

be proactive with

t-form

home diagnostic kit



matthew coombes

introduction

critical sweat creates **t-form**

When the ability to diagnose diseases, such as cancers, through the chemical traces in sweat left on objects or materials, is perfected how would people use it?

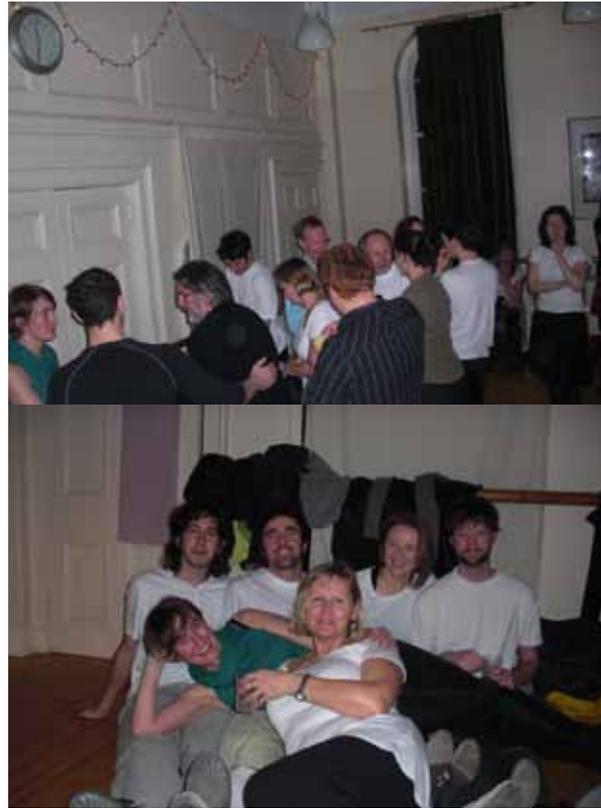
I have proposed possible solutions to this question while questioning the implications allowing the audience to draw their own conclusions.
Would people abuse this technology?

t-form is a home diagnostic kit combined with a campaign promoting it's preventative benefits.

Would you want to have this knowledge?

Who would own this knowledge about you? Where would that data go?

event



The white milonga was a tango dancing event during which many people wore white t-shirts while sweating from dancing. The t-shirts were then taken from the participants after drawing their sweat marks and taking a note of their name and email address.

This situation provided willing participants that could be contacted at a later date, observations about perceptions of sweat and physical items that could give inspiration to the project as a whole.

products



The splattered ceramic plate and question mark are initial experiments in luring people into a potentially difficult or unpleasant subject. These pieces were based on ideas about bodily fluids such as sweat and cleanliness.

products

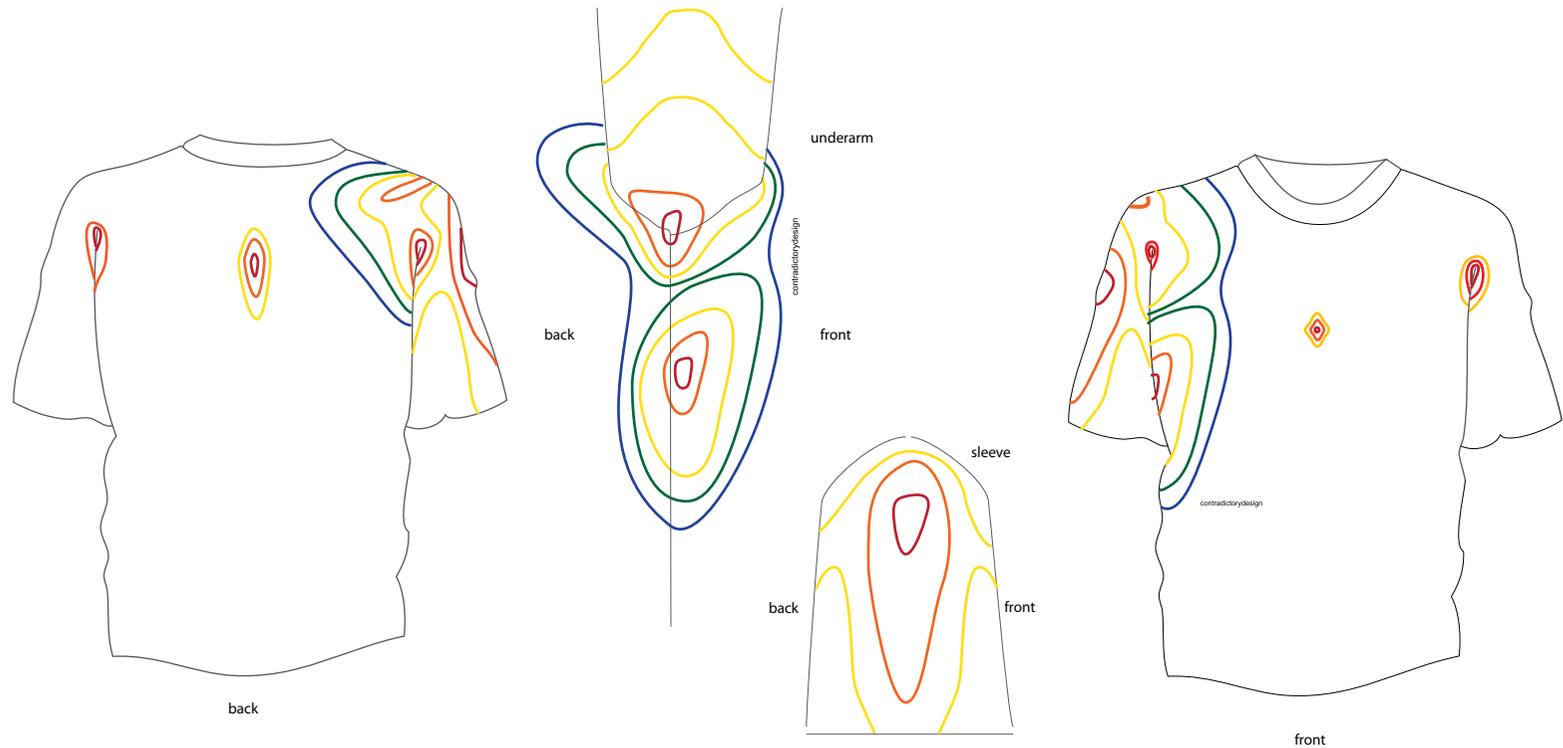


While researching sweat smell comes up a lot which brought me to perfumes. The tiny bottles above were designed for perfumes based on situations in which one perspires. They are called 'anger' and 'fear'.

