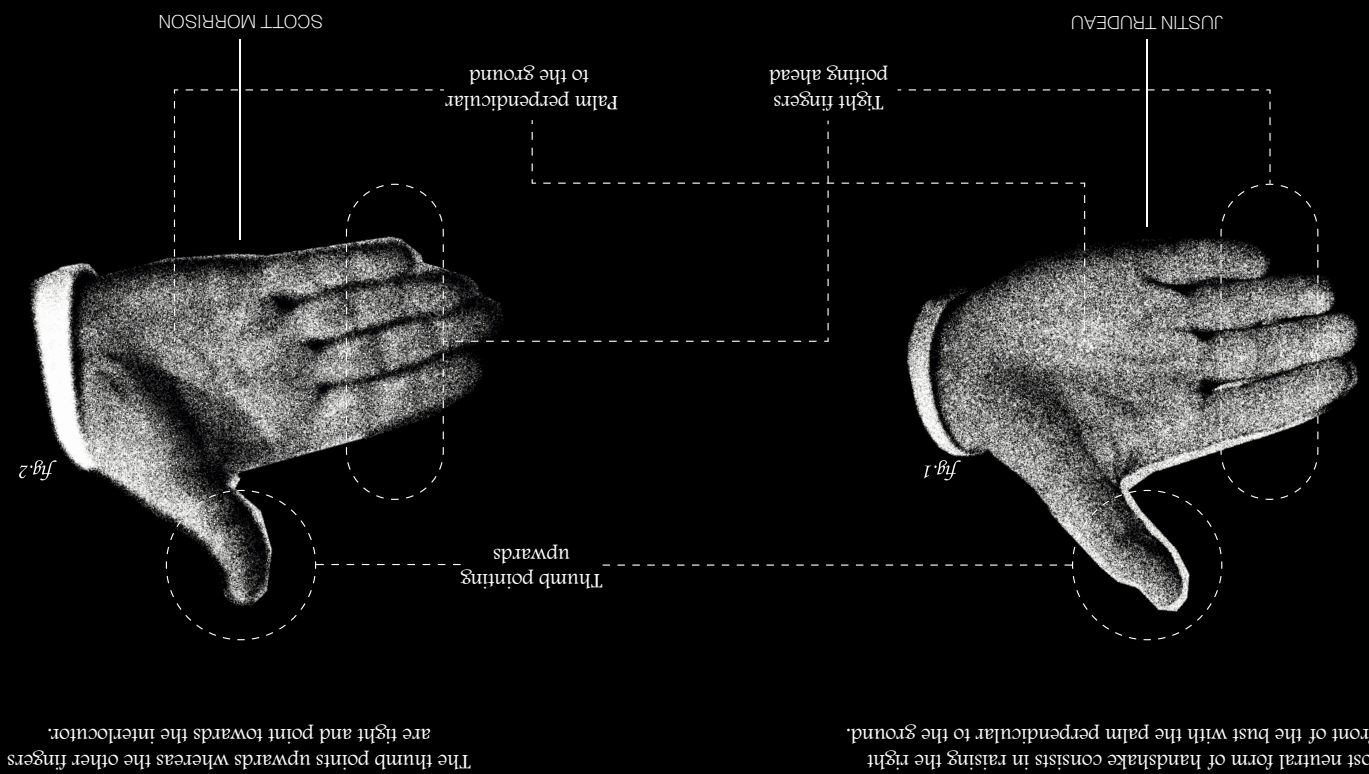


The *handshake* is a ritual which throughout the centuries has built its own codes and set of rules. Rather than a banal habitus it is a multifaceted performative act which, according to its enactment in different context, can assume a broad variety of meanings. In political communication the handshake represents and essential part of the protocol. In fact, when a world politician shakes hands, politicians who are aware of the (curious of body language) try to take advantage of the event in order to portray themselves in the public eye and convey a specific message to their public. This brief concerning the fluid choreography of the handshake can be pin down as discrete movements. The aim of this research is to investigate the (non-verbal rhetoric) of those movements and interpret them as pre-arranged signs carrying significance.

heads of state to unravel different typologies of greetings. Through the recognition of recurring patterns, the intention is to shed light on the possible (power dynamics) which from time to time are put in place between the two politicians.

