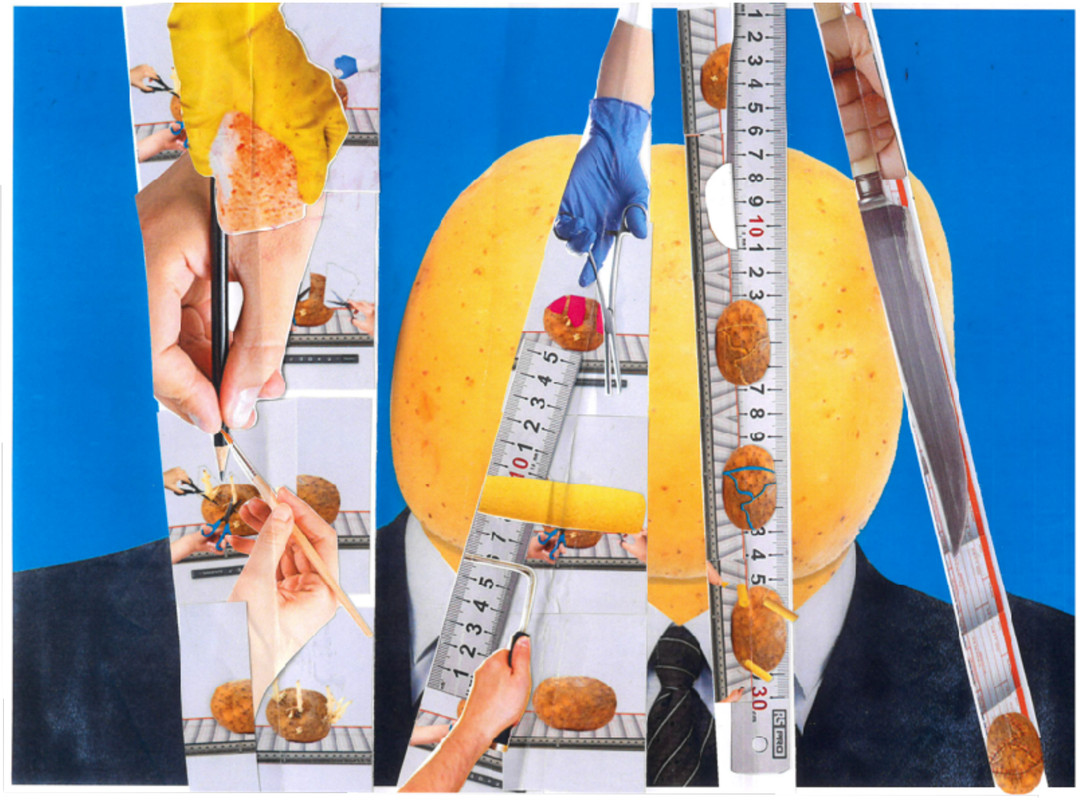
hiding the shaping process



Hidden Efforts

Making the hidden efforts obvious





Folded and fragmented “professional” ID Photo that doesn’t stay folded

Making the hidden efforts obvious



3D poster of regulations being stitched into a potato that couldn’t be hidden

