

Olivia Preece-Jones Research document

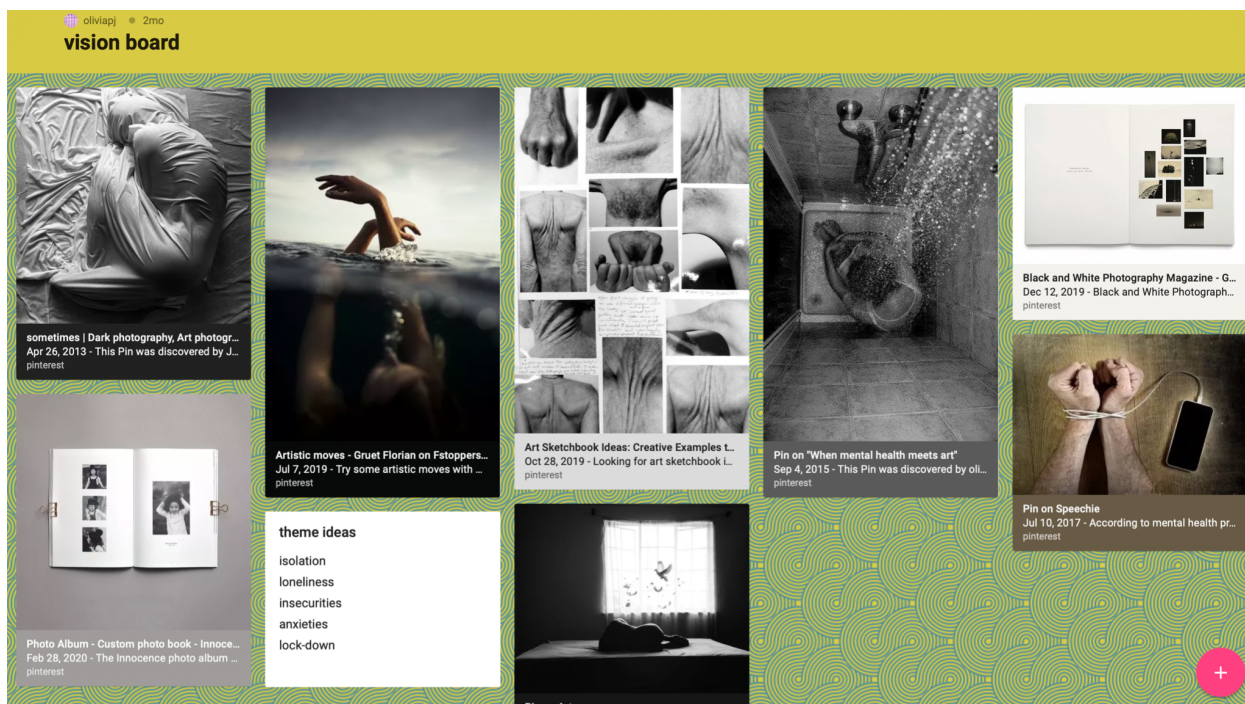
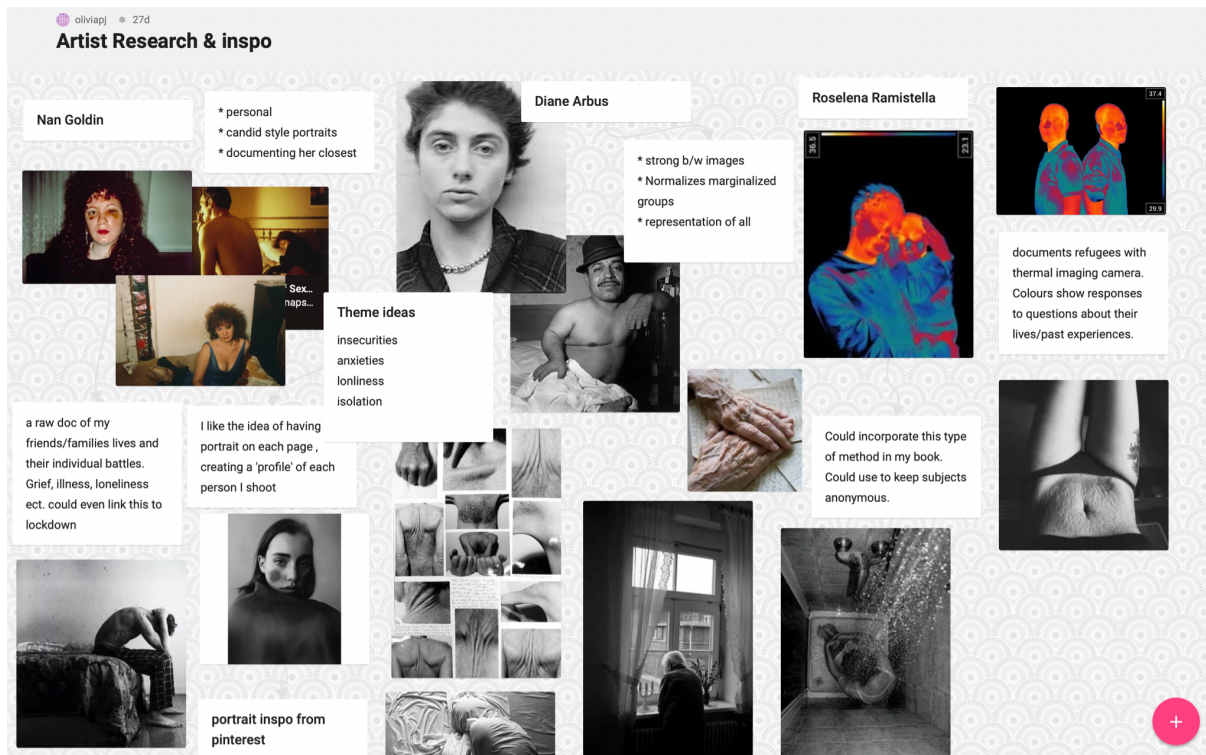
This is my project titled "Derealisation". It explores my closest friends and myself struggles and illnesses.

