Caminantes is a term used to describe Venezuelan refugees that escape through the borders of the country and walk for long periods of time with no final destination. The outfit they wear and a full backpack are the only belongings that refugees take to start a new life journey from zero.

**COLOR PALETTE**

Is a combination of earth colors with primary colors.

- Waxed Canvas
- Hemp Twill
- Hemp Woven
- Reflective Fabric

- 803U 16-0952 TPG
- 18-1553 TPG
- 10333 C
- 11-0700 TPG
- 19-1034 TCX
- 19-3953 TPG
- 19-1106 TCX
- 15-4704 TPG

**While Refugees walk in the dark, there is nothing that protects them from drivers, or people. In the worst of the cases they have been victims of run overs. Therefore to prevent any accidents, the prints will have special protective qualities. All the white parts of the prints will have reflective properties at night.**
INFLUENCE

My inspiration comes from my grandmother’s stories living during WW2, and the situation Venezuelan refugees are currently facing. Fashion during the 40’s was need-based more than about following trends. Therefore, the three of my highlighted garments, the jacket, midi skirt and cargo pants are adapted to meet the immigrants’ needs. Midi and maxi Skirts were very popular at the time for women to use, (picture reference to the left). The cargo pants were redesigned by the American army in the 40’s and from there they became more of a fashionable garment, therefore I included them as a key component for the man’s outfit.

However, I consider that I was very thoughtful at including every element on my illustrations and reflecting the influence of the 40’s. A good example are the face masks, representing the gas masks people had to use thanks to the bombing attacks, and the camping backpacks that are mainly inspired by the army backpacks and the hats and boots similar to the ones the military used those days. In comparison, in both contexts during the WW2 and the refugee’s situation in my country have the personal protection and functionality similarities. Looking at the past, I noticed that there is a lot of reference we can learn from to create more than simple garments, and I certainly enjoyed seeing how my grandmother’s past is allowing me to work towards helping my people.

FOCUS AREA

Personal Protection:
The Caminantes will have to face a lot of different outdoor situations, in which protection and solving with what is available, will come into place. Therefore, the three focused garments will count with special characteristics from the textile composition to the multifunctional purposes.

Infant Compact Jacket and head protection

The red cross and the UNHCR, often recommend the refugees to protect/cover their heads from the cold and hot temperatures. The compact jacket counts with thermal protection and a cap, so the refugees can protect themselves from cold nights walks. For the warm climates, it was considered the use of a hat that could protect Caminantes from UV rays.

From skirt to outerwear and from outerwear to a sleeping bag

A very common situation for the refugees is that they do not count with a shelter, nor bed to sleep on during cold nights, therefore they constantly face hypothermia, and health issues. Infants are the most affected. Hence, with the convertible skirt, the mother can unbutton it and use it as a sleeping bag or blanket for the kid. Another alternative is for the mom to use it as outerwear, is to unbutton the bottom and be can and placed over the shoulder, the fabric can be pulled and attached with buttons located on the inside of the waistband.

From pants to lunch bags

The convertible pants are designed to protect from cold weather during night and transform into shorts for warm temperatures. The pant leg can be detached with a zipper and transformed into lunch bags. There is a string attached from the top to the bottom that allows it to be carried as a regular backpack that Caminantes can front carry.

AATCC Test Methods

Antibacterial

TM 90:
Tested to stop bacteria from reproducing on antimicrobial materials such as hemp.

If we can prove that hemp is the best fiber to prevent zones of inhibition, then the refugees will count with a textile specially chosen for their needs and limited personal cleanliness opportunities. By having the opportunity to test on flat and non-flat surfaces, the idea of utilizing hemp for most of the elements of the capsule collections, the target consumer will count with complete antibacterial protection.

Water Resistance

TM 35:
Tested to insures resistance on both water and non-water-resistant materials.

By measuring the resistance of waxed canvas to the penetration of water by impact, we can predict how the fabric will resist rain from penetrating. By testing the different intensities of water impact, we could determine if the textile selected is suitable for the weather of the South American countries. In case the water repellency is not enough for the different climates, then the construction of the fabric will be modified and tested until it suits the needs of the refugees.

VENEZUELA