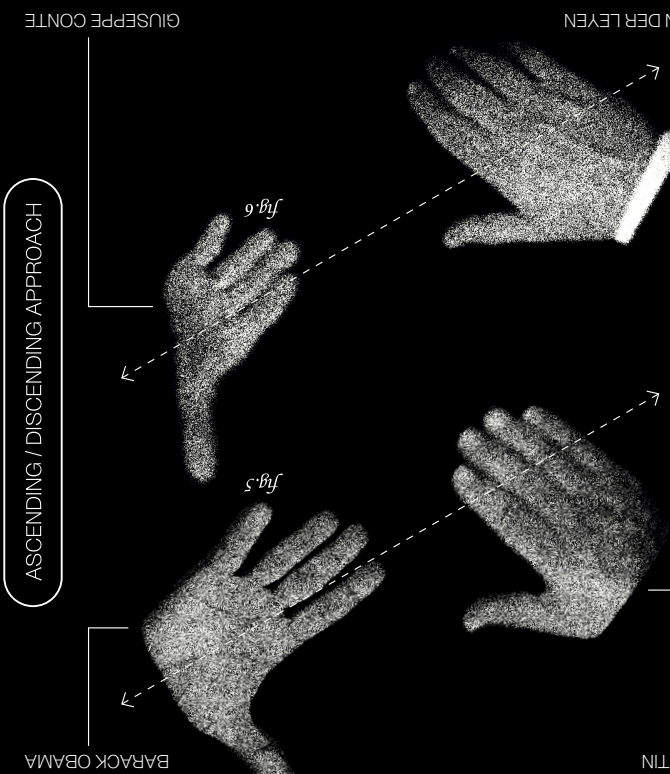
#### NEUTRAL HANDSHAKE



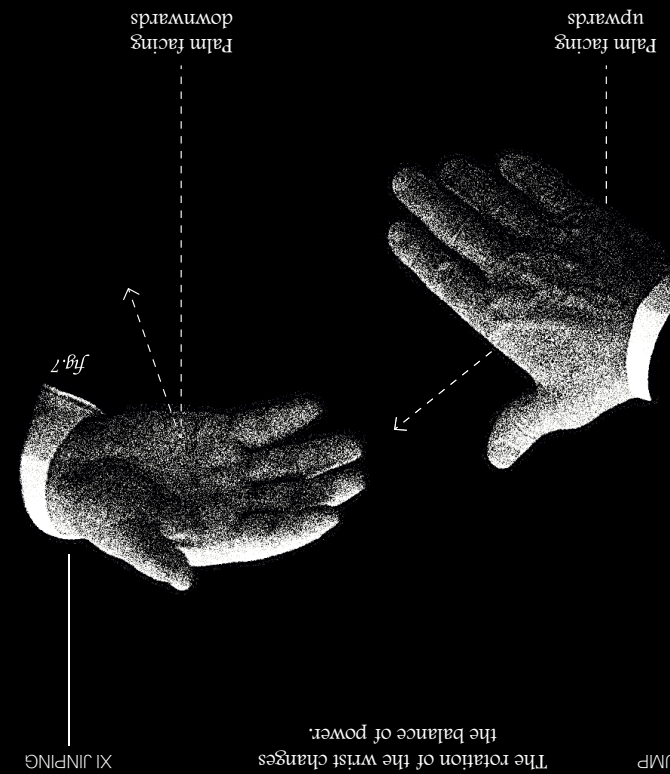
#### FINGERS TOGETHER SPREAD



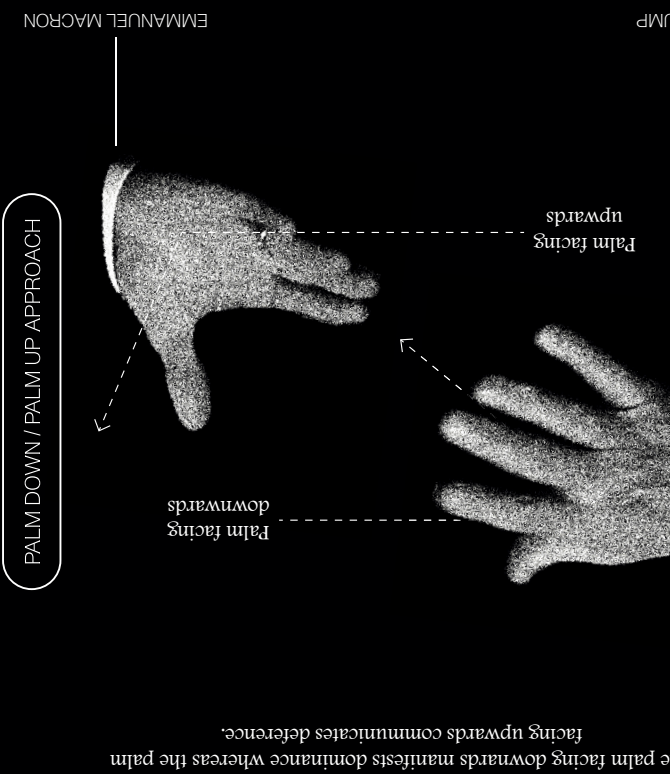
Approaching from the top, from the position of a camera, reveals that below it is a misinterpreted approach.



