THE HISTORY OF A LEATHER JACKET

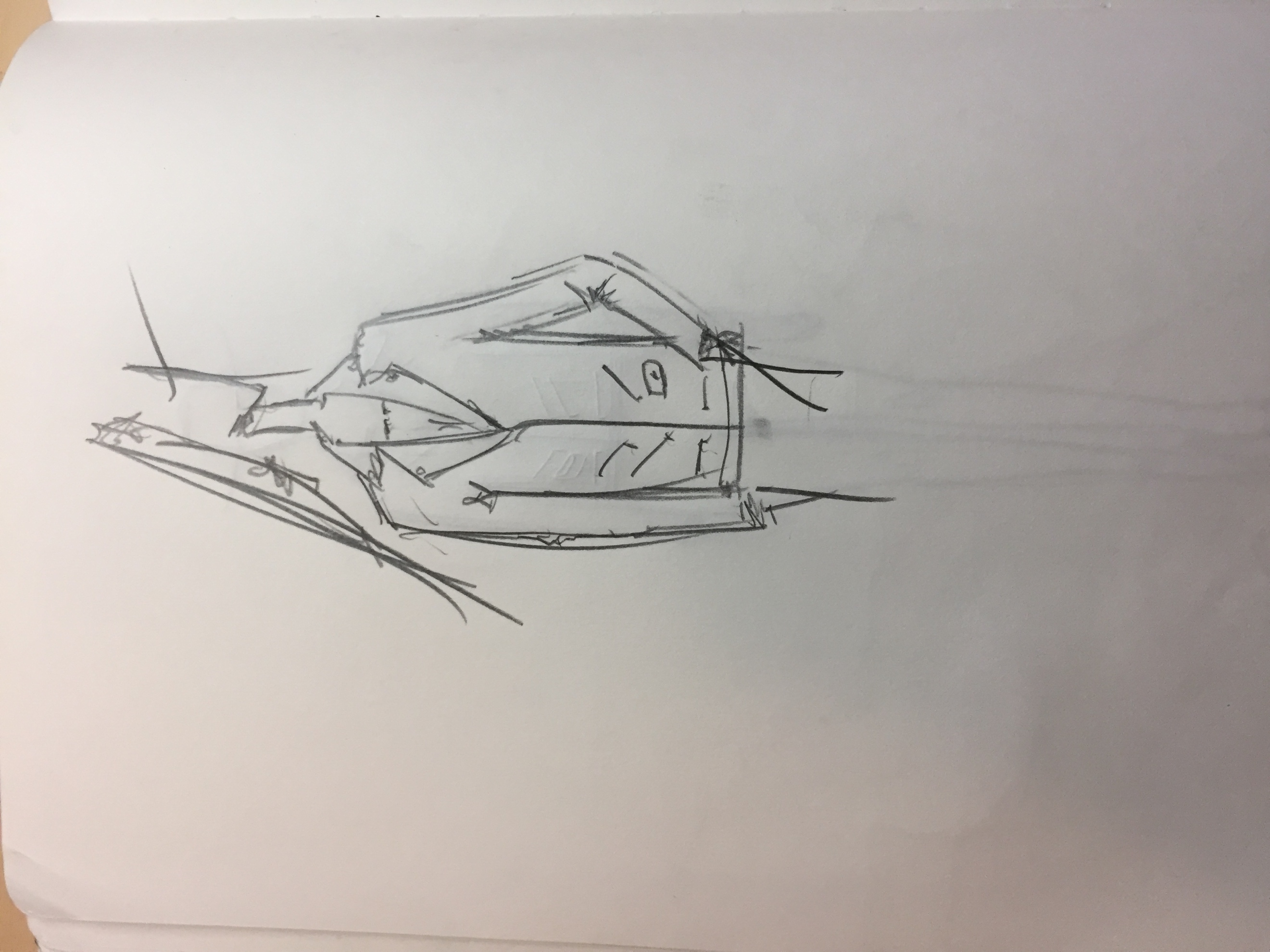
