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A black and white photograph showing the back of a person with dark hair, wearing a textured, grey and white patterned sweater. The person is standing against a dark background. Text is visible on their back, including the year '2014' on the neck and several lines of text on the upper back.

SINGYU LAM  
AVI4MP-02  
ART ISU

2014

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# RATIONALE



My independent study unit will be a sculpture revolving around the concept of identity. Art is said to be a form of self-expression, though I have never actually used it in such a way before. Therefore, my final product will be my first piece of artistic self expression. The scale of the final piece is far larger than anything I have ever worked with, and I plan to learn modeling skills that I can employ later on in the industrial design field.

# MATERIALS

I plan on making my sculpture as a collection of visual metaphors, each embodying a concept, arranged in an abstract and surreal composition. These visual metaphors will each depict a concept, and their sum total will express my underlying theme of self-identity through showing a variety of different views in a single piece.

Materials I will need are wooden dowels, glue gun, metal rods, acetate rods, metal wire, fishing wire, and epoxy putty. These materials can be accessed at Curry's, Rona, and other general stores that stock tooling equipment. I will acquire my tools from friends who own them. The dimensions of the piece will be around the same size as myself, with similar proportions (0.6m x 0.2m x 1.8m).



# THEME

The major theme I wish to convey is identity – what makes us who we are, our viewpoints, beliefs, thoughts; the sum total of what makes us as an individual. I believe who we are the sum of our experiences. The theme I have decided to tackle will allow and include a variety of different concepts such as mortality salience, masks and facades, solipsism, and emotional detachment. There were not any specific questions that led to these concepts, but they are a summary of what I find myself thinking about on my free time. This inclusion of my own viewpoints will help effectively show my own identity within the piece.

