

## Hug

*Kaisu Koski*



*HUG* (2021) is a pneumatic garment that creates a sensation of a hug without the proximity of another person. It is inspired by “hugging” garments, used in so-called deep-pressure therapy, imitating the structure of embodied human empathy. It is the first prototype in a project exploring artificial empathy, to be used independently by blowing air into two tubes. The garment has two air pockets, one on the chest and one between the shoulder plates. These can be filled with air separately or simultaneously to simulate a hug. The prototype utilizes recycled materials from lockdown online order packaging.

### About the Artist

**Kaisu Koski** is a cross-disciplinary artist and humanities scholar with a background in performance and screen-based media. She is an Associate Professor of Art and Design at Lab4Living at Sheffield Hallam University in the UK. Email: [k.koski@shu.ac.uk](mailto:k.koski@shu.ac.uk)