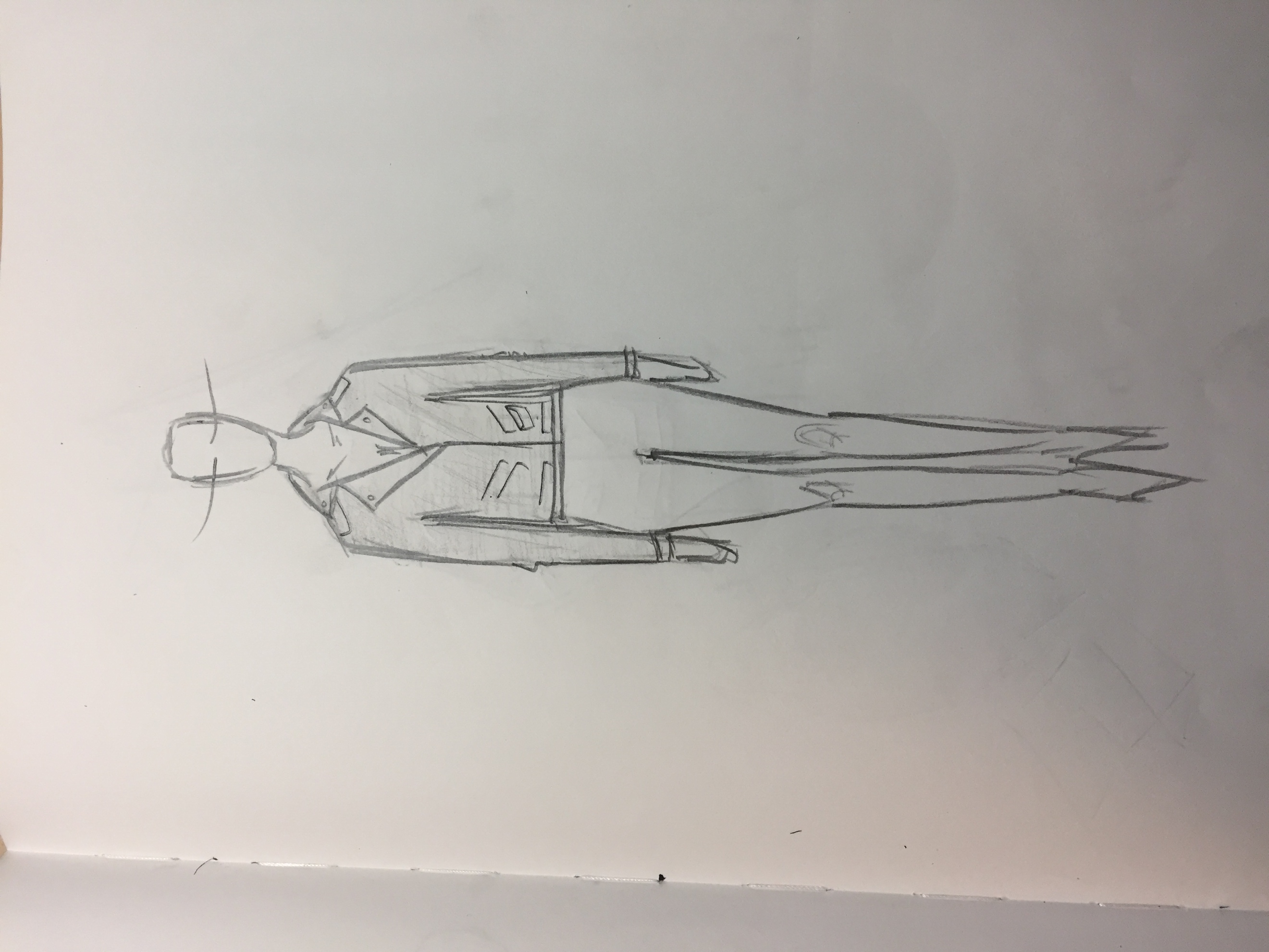
PICTURE



