

my whole life  
the difference between  
dead and alive  
continue improving, to  
grow, to learn and being eager  
about living life,  
to simply live a story, and  
everybody has a different one  
to give hope to other  
people if there is hope there  
is always possibility,  
an extension of an  
opportunity, a chance at an  
impossibility,  
just enjoying the journey  
with a positive mood,  
to extend yourself or help  
others to get to a place of  
safety or calm  
transferring from one  
point to another and starting  
a new chapter

Visual artist and researcher Lucy Orta has created a series of Lifeline. Objects crafted in soft calico; a fabric traditionally used to make toiles, or prototype garments. In this sense, Lifeline are unfinished, open-ended prompts to enable discussion and conversations, offering new avenues of thought.

A group of asylum seekers and refugees were invited to reflect on the meaning of Lifeline, to select an object with a personal meaning, and to discuss the challenges they faced on arrival and the opportunities that have helped to rebuild their new life in the UK.

All photographs in this zine have been selected by participants, with the hope to shift the mainstream narrative that negatively affects individuals and families seeking refuge and asylum in the UK and advocating for a more compassionate future.



“the life jacket feels like the glimmer of hope with my trophies, badges of honour”



“these are my wings of freedom”





“a flower gives you seeds of opportunity and one day they will regrow”

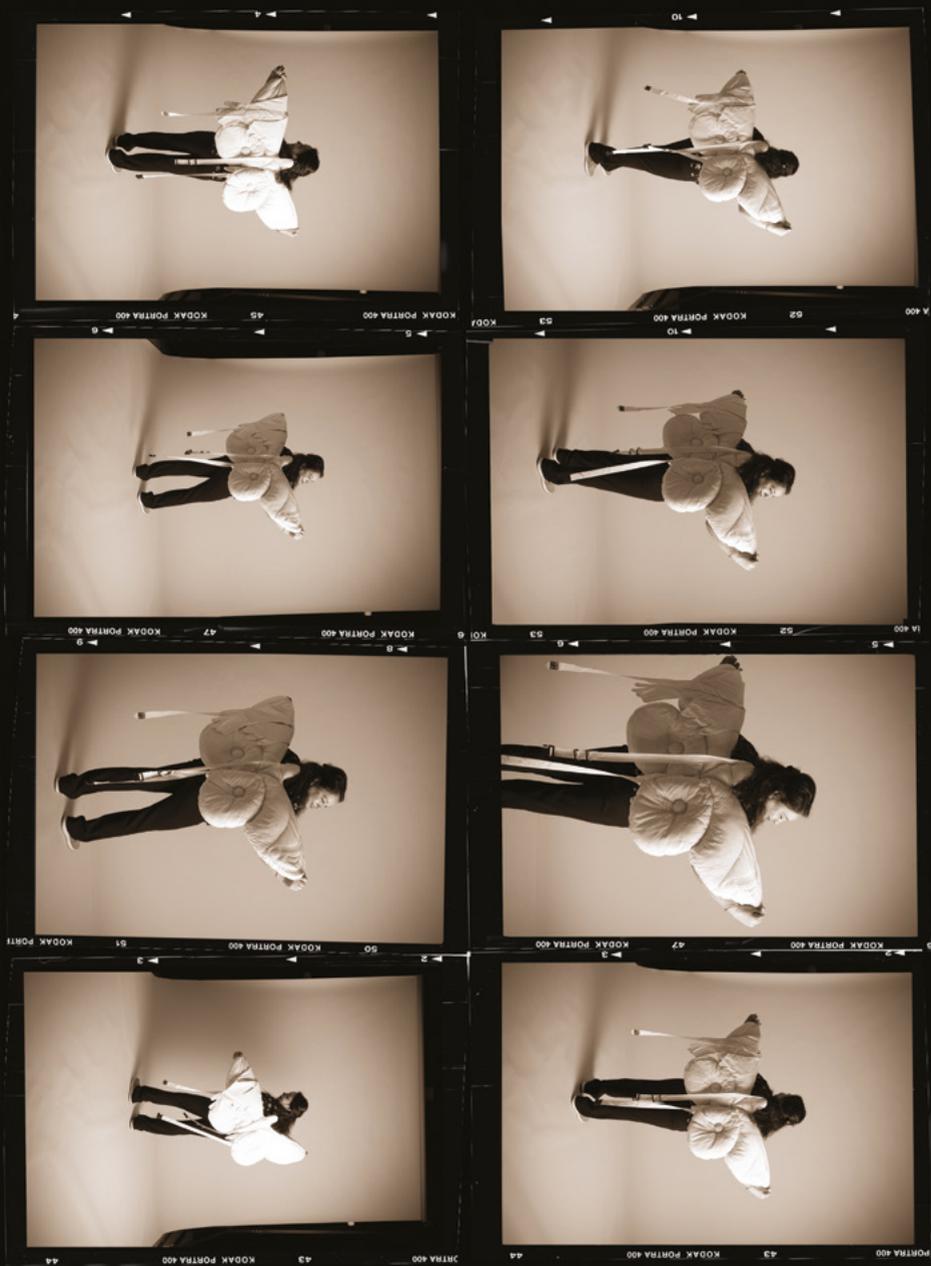


“the butterfly reminds me of my happy, playful childhood, the gun represents my adult dignity, my confidence, my strength as a woman”



“it is the hollow cavity in the light bulb that enables the light to shine”

شدم ز دست تو شیدای کوه و دشت و هنوز  
نمی‌کنی به ترحم، نطق سلسله سست



“holding the wings I was flying in my childhood dreams, a free mind, free to go”



“the calico and the stitching reminds me of home, where we came from and how we continue to move forward even when we don’t see there’s a way”

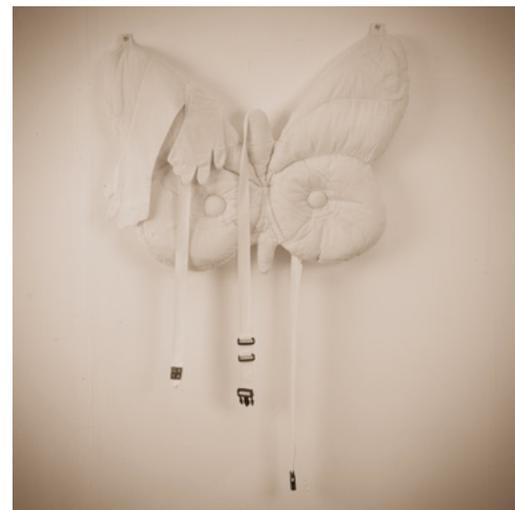
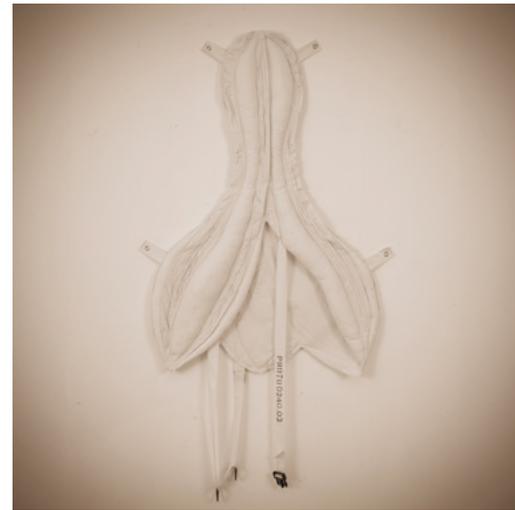
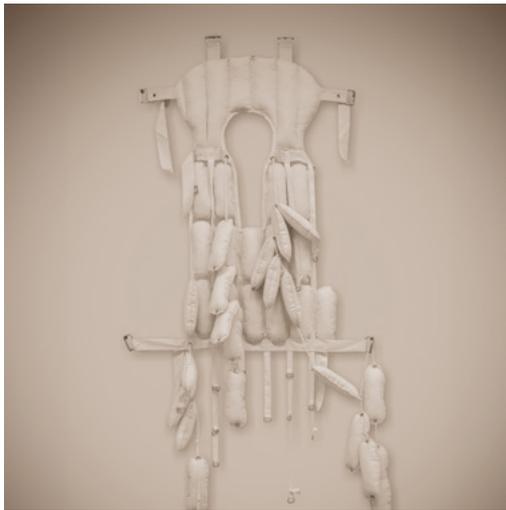


“I’m planting my own seeds in this country;  
I believe one day I will harvest my own fruits”



“water is essential for life; you have to search for it and make it flow from inside yourself to help others”





# Credits

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