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Module: ADAA5000 – Changemakers: Creativity and Value Creation

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ZINE EVALUATION

For my zine I wanted to relate it to my current practise within fine art, in which I am currently exploring lace as a material. Lace being a fabric that has that represents many different things depending on the context in which it is displayed, for example when the craft was first created in the sixteenth-century, lace was worn primarily by monarchs and was seen as a sign of wealth, it has also commonly been used in bridal wear throughout its history, being used to represent virtue and new beginnings. However, over time there has been a shift in the way lace is used and viewed within society, now relating greatly to underwear and lingerie, worlds apart from the virtuous nature of the white lace. The nature of the fabric itself also has many contradictions as it is made up of lots of little holes arranged to form a pattern, it both conceals and reveals simultaneously, relating to the way it is seen as provocative yet innocent. In my practise I have made a connection between lace and cages as cages are in nature very similar as they conceal and reveal as well and are also very restrictive as lace can also be. Therefore, for my zine I wanted to explore lace as a fabric and how it relates to cages in their restrictive manner. I wanted to use imagery to create a connect between the two materials, yet also making it seem quite a shocking comparison in order to make the viewer question their thoughts on the fabric. I began by planning out the images I was going to take and then photographing them over a period of time, the first image being a portrait style shot of me with a white veil draped over my face (see figure.1).



Figure.1

I wanted the first image in the zine to represent the virtuous connotations of lace and its traditional purpose. For the second image (see figures 2+3) I photographed my body inside a cage to create a stark contrast from the first as the cage is there to represent the lace material.



Figure.2.



figure.3

I like how the cages are layered in this image creating the sense of being trapped. For the third image I wanted to explore the more provocative side of lace and for that I chose to present the fabric in black and I drew lace patterns onto my skin again to create that sense of being trapped as you cant remove it (see figure.4)



Figure.4

For the fourth image in the zine I wanted to create a sense of restraint and restriction and so wrapped some wire tightly around my arm, creating an uncomfortable image which mirrors the uncomfortable restrictive nature of underwear and lingerie (see figure.5)



Figure.5

For the final image I wanted to show the lace fabric on its own to see if peoples view of it may be different from the start to the end. I used to same lace as the veil in the first image to create a sense of finality (see figure.6)



Figure.6

I knew I wanted the images to be in black and white as it allowed the textures to be highlighted without the distraction of colour, I also wanted a sense of flow throughout the images which was aided by them all being in black and white. To edit the images, I put a black and white filter on them then increased the contrast and highlights and put down the shadows so when printed onto the acetate there would be lots of dark areas and clear areas showing through. When printing the images, I was torn between using a very thin paper or using acetate. I printed test images onto both (see figure.7) and ended up going with the acetate as I thought when the end images were layered together, they would create an

affect not far from lace where the different textures would show through the relief areas of



the acetate.

figure.7

I wanted to create a simple title page just to give a little context to the piece (see figure.8), for this I painted black onto acetate and scraped away the title.

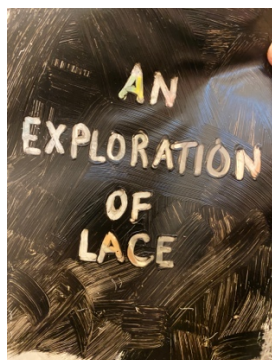


figure.8

I then created a wire casing to place the zine inside as they were just loose sheets of acetate, for this I created handmade barbed wire as the base for the cage, then adding on lace patterns interweaving the wire to form a lace barbed wire cage (see figure 9). This brought the two materials together and by using the metal wire to form the delicate lace design it continues the contrast that is evident throughout the content of the zine.



Figure. 9

Overall, I think the zine was okay, if I were to remake it I would change the title page as it prevents the actual images from being seen through the wire, making it less affective than what I wanted. I would redo the title page to just be back printing printed onto acetate as to be in keeping with the rest of the zine, or even get rid of it entirely. I would also make the wire cage more intricate adding even more motifs from lace design. However, I think the way that all of the images layer over each other allows you to look through both lace and cage qualities at once seeing them as one and not separate.