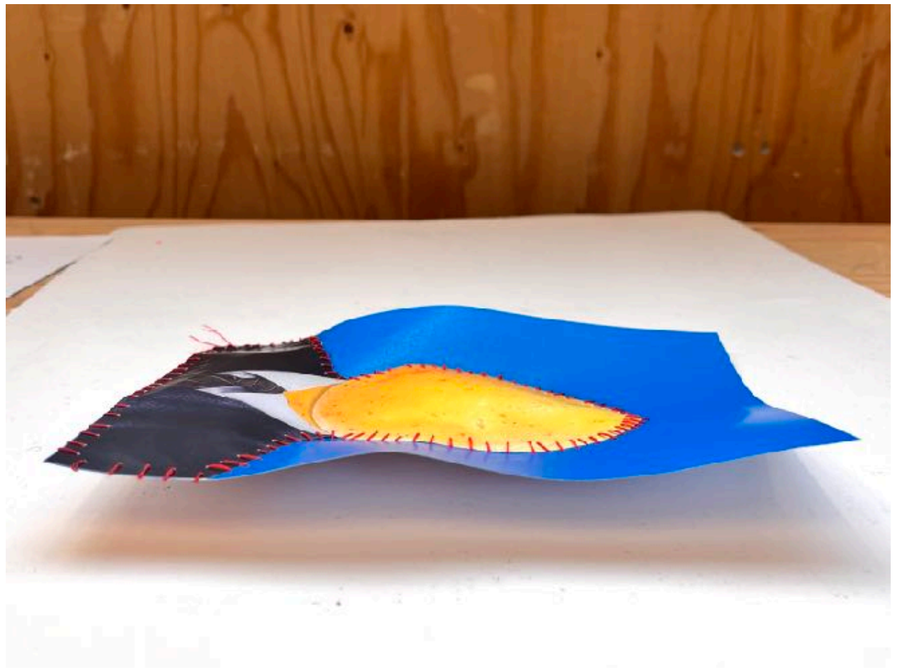
Making the hidden efforts obvious



3D poster of items being stitched into a potato that doesn’t hide the process

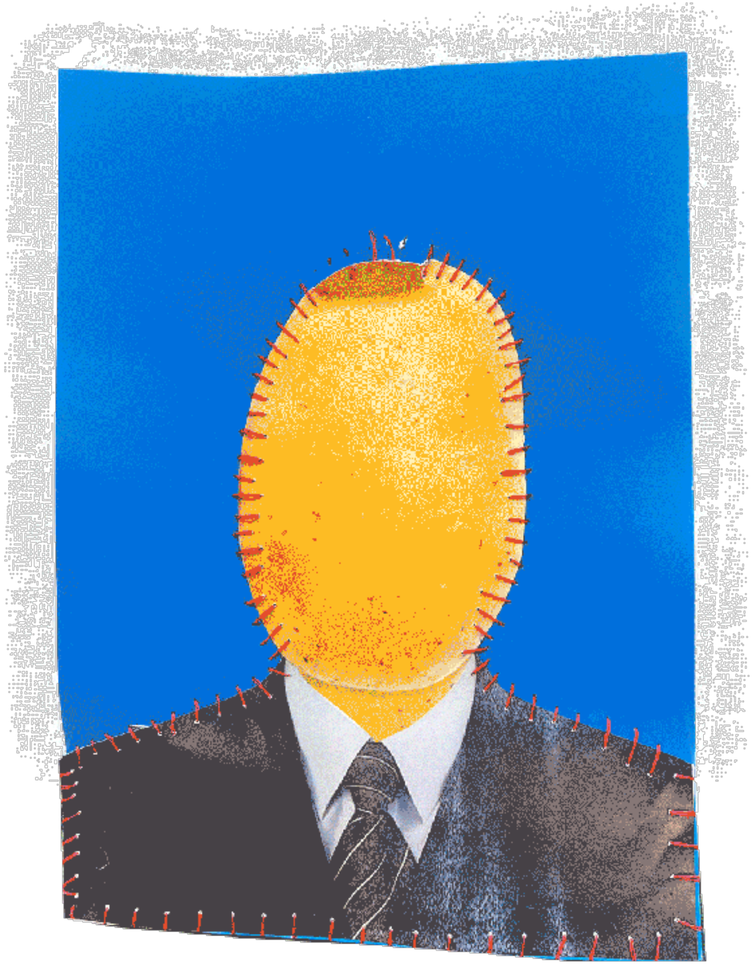
Making the hidden efforts obvious





3D poster of items being stitched into a potato, then forced open and spill out

Forcing Recognition