#### PALM DOWN / PALM UP APPROACH



#### PALM DOWN / PALM UP APPROACH

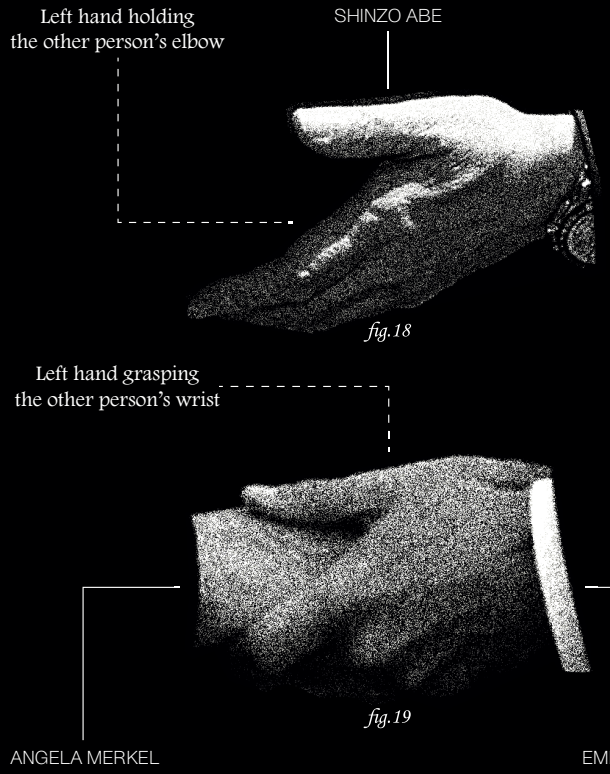


It happens frequently that the upper arm grasp is employed by the person entering the handshake from the right, so they bypass the camera disadvantage.

The fingers curl around the upper arm increasing the grasp and consequently the assertiveness