# TIMELINE

December 13th

Final sketches finished

December 16th

Tools and materials gathered

December 21st

Start creation of sculpture

January 4th

Finish sculpture

January 8th

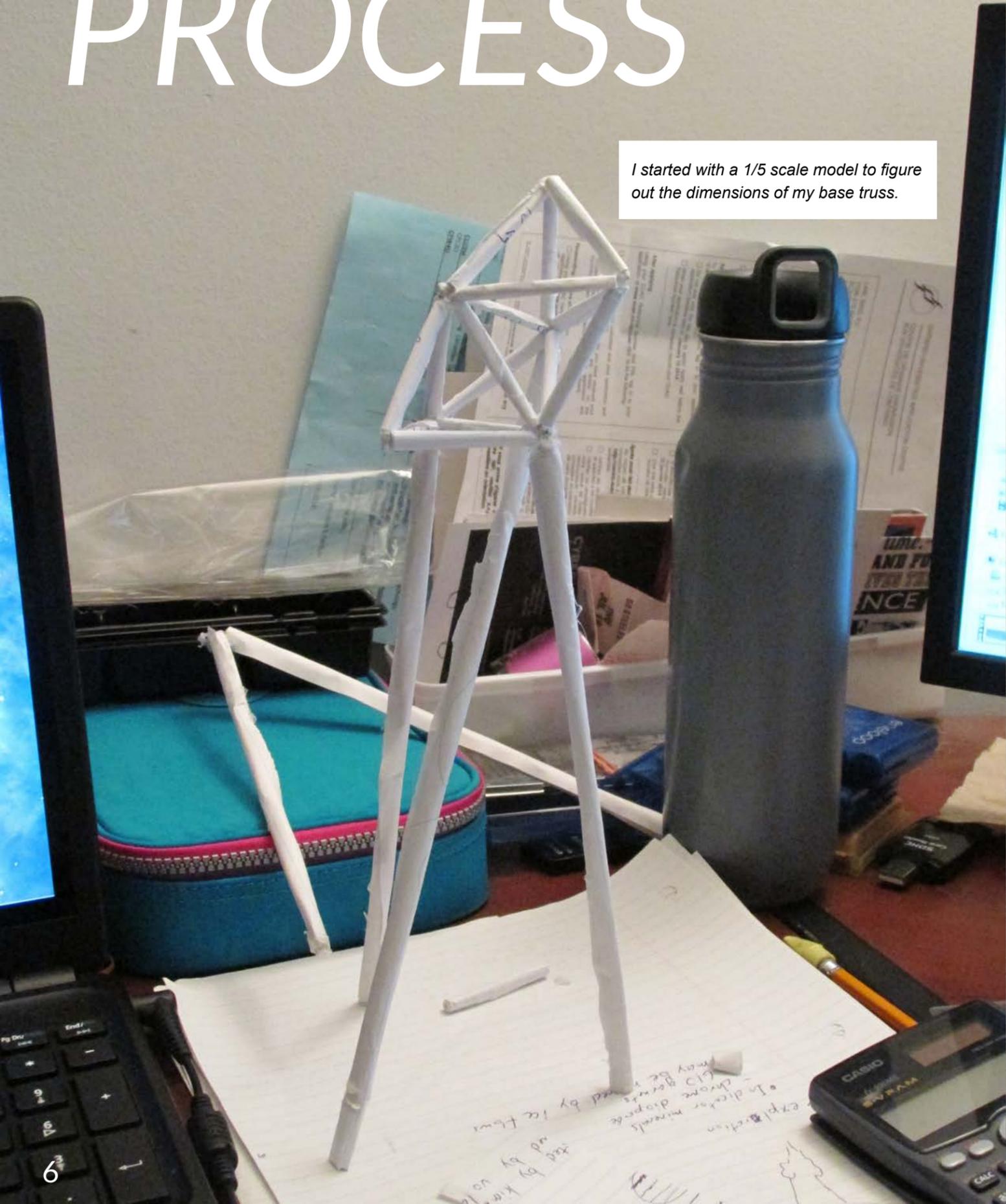
Process binder finished

January 23th

Presentation Finished

# PROCESS

*I started with a 1/5 scale model to figure out the dimensions of my base truss.*



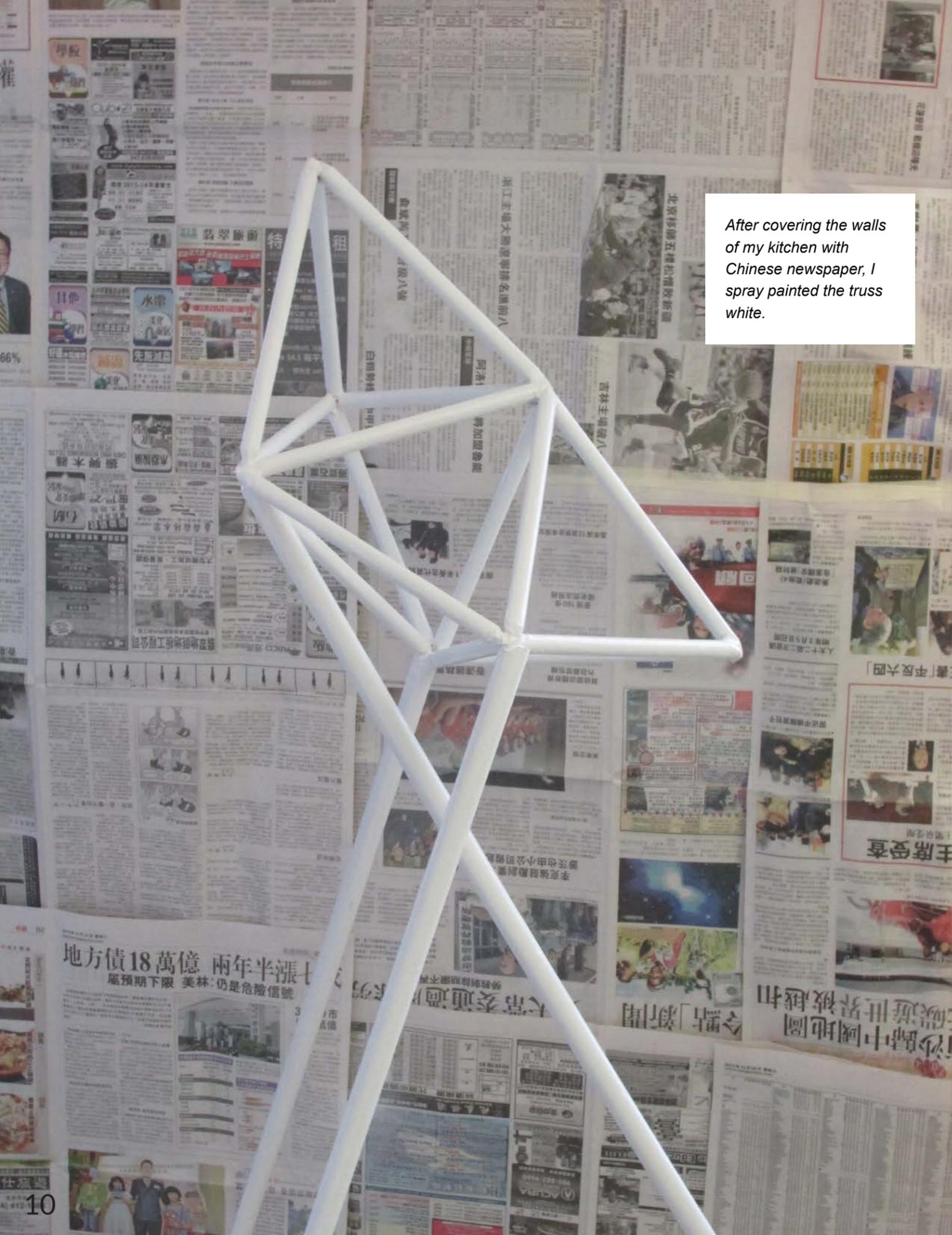
*I used a dremel to trim down the ends of my wooden rods to fit them together into tetrahedrons.*



*I used one of my metal wardrobes to suspend my truss in the right position before attaching the legs.*



*I used a mix of glue gun and epoxy putty to attach the legs to the truss.*



*After covering the walls of my kitchen with Chinese newspaper, I spray painted the truss white.*



*I added additional trusses to stop my truss from falling apart under its own weight.*