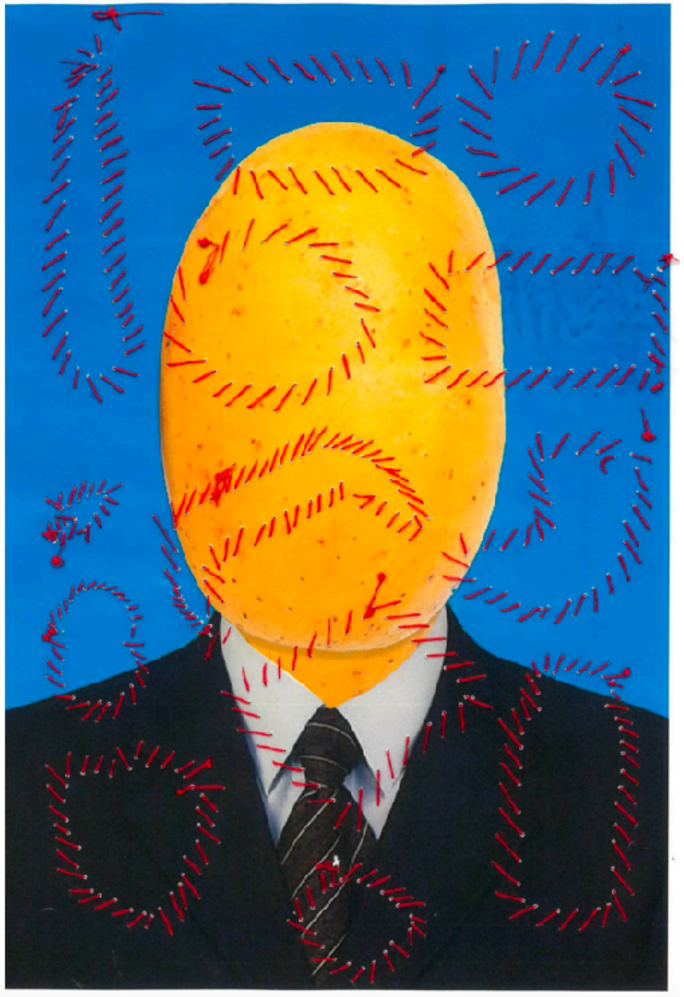


Forcing recognition on the invisible work to fit into the ideal profitable profile



3D poster of items being stitched into a potato, then forced open and spill out

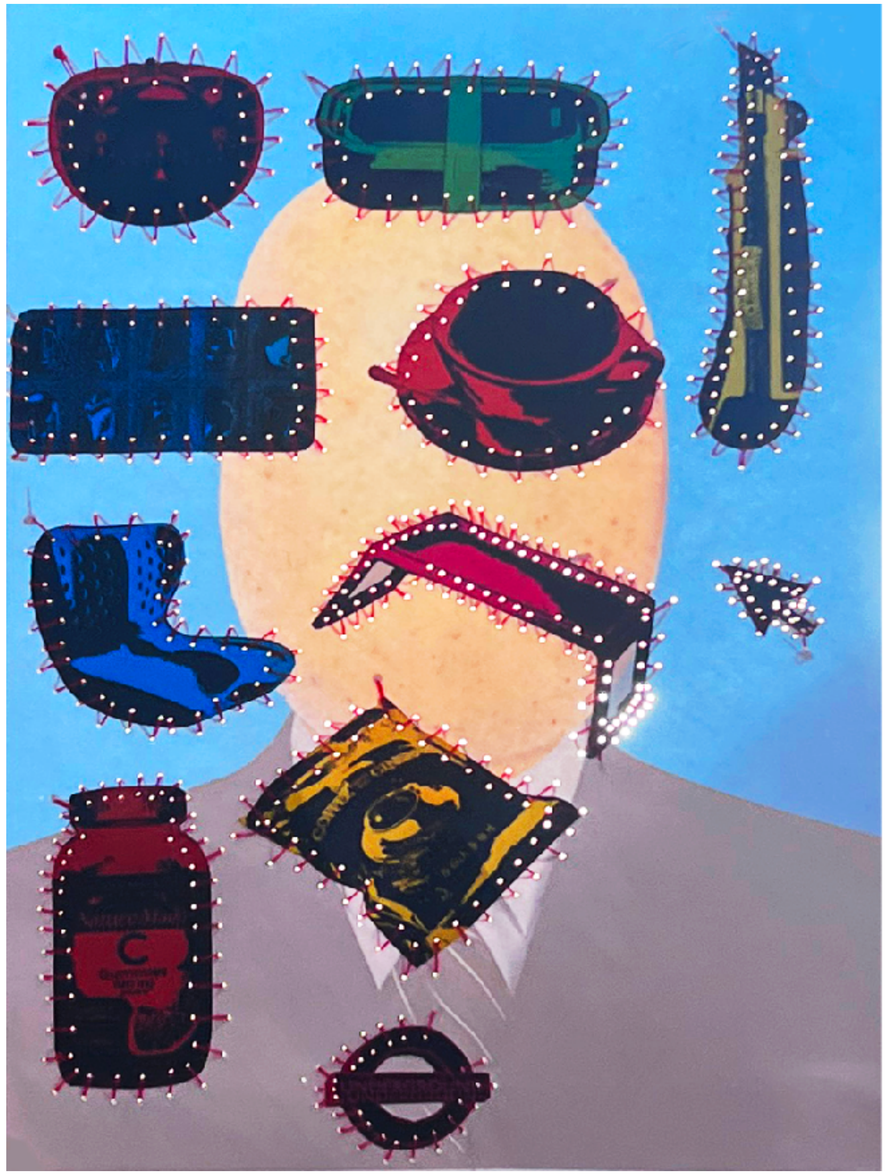
Forcing recognition on the invisible work to fit into the ideal profitable profile