The two unusual glass shapes in the centre are successive generations of a sweat collector designed to be placed at the small of your back. The handle shapes on the bottom one would hold straps that fasten around your waist.

On the right there are what look like blotches. This is a series of computer generated sweat patterns based on previous research.

products



The sweat patterns recorded at the aforementioned event warped, through various influences of research, into a t-shirt based on the embrace while dancing tango. There are male and female corresponding designs.

critical sweat

Critical Sweat was built on the question: When the ability to diagnose diseases, such as cancers, through the chemical traces in sweat left on objects or materials, is perfected how would people use it?

The three preliminary objects, the bed sheet, a pair of boxers and gloves are products for various situations where people interact with each other and objects. How would you feel about these diagnostic objects? Would you use them? How would it change relationships with other people?

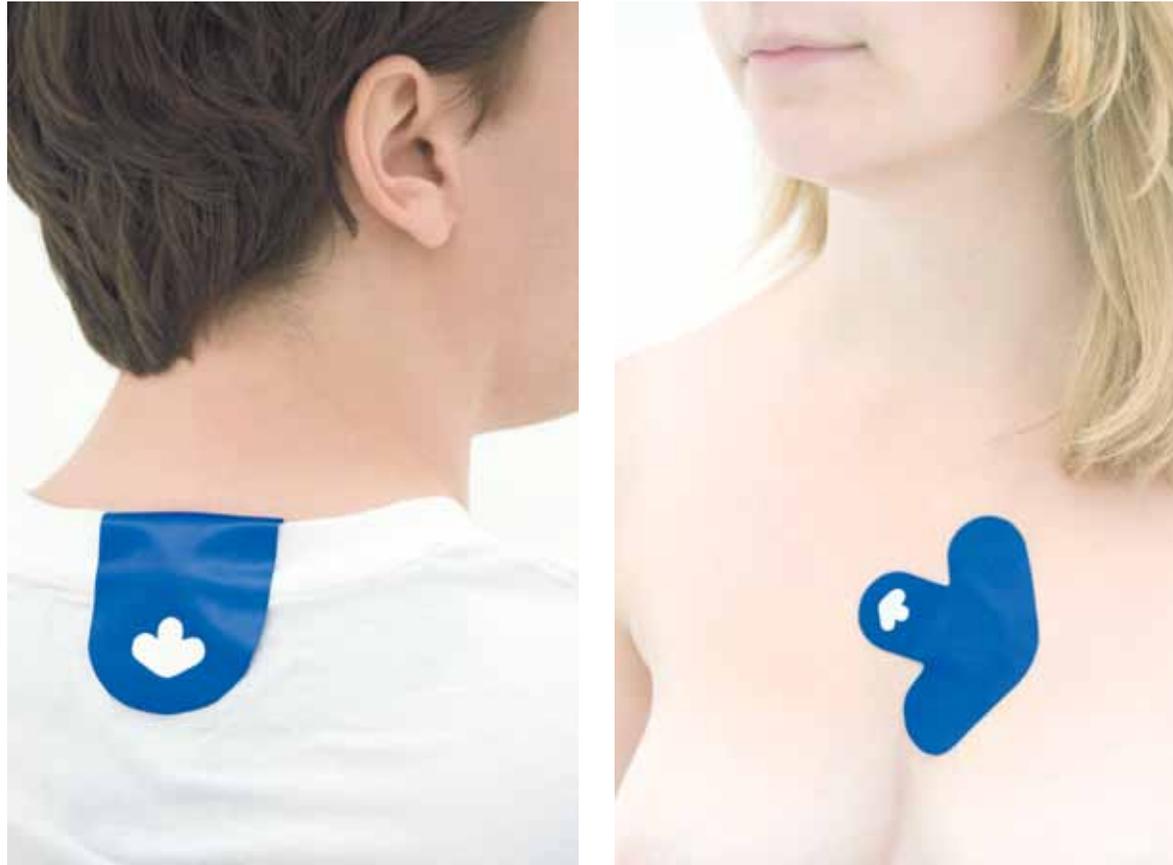


exhibition



As part of the development of this project I created an exhibition at Inspace showing my preliminary objects through physical and virtual display.

t-form



The t-form products and campaign is a home diagnostic kit using the analysis of chemical traces in sweat, designed with preventative medicine in mind. A preliminary small patch or the more thorough, intensive and larger form for the inside of one's t-shirt is used then sent away for diagnosis. A scannable code is then sent back to you that links you to your diagnostic information. This could be very useful data, would you want to know? Where would the data end up?

conclusion

While what is presented is a speculative product (it cannot do what I'm suggesting) it is based on research that points to the possibility of this technology being available in the future.

I would like you to ask yourself and others, is it a good thing? Should it be available to everyone? How would it change the way people interact? Who owns the data containing knowledge about your physical wellbeing? Where would that data end up? Science is not inherently good or bad. It is how it is used that matters.

Thank you.

Matthew Coombes
contradictorydesign.com