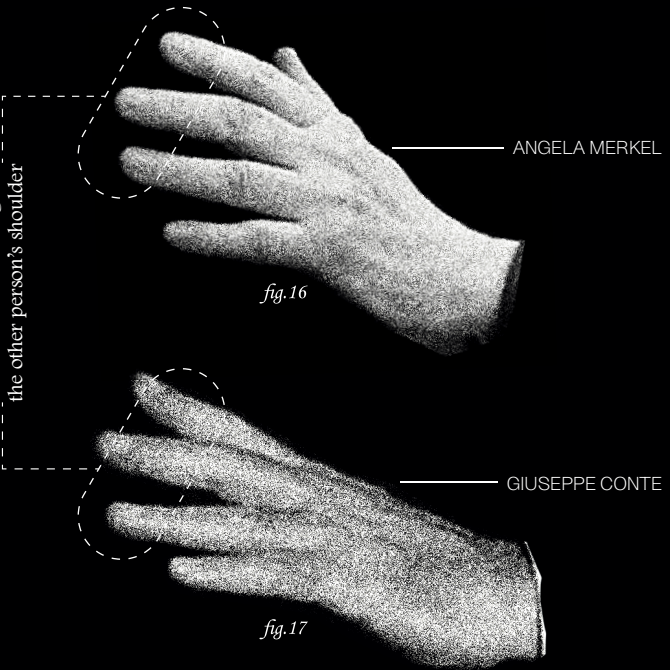


#### LEFT HAND ROLE

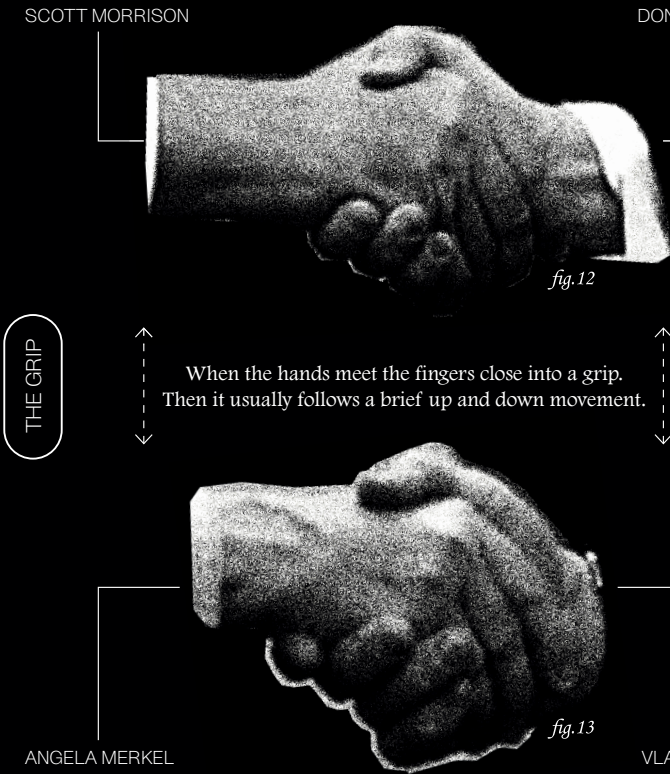
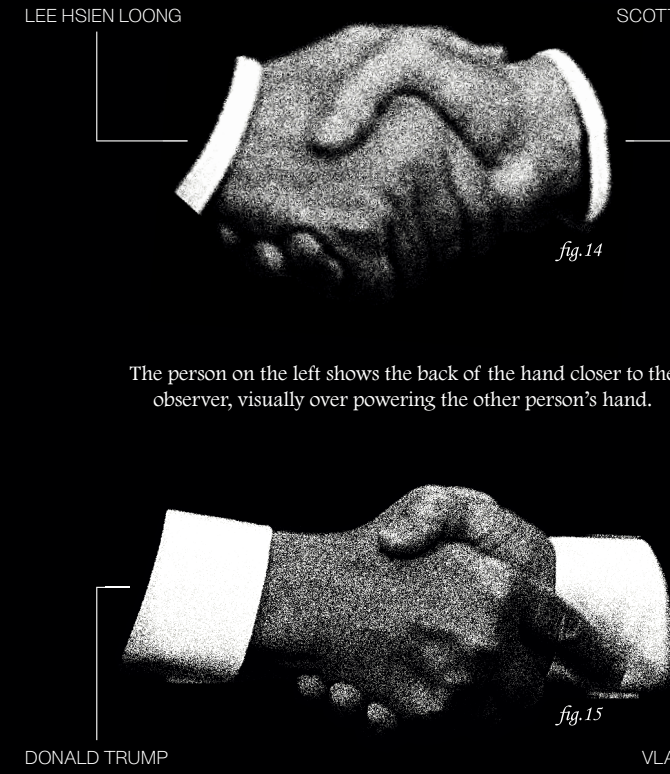


The left hand might play a key role in defining the power relationship established between the two people shaking hands.