Object: Black Lamb Skin Leather Jacket

Model: Isabelle Demeunynck

DRAWINGS/ SKETCHES



HISTORY

The life-cycle of a leather jacket is long and extensive due to its manufacturing and storing processes. The production and maintenance of leather is complicated and delicate and to produce a good quality jacket takes a lot of skill and correct materials.

Firstly, leather production starts with the cattle. The upkeep of cattle is extremely damaging to the environment due to the amount of water they consume and the methane they produce. The space needed for cattle usually entails having to burn down forests to make field space which adds to the CO2 levels in the atmosphere. Then there is the slaughter house which consists of the transportation of the animals, slaughter of animals, cleaning of the bodies, the carcass is then sold to butchers and the hides and skins are sold to tanneries.

To store and transport leather is also a strain on the environment as the hides must remain wet through rehydration. They are cured and are kept in a brine of sodium chloride. The hides are then transported to tanneries. The extensive use of water in the storing of leather and transportation of leather and the multitude of transport trips adds towards the effects on global warming and the deterioration of the atmosphere.

Hides are then treated with salt, re cleaned to remove any excess dirt and are soaked in a mixture of water lime and sodium sulfide. They are then re-tanned to change the texture and treated with dyes, synthetic oils and fat liquoring. The use of chemicals and dyes can result in water contamination and pollution.

Paper patterns must be cut to make the different parts of the jacket that are needed to be put together. This uses a lot of different papers and requires a lot of materials. A typical leather jacket depending on the animal can use up to 1-4 hides. For instance a lamb skin jacket can use up to 3 hides tripling the amount of energy needed to make the jacket.

Interlining and other fabrics are also used in the making of a leather garment, interlinings can range from being made of nylon to cotton. The shipping and packaging process must also be considered, including wrapping paper, plastic bags, cardboard cartons etc. Shipping and Transport depending on the type of transport ranging from local transport such as cars to international transport and shipping by boat or plane also add to the footprint and lifecycle of the jacket.

This specific leather jacket was made by a leather manufacturing company in China, based in Hong Kong. The factory is made up of 200 workers. They use sustainable dyes and do not contribute to water or air pollution due to environmentally friendly waste removal methods. The leather is naked lamb Nappa and is dyed black and hand stoned to create the supple soft texture. The accessories from the jacket are derived from Chinese factories and is sold in stores based in Europe.

This includes the production of the first initial leather hide, the dyeing, the transportation to the factory from the tanneries in France, the transportation to the offices in Hong Kong and then the garment transportation and storage in stores worldwide.

VISUAL WORK PT.1



VISUAL WORK PT. 2



**THIS LEATHER JACKET**

3 hides

10-12 accessories

Lining

Dyes

Transport from French tannery

Transport to China, Hong Kong, Europe

**LEATHER**

Cattle

Hide cleaning & storage

Transport

**TRANSPORT**

Air

Boat

Car

Fuel, Gas, Water, Manufacturing of Transport vehicles

**TANNERY**

Dyes

Synthetic oils

Chemical Brine

**ACCESSORIES**

Manufactured in China

Factory Waste

Shipping

Manufacturing

Transport

**PACKAGING**

Paper

Plastic bags

Cardboard shipping boxes

**INTERLINING**

Cotton/ Nylon

Dyes

Manufacturing

Shipping

Maintenance

**DISPOSAL**

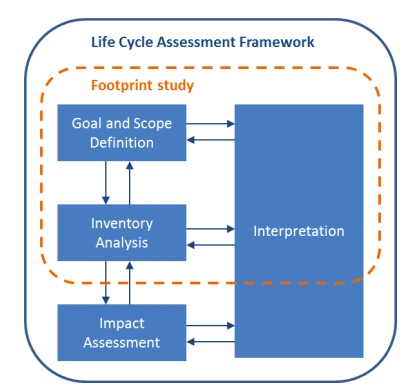
Recycling

Decompose

Landfills

VISUAL WORK PT.3

INSPIRATION



Footprint for a **leather jacket**

Average Range Leather Jacket weighs between 1.5Kg – 1.9 Kg

Total Average: 1.7 Kg

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Processes** | **Materials** | **Footprint for 1 leather jacket** | | | | |
| **Resources** | | **General Emissions** | | |
| Energy (MJ) | Water (L) | CO2 (Kg) | N20 (Kg) | CH4 (Kg) |
| Textile Production | Fabric  & Interlining | 64.9 | 101.4 | 37.89 | 0.104 | 0.21 |
| Lamb Leather Production | Leather | 2.21 | 14.28 | 0.21 | 4.386E-06 | 15.78E-08 |
| Chemical Production | Chemical Dyes  Brine & Solvents | 0.83 | 2.84 | 4.52 | 9.061E-04 | 8.857E-05 |
| Paper Production | Paper | 76.51 | 10.51 | 4.86 | 15.95E-05 | 0.002924 |
| Transport (1KM) | Car, Boat, Plane | 3.06E-06 | 1.717E-05 | 8.62E-05 | 4.284E-09 | 8.98E-08 |
| **TOTAL** |  | **144.45** | **129.03** | **42.48** | **0.11** | **9.21** |