Items being stitched at the back of an ID photo with visible stitches outlining the objects

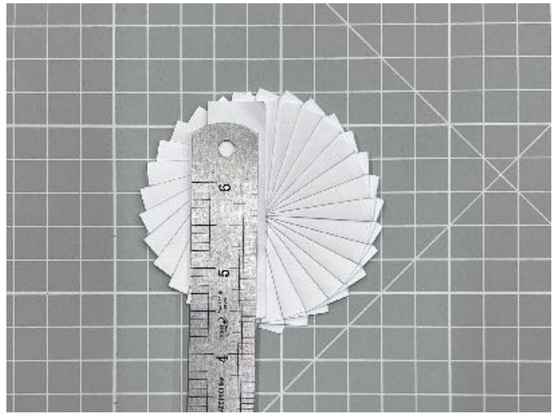


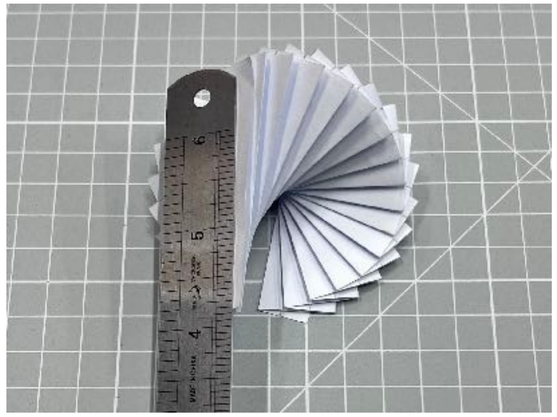


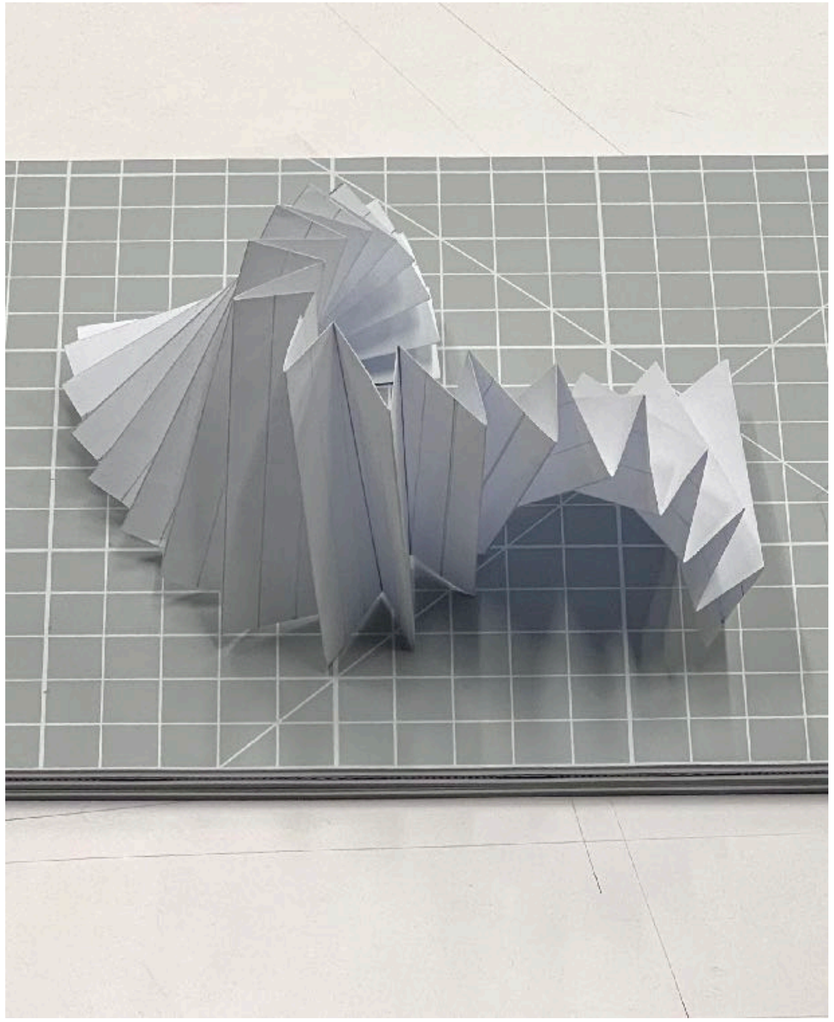
Any **recognition of an activity** as work **gives it** a moral force and dignity—**something of importance** in a society. In a cash nexus economy like ours, **this importance is recognized by payment** for doing something.

Invisible Work, Arlene Kaplan Daniels (1987)