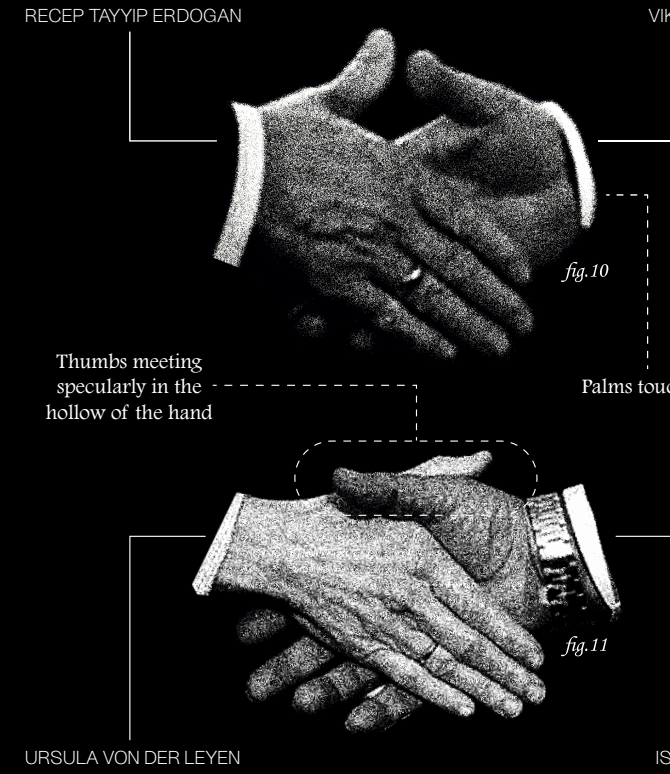
#### LEFT HAND ROLE



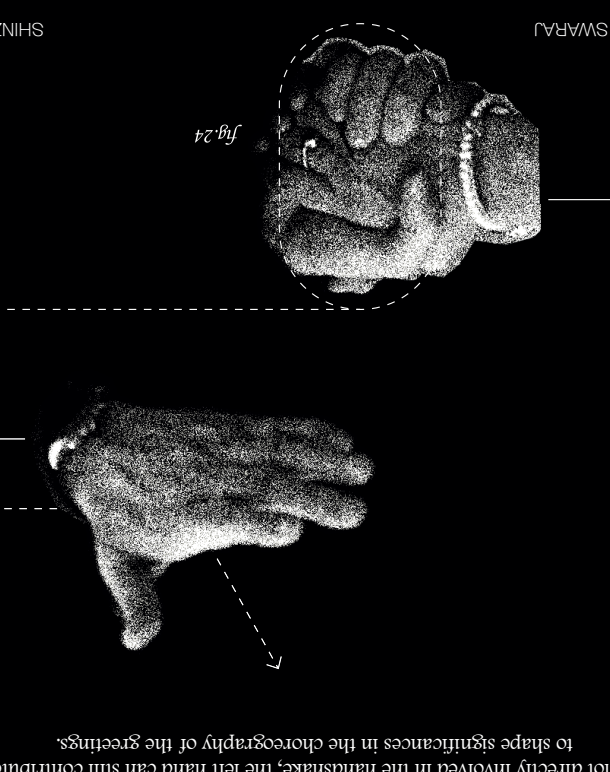
#### THE GRIP



#### JOINING THUMBS

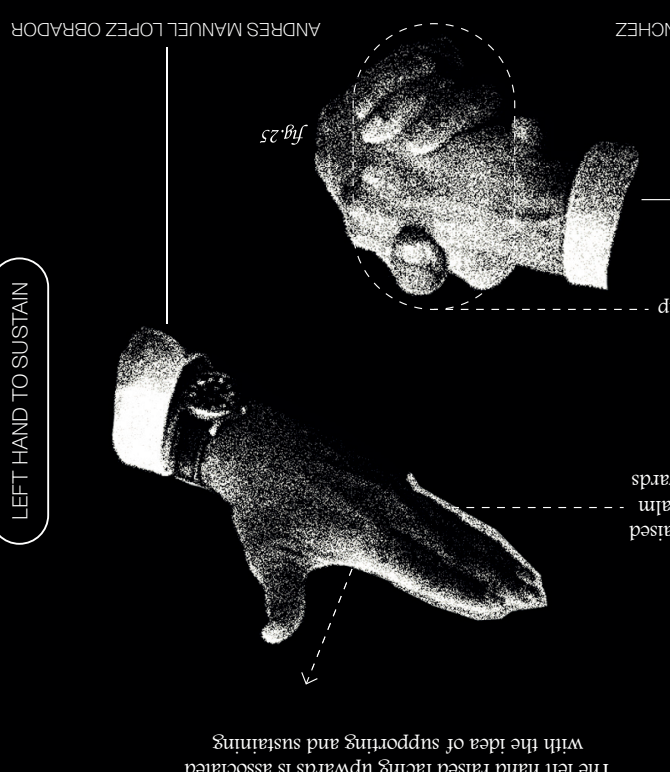


#### LEFT HAND TO SUSTAIN



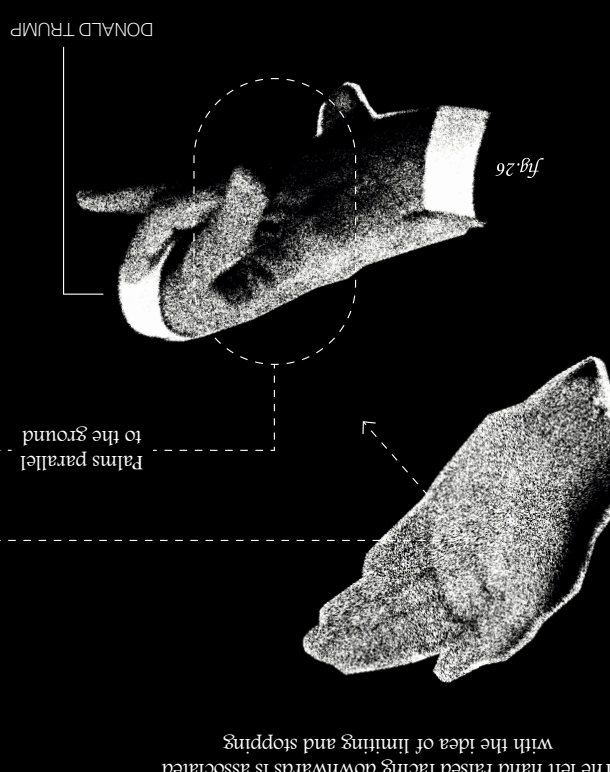
