

# do NOT disturb

by Olivia Emmons

My idea for my personal space inspired garment was influenced by not only the overly crowded streets in Chinatown but also the repetitive theme of hand-crafted fans that could be found on every block. In Chinese culture, fans are traditionally used to flirt with potential suitors as well as a way to protect oneself from the sun. When flirting, the women would hold the opened fan in front of their face to cover all except the eyes or use different gestures as a way to communicate different messages. Originally, as I walked through the crowded streets, I wanted to simply create a barrier between the wearer and those surrounding them on the sidewalks but, as I learned more about fans, my idea changed. I was inspired to create a garment that would not only protect the wearer from the over-populated streets but simultaneously address the modern day issues with flirting and dating. The protective use of fans towards harsh sunlight inspired me to utilize them to protect from verbally-aggressive suitors which is a significant problem in modern day society. The writing on the skirt is formatted like a text message conversation in which the man is aggressively pursuing an uninterested woman. By using fans to protect from unwanted flirting with a barrier between the wearer and those in the crowded Chinatown streets, my garment challenges the traditional use of fans in Chinese culture and addresses modern day issues with flirting.



Red Duct Tape



Traditional Chinese Fans

