# SHE BON

Sarah Petkus



**The SHE BON project is a collection of *body augments* which sense aspects of the wearer's physical state in order to communicate their level of arousal.** Collectively, the systems that have been developed for this project make up a human-computer interface capable of orchestrating sensor input from the body in order to display mechanical and electronic forms of performative output which express the wearer's physical state in a manner that characterizes their sexual identity.

The parent platform responsible for networking the scope of devices is a custom micro-controller called the "PULSE", which is housed within a wearable enclosure. The individual devices are worn throughout the body at different locations, and are equipped with their own dedicated sub-systems which control the local sensors and components that lend themselves to the augment's specialized function. Each of the peripherals plug into the exterior wall of the PULSE enclosure in order to send and receive data.

**The primary goal of the SHE BON project is to promote a general dialogue about sexuality; one that is open, approachable, and able to have a positive impact on human social-emotional health at large.**

**The problem I wish to address:** My harshest critique of humanity is that we seem to have a difficult time talking to one another about sex and intimacy. Both cultural and historical factors have perpetuated social stigma regarding sexuality, which discourages individuals from exploring and embracing their carnal nature. This level of taboo stunts healthy discourse from taking place, which has a lasting negative effect on individual social growth and self-knowing.

**How I'm addressing it**: I'm using my own life experiences, testimony, and sexual identity as a point of departure for the technology I'm creating. I'm leveraging my own vulnerability to establish an air of honesty around the project in order to promote the quality of discussion and reflection I wish to see in the world.

All stages of the project's development are documented and made public so that the practical engineering challenges I encounter during this process may also act as a catalyst or "gateway" for the greater dialogue about humanity's relationship with sexuality.

**The technology we create for ourselves can add another layer of texture to the way we experience the world, and enhance the way we communicate with one another.** By harnessing bio-data, we may also become more aware of subtle aspects of our physical state that would otherwise go unnoticed. This bio-data could facilitate in unique forms of self expression when coupled with the use of personalized wearables.

As technology becomes increasingly specialized to serve our individual needs, the line between device and the individual it was created to serve will also blur, dissolve, and redefine our sense of self as a whole.

Project Website : http://shebon.zoness.com