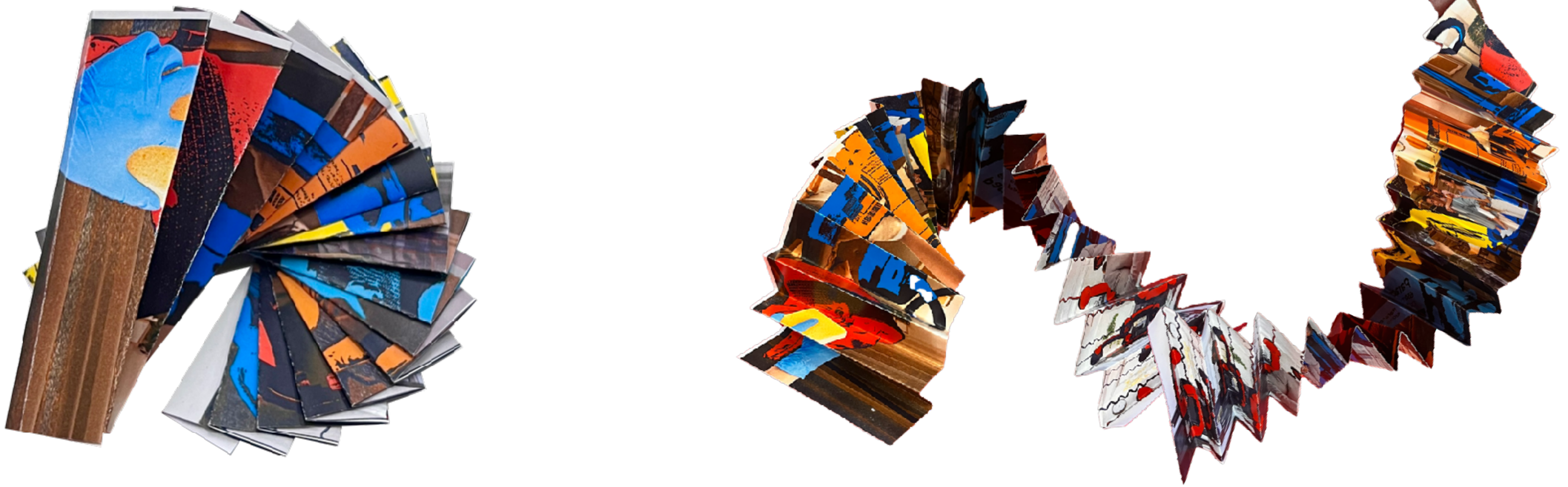
publication format sample



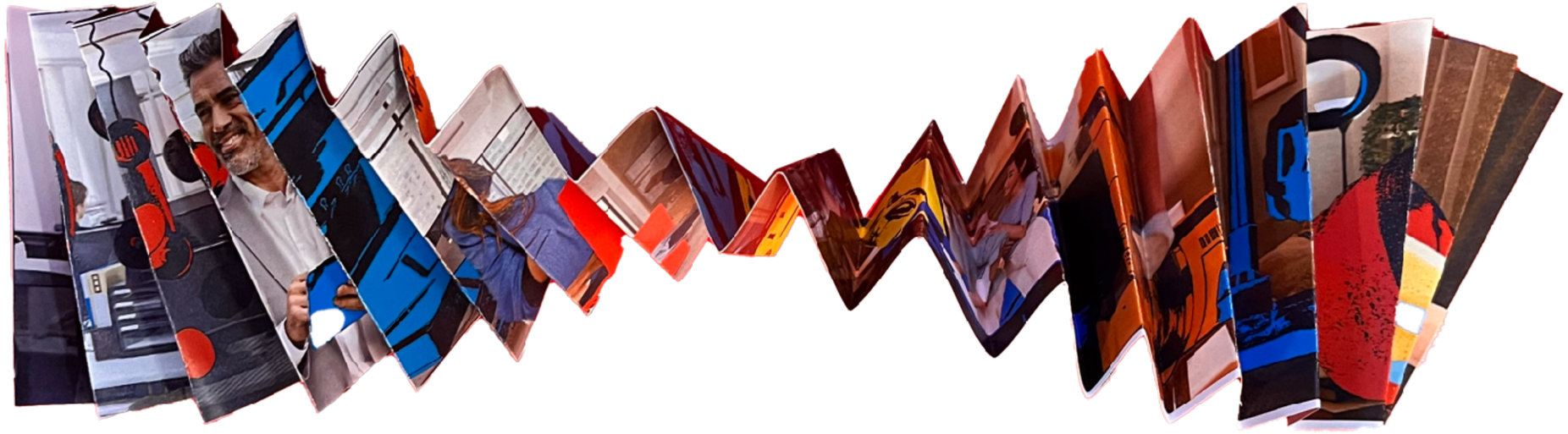




Forcing recognition by making the invisible work interrupt the productive work



publication in a form of spiral concertina where both sides disturbs each other



Forcing recognition by making the invisible work interrupt the productive work

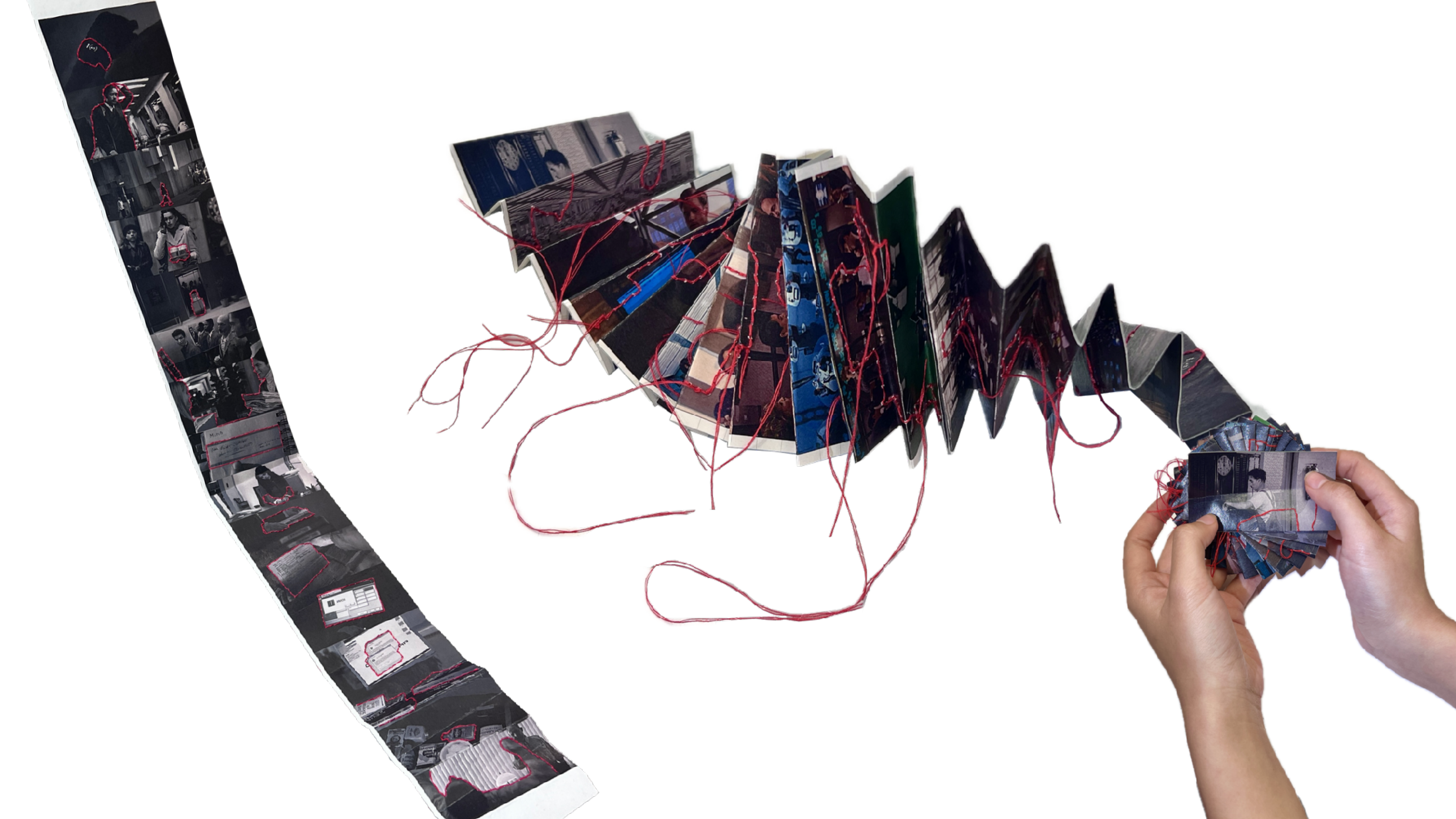








publication in a form of spiral concertina where both sides disturbs each other, emphasized with visible stitches



Forcing fun to interrupt the productive work









publication in a form of spiral concertina where both sides disturbs each other