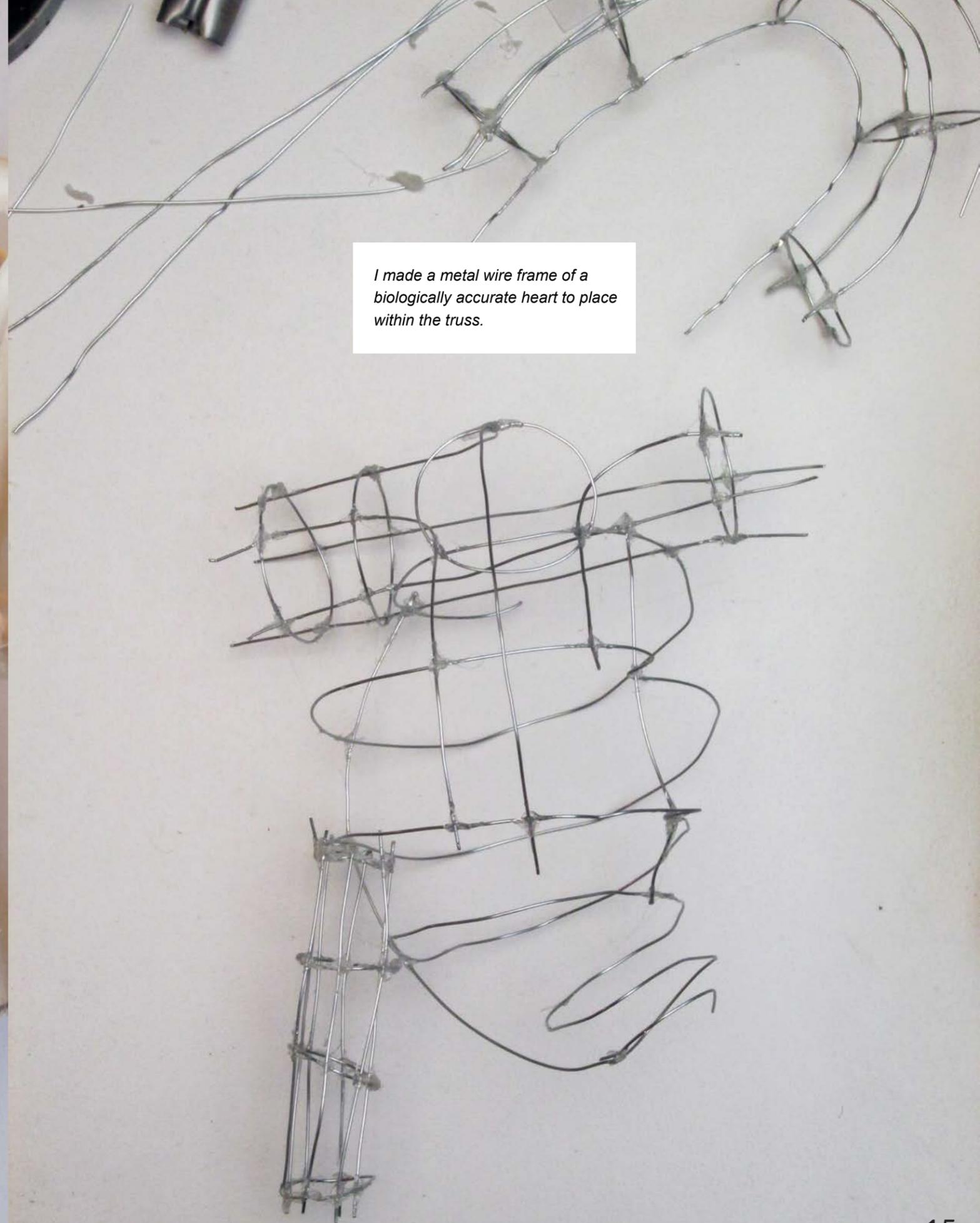
*I added rubber to the tips of the legs to stop them from sliding out.*



*I added a few coats of paint to the styrofoam balls to cover up the pitted texture.*



*I created the two trusses for representing the two hemispheres of my brain.*



*I made a metal wire frame of a biologically accurate heart to place within the truss.*

