

A grayscale photograph of a hand with a textured, possibly latex or nitrile, glove. The thumb is wrapped in a thick, white, textured bandage. The hand is positioned palm-up, with fingers slightly curled. The background is a plain, light color.

encapsulated
absence

MFA JEWELLERY ART

Degree Project

Exhibition

HDK-Vafand

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encapsulated
absence

For my exam project, I worked with jewellery pieces inspired by finger prosthetics, driven by the unexplored aesthetic potential in this specific prosthetic field.

After conducting my initial research, I realised that finger prosthetics seemed to be overlooked, lagging behind in terms of design and beauty when compared to other types of prosthetics, such as those for arms and legs.

During this project, a near accident where I almost lost my fingers made me wonder: how would I create my own? This incident helped me find my direction in the project. I reached out and spoke with several finger prosthetic users, prosthetic engineers, and silicone finger prosthetic technicians.

Engaging in conversations with these participants helped me understand their experiences, feelings, and some of their desires regarding finger prosthetics, which I incorporated into my pieces.

I chose to remove functionality from these pieces, reflecting their shared feeling of never being able to regain the flexibility and abilities their fingers had before their accidents. I aimed to convey their frustration due to the lack of efficient mobility in their current finger prosthetics.

These words represent important feelings and experiences of the participants in their current situation or during their journey with finger prosthetics.

- Memory
- Pain
- Acceptance
- Confidence
- Talisman*

Each of my pieces aims to represent one of these words.

I will quote some of their words during our conversations.

memory





“I think about my missing finger every single day, it is quite painful to know that my hand and the way I relate to the world will never be the same. It saddens me all the time.”

pain





“Over the past two years, I have tried four (4) different finger prosthetics. All of them cause me pain, they are uncomfortable, but I endure the pain, because I feel ashamed and self-conscious when I am not wearing them.”

acceptance





“As a silicone finger prosthetic technician, I was taught that when a user feels completely comfortable without their silicone prosthetic, it signifies the conclusion of the process with that user. Silicone prosthetics are devices intended to accompany user into accepting their own appearance. This acceptance, brings them freedom.”

confidence





“Having a prosthetic that tries to look like your fingers makes me extremely uncomfortable. When I meet someone all I think about is: “Have they noticed it? Should I mention that I have a prosthetic?” I would prefer a device that looks different, colorful, and unique!”

For this piece I drew inspiration in the **turquoise stone** which is believed to have **anti-inflammatory** properties, and can help **reduce swelling and pain** in the body.

This crystal has also been used for centuries to increase **confidence and self-esteem**.

talisman*





“My husband had a ring made for me with an opaline stone, my favorite crystal. I love this ring so much; it makes me feel protected. Sadly, I don't think I feel the same way about my finger prosthetics.”

This piece I made thinking about the near accident where I almost lost my fingers. Curiously enough, this incident happened while I was using a bandsaw to cut a silver bird I had made. That piece was inspired by a young bird that died in a very strange way while my little brother (at 5 years old) was extremely sick. I have experienced and felt throughout my life that birds give their lives to save us or that they are like guardian angels. When I had my accident, the bird I was cutting lost its claws, and I did not. Did it protect me again? :)