

# Hyacinth Harmony

## “Sustainable Crafting”

Empowering Communities Through Water Hyacinth Innovations

This project was undertaken as a focused exploration of water hyacinth, examining both its environmental impact and its potential as a sustainable material. The objective was to understand how an invasive aquatic plant could be transformed into meaningful, functional, and value-added products. The initiative provided an opportunity to closely observe the processes involved, practical challenges, and collaborative efforts required to convert water hyacinth into usable forms.

Working in association with the Swachhtapukare Foundation offered valuable insights into the intersection of material exploration, sustainability, and community engagement. Through hands-on experience, I gained a comprehensive understanding of how water hyacinth is collected, processed, and refined, while also learning how thoughtful design interventions can contribute to products that are both environmentally responsible and socially relevant.

This journey significantly strengthened my appreciation for teamwork, traditional knowledge systems, and responsible design thinking. It contributed meaningfully to my personal and professional growth, reinforcing the importance of sustainability-driven approaches in contemporary product and craft practices. I am sincerely grateful to the Swachhtapukare team for their guidance and support, and I extend heartfelt thanks to my parents for their constant encouragement. As part of the project outcomes, I developed a range of functional products using water hyacinth, including pencil stands, notebook covers, file covers, storage boxes, and utility boxes. These products were designed to celebrate the material's natural texture, while enhancing their aesthetic appeal and functional value through thoughtful surface detailing.

To further enrich the products, block printing was applied to selected items such as pen stands, file covers, jewellery boxes, and storage boxes. Given the handcrafted and textured nature of water hyacinth, the surfaces were first prepared using natural treatments to create a relatively smooth and stable base.

Hand-carved wooden blocks, featuring both traditional and contemporary motifs, were then used with eco-friendly dyes.

Each block was carefully aligned and pressed to ensure clarity, with separate blocks employed for different colours.



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# Collection Theme: “The One Who Stayed”

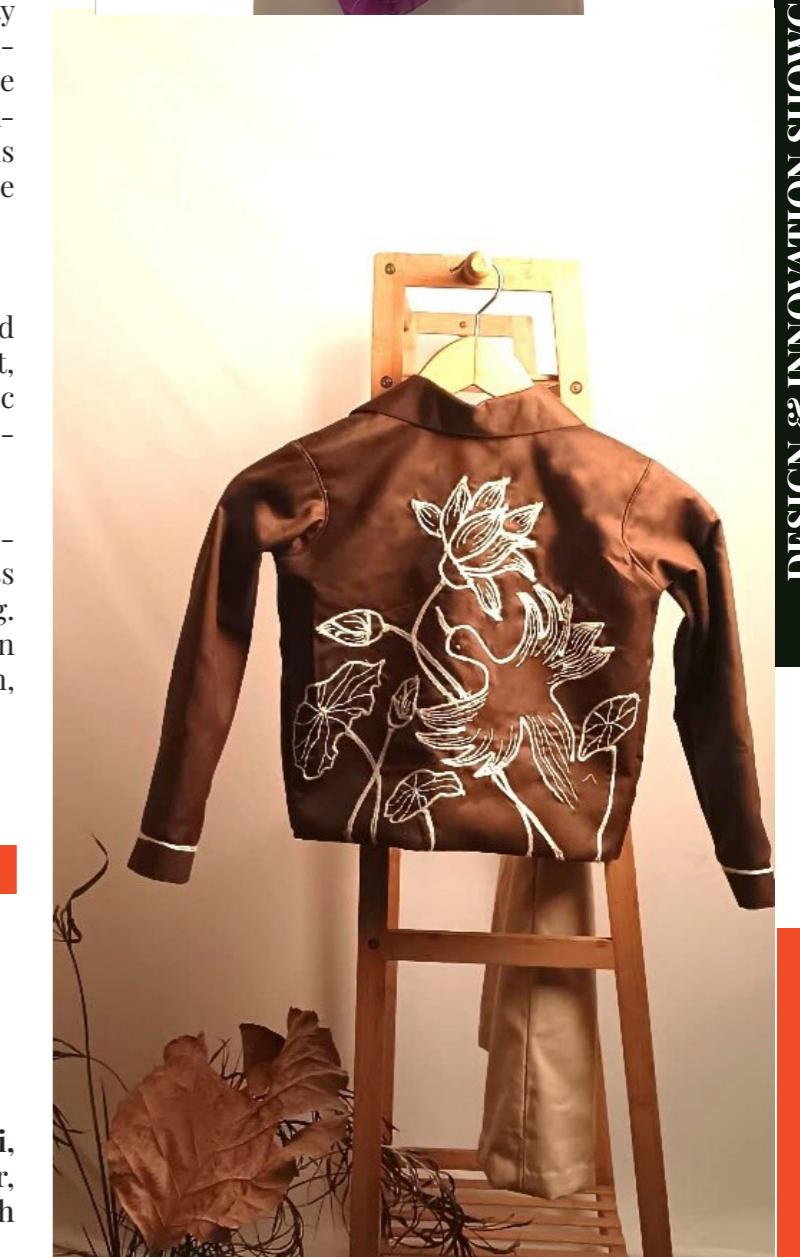
“The One Who Stayed” is a couture collection rooted in the idea of “My Favourite Place”, exploring the deeply personal journey of surviving loneliness, emotional toxicity, and unspoken struggles. At its core, the collection reflects the quiet power of healing through the presence of one person who truly understands and offers emotional safety.

The garments juxtapose inner pain with emotional renewal, translating vulnerability into strength. Mechanical flowers emerge as a central motif, symbolizing transformation, rebirth, and inner growth. Each piece evolves into a form of living art, revealing resilience, emotional depth, and the subtle strength found in healing.

The featured artwork is a structured velvet corset in a deep burgundy hue, representing emotional intensity and endurance. The firm architectural structure contrasts with soft, airy 3D organza flowers placed at the waist, while wired blooming flowers rise from the neckline, suggesting growth emerging from restraint. This interplay between rigidity and softness mirrors the transition from emotional confinement to release.

To enhance the narrative, mini DC motors powered by a compact battery are integrated into the garment, enabling the flowers to rotate and bloom. This kinetic movement visually expresses healing in motion, transforming emotional pain into growth and renewal.

Blending wearable art, emotional storytelling, and kinetic couture, the collection invites viewers to witness the journey from emotional struggle to inner blooming. “The One Who Stayed” seeks to evoke a shift—from pain to healing, from isolation to connection offering a fresh, intimate perspective on resilience and self-growth.



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