The project is centred around my struggle with an anxiety based disorder called "Derealisation. I created a mixture of warped and strange landscape images to represent how I see the world with this disorder. Along with my landscape shots, I've also added some archived Polaroids from my family's albums. I scanned and edited these images to a degree that you cannot comprehend what is going on in the images or who the people are. A scary symptom of derealisation is not being able to recognise people's faces or feeling confused about the people around you. Another symptom is bad memory, for me it's remembering chunks of my childhood. I feel these polaroids represent how I see my childhood, a blurry contrasted memory.

I decided to take a less literal take on this project, I didn't want to just take simple portraits of myself and my friends. I wanted to create a sense of eeriness and suspense in my images, making you look twice. I wanted to maintain some anonymity among my friends in these images, so capturing them in an abnormal way was crucial.

I wanted to create an overall sense of loneliness among all these images in my project. Whatever illness physical or mental I have tried to betray, they isolate us from society.

Below are mind maps that I created to start the beginning of my artist research and ideas for my project.



Artist research

Nan Goldin

I researched the american photographer Nan Goldin, more specifically her project 'The Ballad of Sexual Dependency'. (1986) This project depicts Goldin's friends as they partied and even showed the aftermath of abuse. I liked the sense of rawness of the images and how intermit they felt. My initial idea for my project was to create a similar raw, candid feel to my images.

Another artist with a similar authentic style of images I researched is Diane Arbus. She is an american photographer known for showing people on the fringes of society such as people with mental/physical illnesses. I like the simplicity of the black and white images and the strong subjects which make her work distinctive.

Joanna Piotrowska

I was drawn to this photographer due to her themes of repetition and memory within her images. Her work sparked an interest in making disturbing and strange images. Her subjects are often placed in familiar places/positions within our home. After researching more into this artist I decided to add in some archived images from my childhood to my book. I took a similar approach of nostalgia mixed with an unsettling tone by editing the images in a contrasty way that made it hard to understand who was in the photos.

Emmet Gowin

The american photographer Emmet Gowin interested me when I was told about his project that showed intimate portraits of his wife and their family through the years. Although I liked his concept, it was more the visual aspect of the images that I love. They are not your average portraits of someone growing older. He takes a more strange, unusual take on the images.

Shoots and contact sheets

After extensively researching artists and ideas, I started shooting. After shooting a couple of subjects, I found my images to be boring and too literal. They looked like standard portrait shots with no story behind them. From this moment I decided I needed to switch things up to create a more interesting and eerie storyline within my book. Below are some of the images from the first shoots that 'failed'.