If not directly involved in the handshake, the left hand can still contribute to shape significances in the choreography of the greetings.

#### LEFT HAND TO SUSTAIN



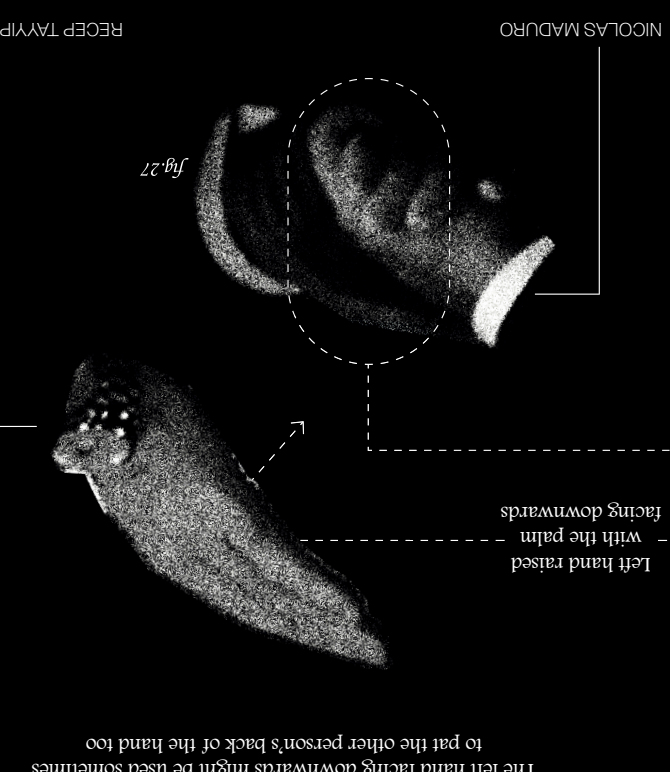
The left hand raised facing upwards is associated with the idea of supporting and sustaining.