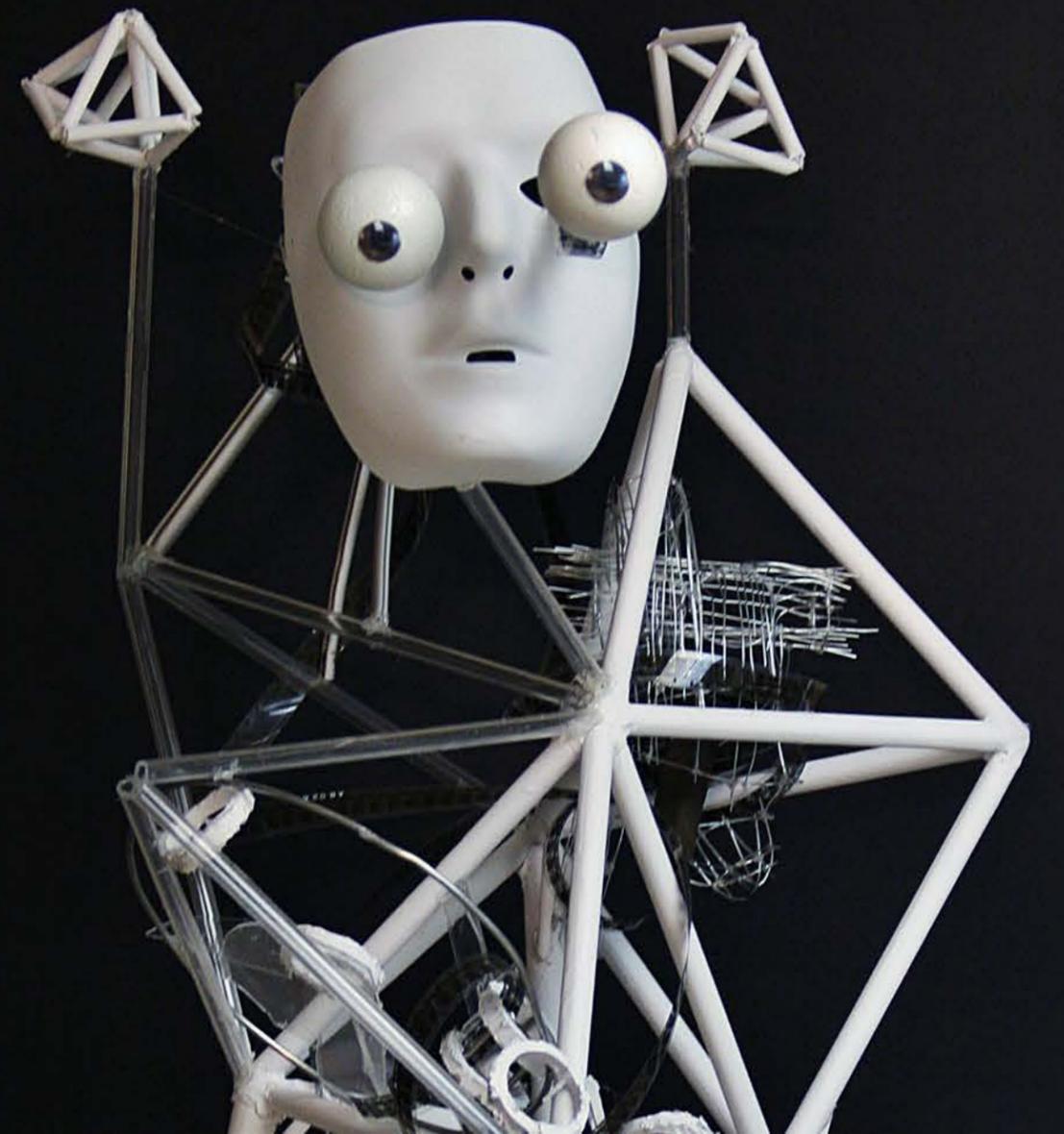


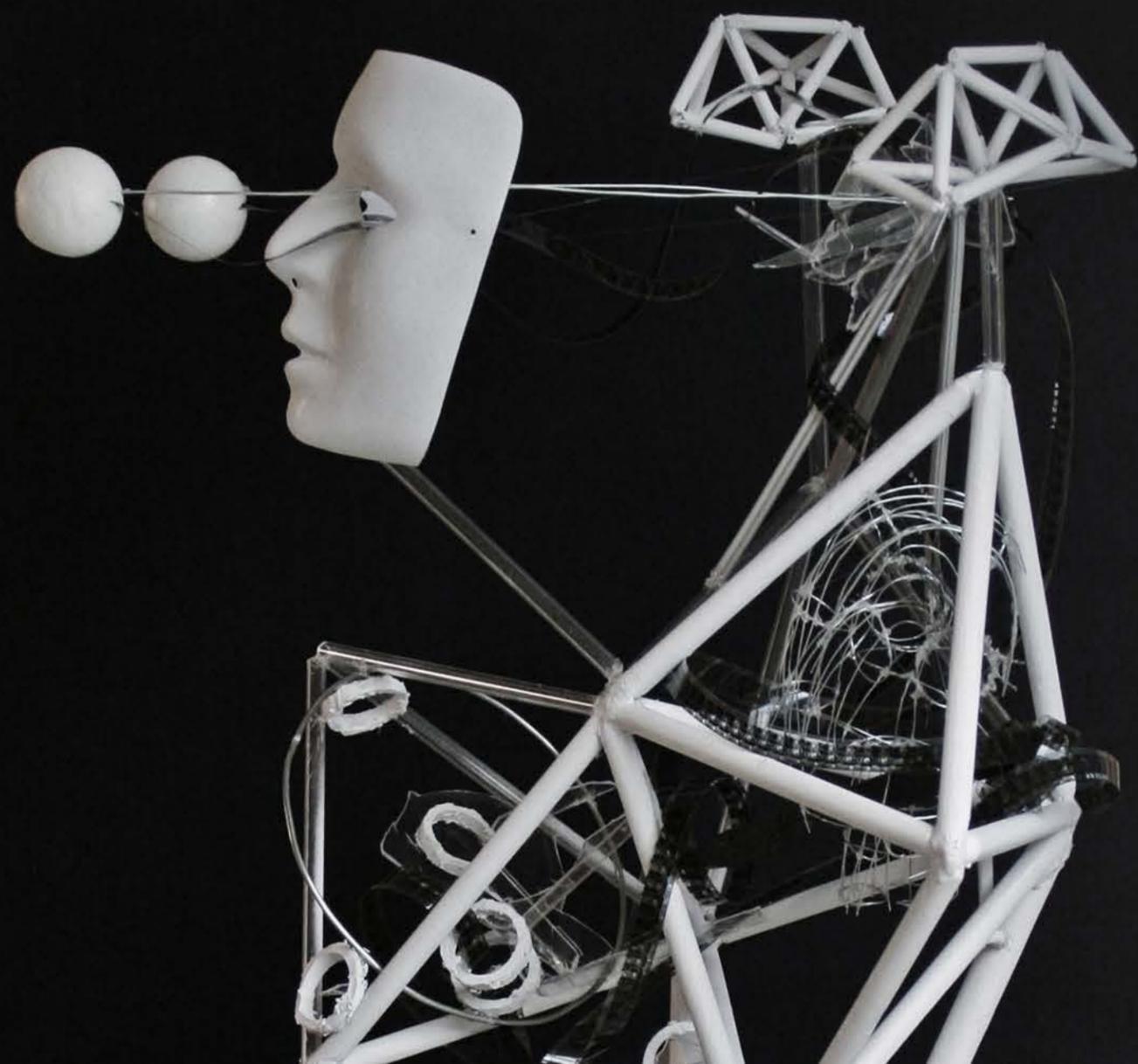
*I finished and gathered the rest of my components to put on my frame.*

