



JESS CASPER

*Koumpounophobia*

buttons, black wire, black cord

“The theme of this necklace revolves around irrational phobias and mental health.

Jewelry is often associated with providing a sense of protection and tranquility. Sometimes it contains stones with healing powers. Other times, regardless of its elements, it holds a spiritual significance to the wearer.

This piece is designed to provoke and challenge this notion by representing a mental condition called koumpounophobia—the phobia of buttons.

Its jumbled construction and color scheme depict the anxiety this phobia causes. A nervous pattern of wires flows through layered rows of buttons, suggesting compounded stress. As a necklace to be worn close to the head and heart where normally one would hold something precious and calming, for those with koumpounophobia, it conveys suffocation, entrapment and fear.”