#### LEFT HAND TO LIMIT



The left hand raised facing downwards is associated with the idea of limiting and stopping.

#### LEFT HAND TO LIMIT



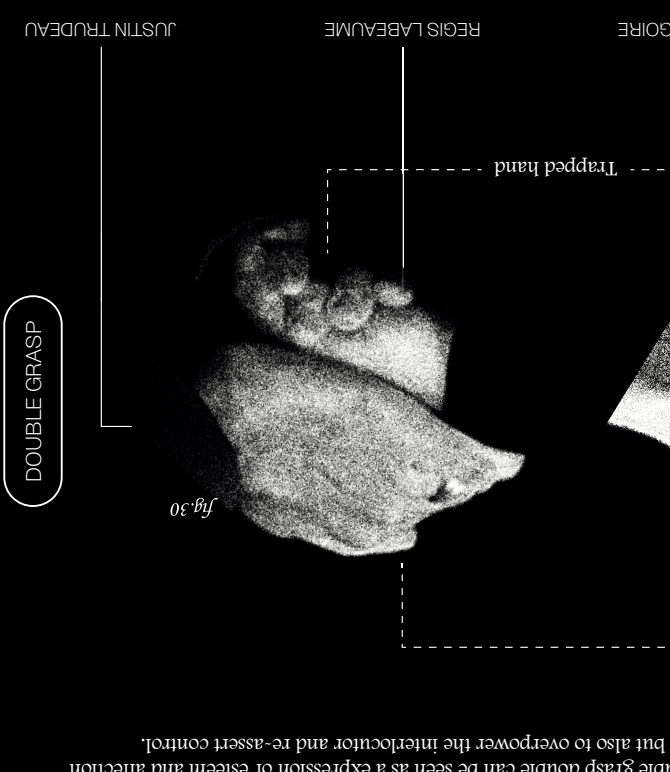
The left hand facing downwards might be used sometimes to put the other person's back of the hand too.

#### DOUBLE GRASP



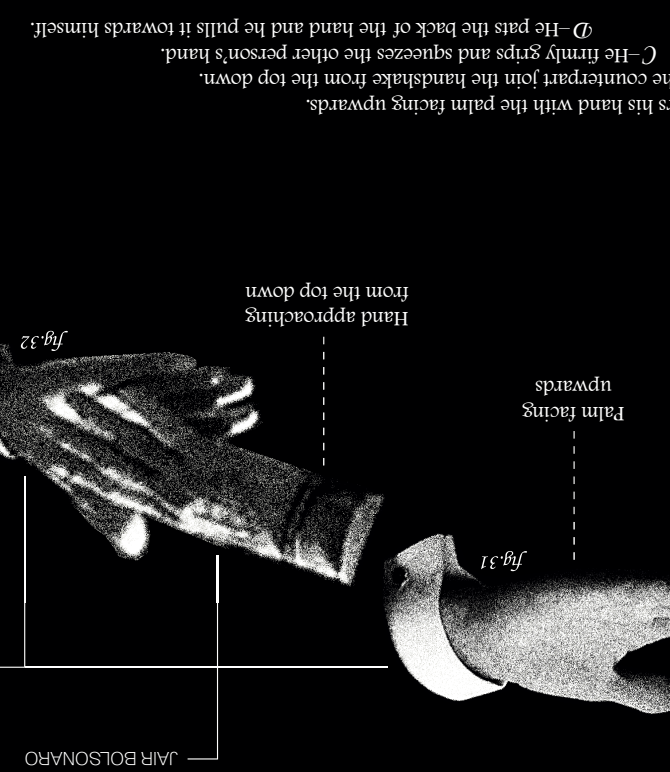
The left hand is often used to double clasp the other person's hand. The double grasp traps the handshake and it limits the movement.