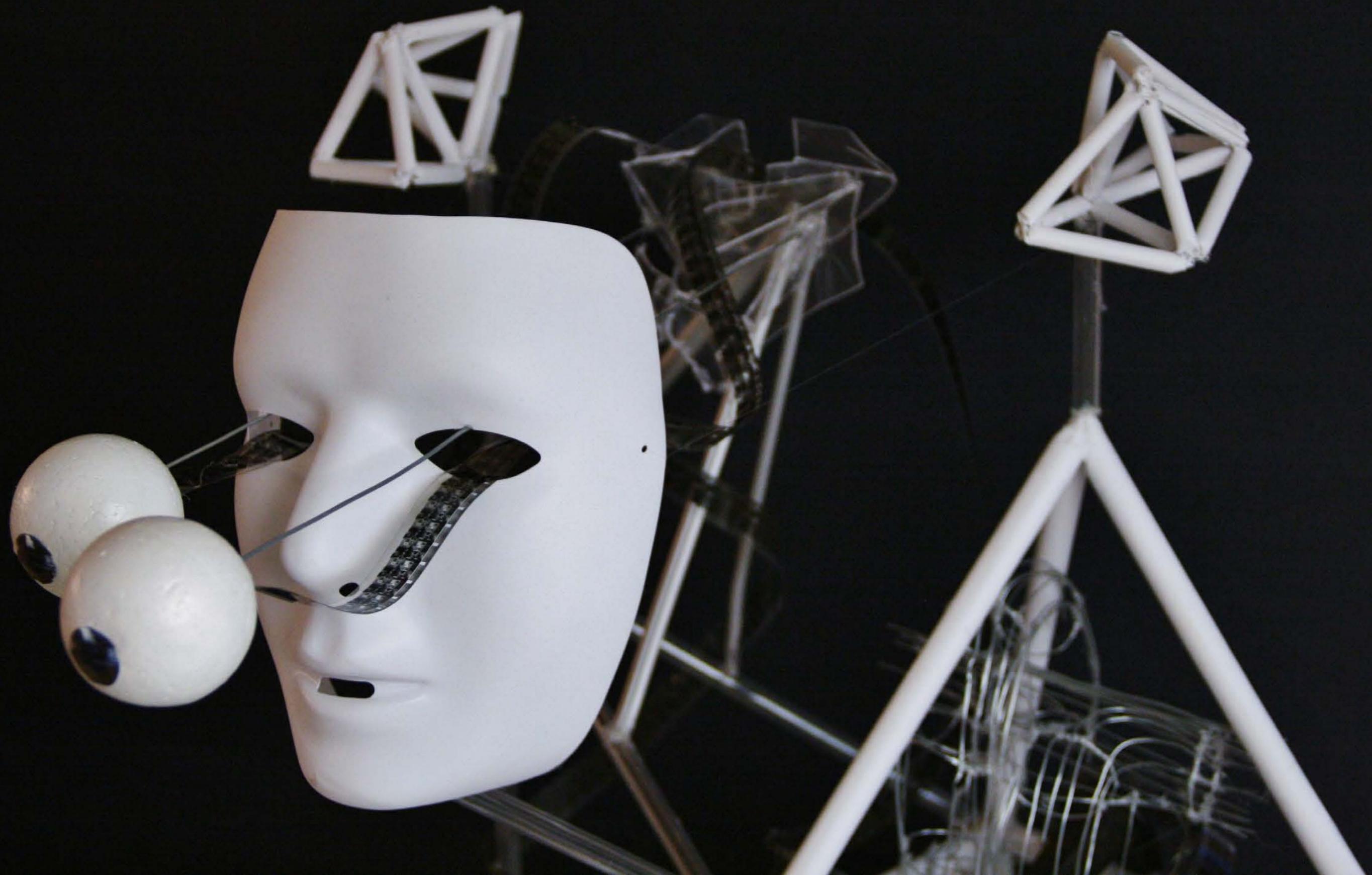
# FINAL PRODUCT

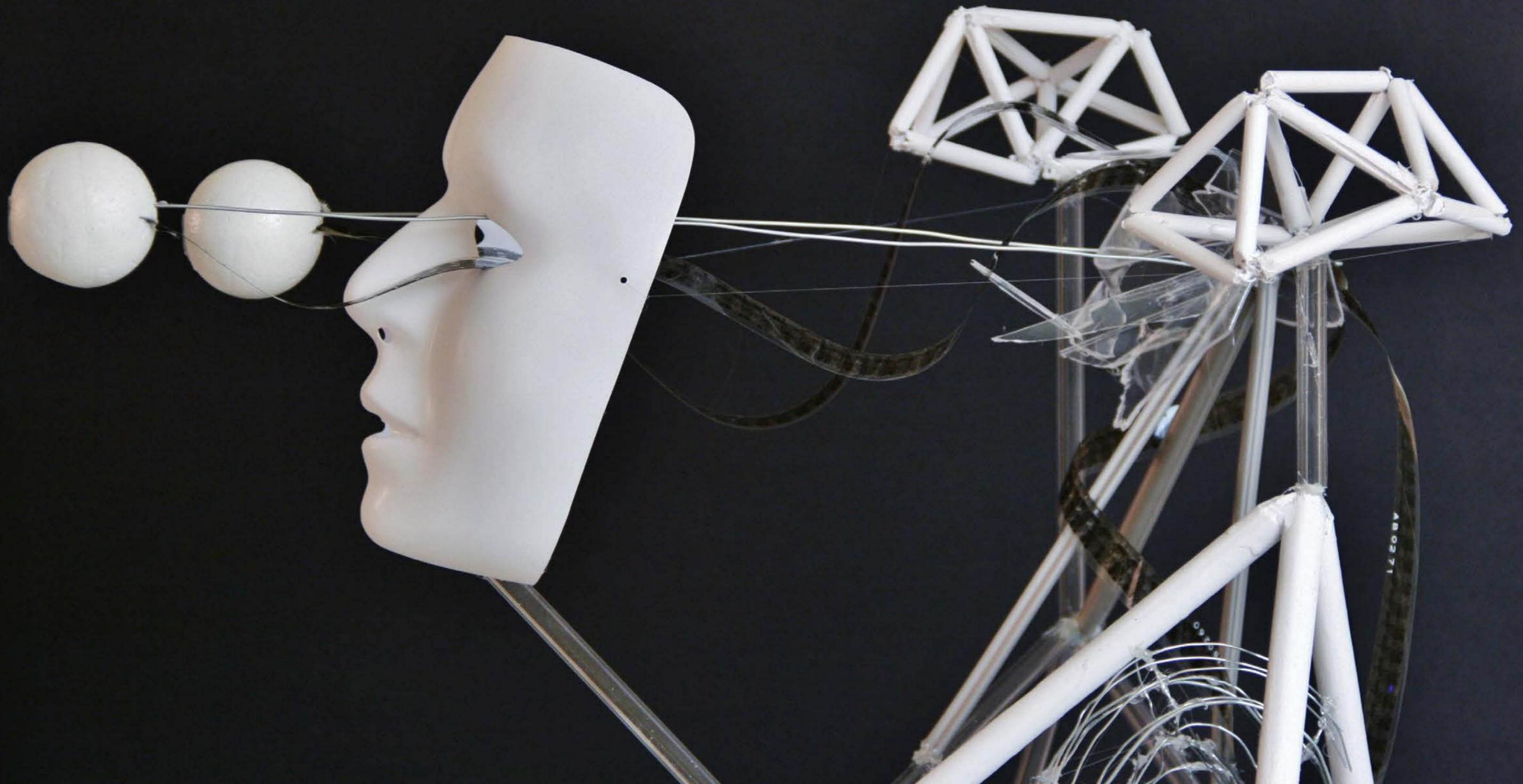
*I D E N T I T Y*



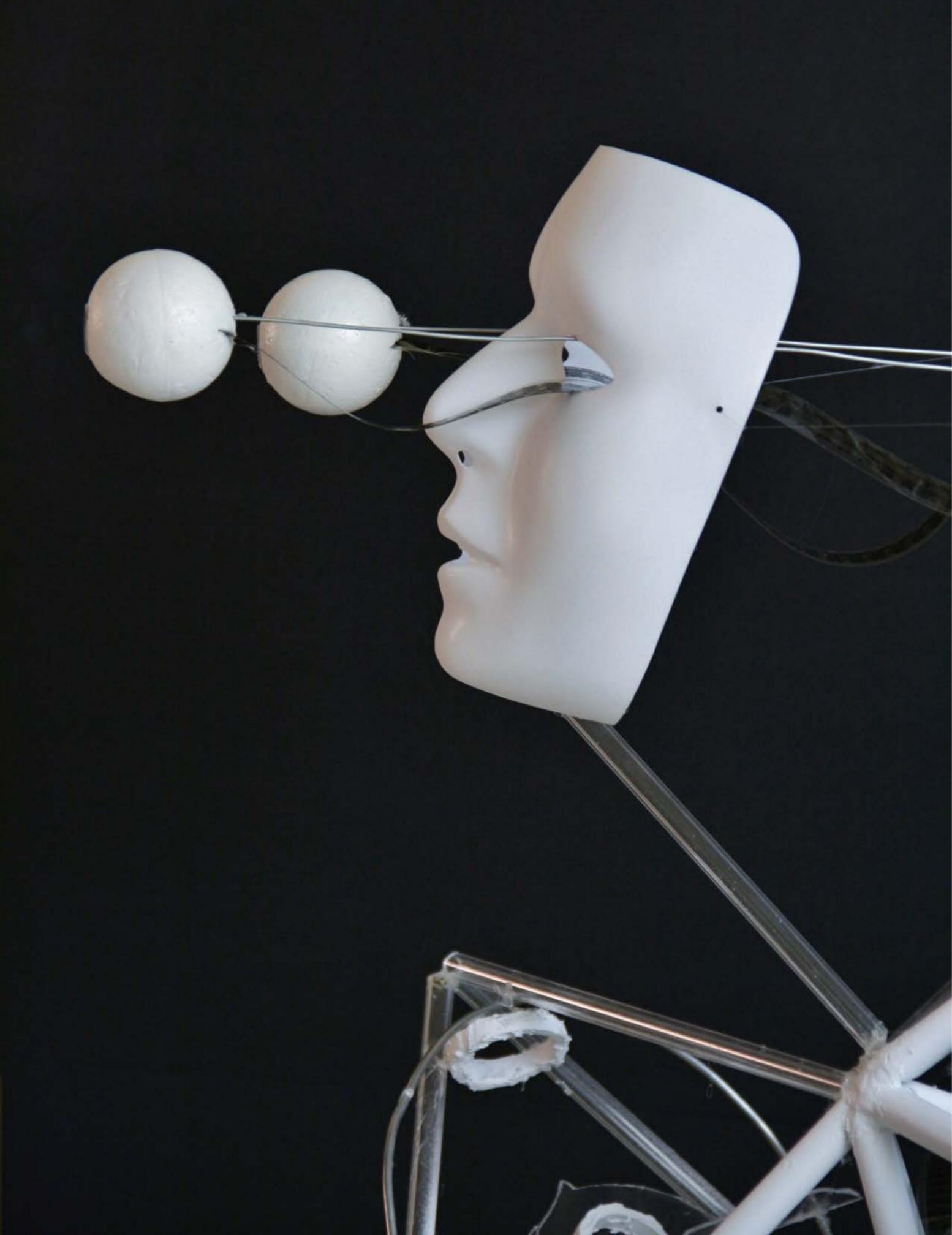






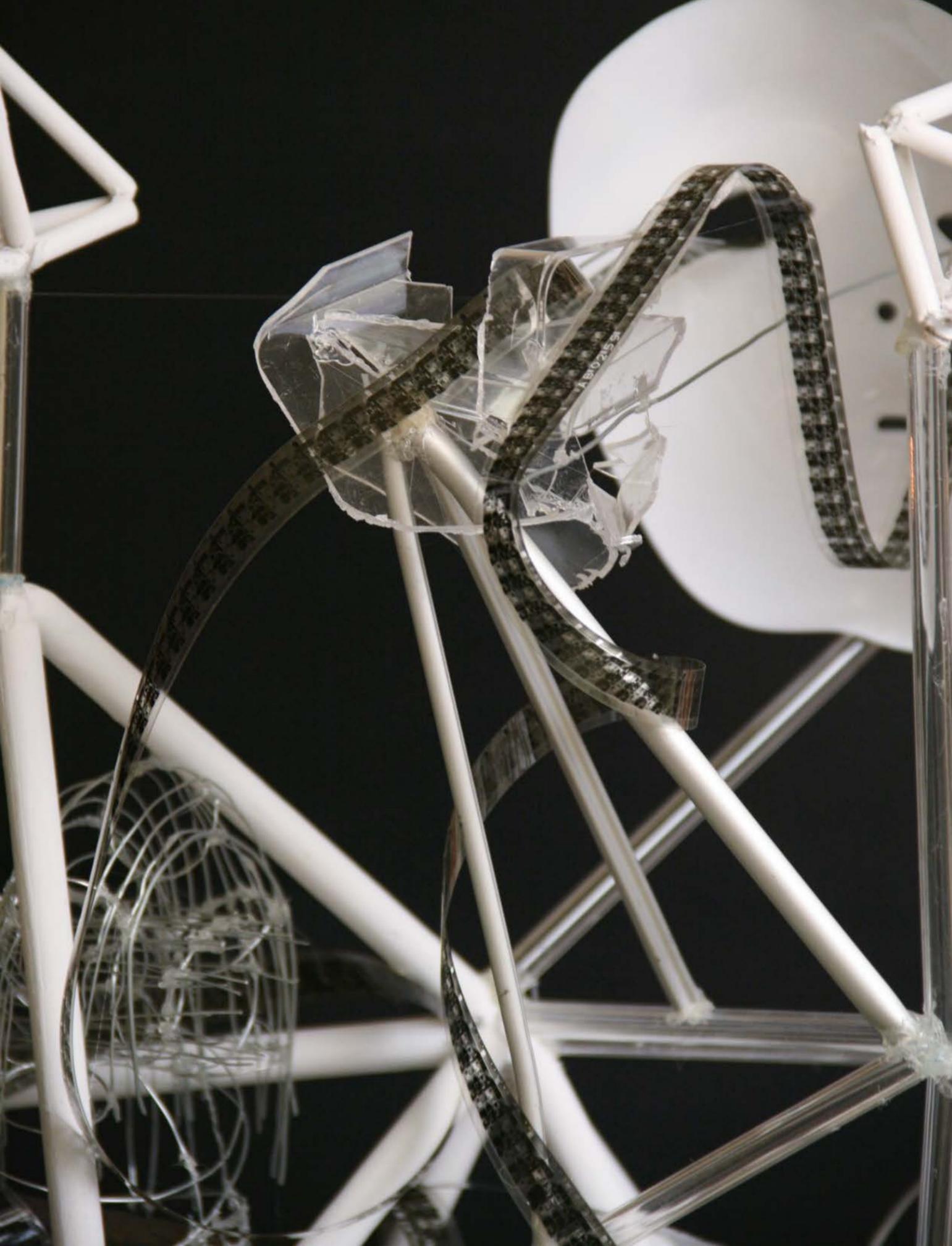






# PERCEPTION & MASKS

The eyeballs are suspended with filmstrips leading away from them - this symbolizes the flow of visual information that we receive. The mask is the face other people perceive. People identify others by their face, which is both a mask of our true selves (a brain that simply processes electrical signals) and a mask we consciously display to hide our emotions and thoughts.



# IMPULSE

The filmstrips lead into a structure formed of fractured and splintered plastic between two geometric trusses. The two geometric trusses represent the two lobes of the brain, while the splintered structure's location and shape biologically correspond to the hypothalamus and fornix. These organs are responsible for processing memories as well as regulating impulse and fear responses. The structure is fractured because I supposedly have a misplaced sense of danger. The filmstrip leads through here as the information is processed by your brain.



# *DETACHMENT*

The main piece on the left side of the sculpture is a heart, which has been impaled by a metal spike. This spike through the heart symbolizes emotional damage. A common way to deal with prior