coming
PILATES
on
Company's
Time
Play
With
TOOL
INEFIELD
Error
Fail
Detection
Office
FARM
Slack-off
Happy
MEAL

Reference

Text from the reading list

Stefano Harney and Fred Moten (2024) 'AL-KHWĀRIDDIM: Savoir-Faire is Everywhere', in ALL INCOMPLETE. pp.55-60.

Ellen Samuels (2017), 'Six Ways of Looking at Crip Time', Disability Studies Quarterly.

Text from outside of the reading

https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2024/11/03/no-we-dont-all-have-the-same-24-hours-in-a-day-on-chronic-pain-and-freelancing-in-an-unreliable-body/

https://www.omf.ngo/representing-chronic-illness-with-art/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

The Invisible Work (1987) Arlene Kaplan Daniels

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Design practice/project

CRIP TIME (2024). [Film]. Directed by Carolyn Lazard

On Crip Time (2024) Kaiya Waerea https://www.itsnicethat.com/articles/on-crip-time-kaiya-waerea-michiel-teeuw-graphic-design-project-25092

The Clock(2010) Christian Marclay https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/5746

Kuleshov Effect: Everything You Need to Know https://www.nfi.edu/kuleshov-effect/

Prezit svuj zivot FRAGMENT 1 Jan Švankmajer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXFLSBEWUaU&list=PL1a4bt-z5IaF7PmzDPS6DhPvOPbXJ2vIe&index=3