#### DOUBLE GRASP



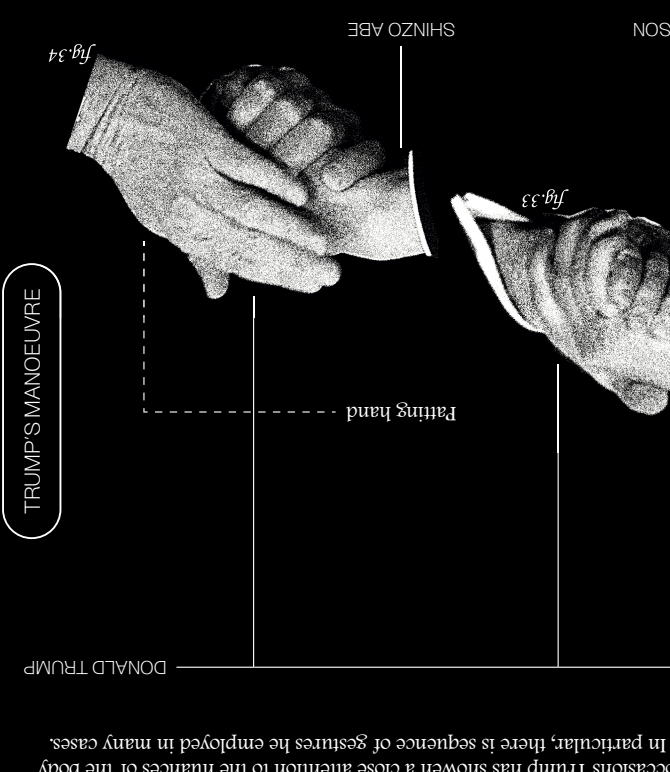
The double grasp double can be seen as an expression of esteem and affection but also to overpower the interlocutor and re-assert control.

#### TRUMP'S MANOEUVRE



The manoeuvre from the top down. C - The thumb grips and supports the other person's hand. D - He puts the back of the hand and he puts it towards himself.

#### TRUMP'S MANOEUVRE



In several occasions Trump has shown a close attention to the nuances of the body language. In particular, there is a sequence of gestures he employed in many cases.

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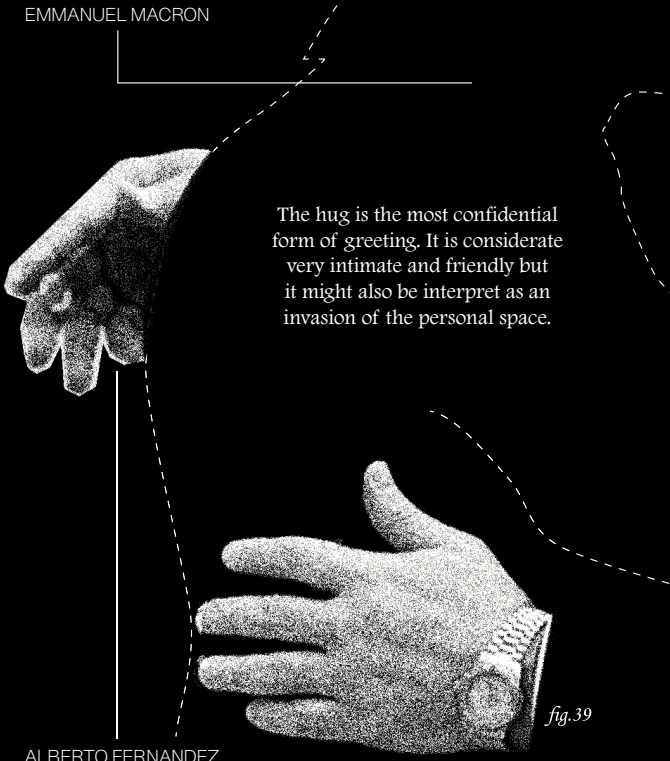
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#### WINNERS HAND RAISED



It is a gesture associated with the sport's sphere, and it means victory. More in general it communicates a profound understanding and appreciation.

#### THE HUG



#### HOME HANDSHAKE