feelings of pain or loss is emotional detachment. Emotional detachment can be from trauma or it can be a conscious choice. As a conscious choice, it is the numbing of feeling emotions, as well as the decision to avoid engaging in emotional connections. This involves revealing little personal facts about oneself as well as distancing others to avoid any potential future pain.

The filmstrip once again leads through this piece, wrapping around the head and tip of the spike, symbolizing the spike's connection to personal experiences.



# TIME

The filmstrip ends in an array of time analogues - clock faces, clock hands, and pocket watches. This symbolizes the constant progression of time. The filmstrip, representing my experiences and memories, inevitably leads here as it is intricately linked with time.

The constant movement of time also implies another thing, which is the constant pace at which our lives are running out. Every human life is finite, and the realization that one's life will come to an end as much as we hope to continue living is called mortality salience. There are many coping mechanisms to deal with this. It has been suggested religion and the belief in afterlife, the belief of human dominance over other animals, and even the basis of having a self esteem have been suggested to be linked to coping with the fact that one day we will stop existing. The understanding of my own mortality is something I still grapple with.

Finally, the film strip gathers here to represent my sentimentalism, and my inability to let go of the past. I treasure the times I spent with my friends in the past, and I continue to try and record the world around me through bringing my camera around with me everywhere, lest something slip from my memory, at the very least it can be recalled with the glimpse of a picture or a quick look at a video.

This project was very insightful, as it was mostly a study into myself and how I thought, and to create something that could allow someone else to understand me better. By breaking down my own quasi-philosophical rambling thoughts, I feel I became a much more satisfied and complete person. The end result wasn't exactly how I envisioned it to be, but it nonetheless became something I am proud of.

I also gained a vast array of useful experiences while working on this project, which involved the first wood working I had done in years and my first time working with plastic and metal as well. I believe these skills I acquired will help me greatly in the future.

In the end, this assignment also sums up my time here in the CyberARTs program, as a culmination of myself as I was when I conceived and finished the project, a record of my thoughts and feelings when I was in Grade 12.

# *REFLECTION*

