Research Report

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“An Ocean Through a Pinhole”

The context and themes within my book, is to focus on over-thinking and perfection within our daily lives. I wanted to explore the issues and flaws within over-thinking and show people how actually not only do our small mistakes not matter in the wide world we live in, but also how our mistakes can develop into our own goals and dreams in our lives, as we learn from our mistakes we grow as a person. I want to highlight flaws and issues within my pieces of art and my book I present them in, showing the audience how mistakes make us. With my book style I want to create like a scrap book style book, stepping the opposite direction from the stereotypical photography book, which is crisp and clean. I want mine almost down to earth with handwritten text and soft nude card on the outside.

The primary research I have done for this project was my practice in different binding styles for binding my pages and cover together, as well as drafts I have developed as practice for my book. During the preparation for creating my book I practiced unique styles of binding to find out which style would suit my book layout. I was mainly stuck between a stitch or glue binding, I did like the stitch binding as I felt it held the book together tight and sturdier with all the different sized pages, but after changing my ideas around I found that the stitch binding made my pages seem bulking within the spine of the book, I also found it quite hard to keep the stitching tight with the different lengthen pages. In my final draft I settled with glue binding, which worked better layout wise, but I felt it did not feel as sturdy as the sticky binding. I created mini drafts out of plain paper to get an idea how the pages would lay out and measurement ideas before ordering my final paper.

Secondary researched included me research different books in person to get an idea of layouts, paper, binding, style. It helped me gain a base idea for my book, as at the start it felt very overwhelming on where to start. My most influential book was “A Tourist Handbook for Egypt Outside of Egypt” this books layout really fascinated me with the layout of its pages. The inside of the book had mini cut pages that matched either side of the pages, making the pages look longer and almost 3D. I wanted to have the same style in my book as I could use it to compare the mistakes to the” perfect” image, the way the pages were laid out also reminded me of petals, like the book itself was also a flower. I also researched into paper styles for my book, I based my research on quality,

shine, thickness, and colour arch. I wanted a piece of paper that felt shine like a photo book that would also hold well with stitch binding, I landed my decision on pearlescent paper. Artists that helped me create images for my book were; Martin Schoeller, due to his close and uncomfortable portraiture shoots, showing us how celebrities really look. Galen Rowell's nature shoots around the west coast, due to his high impact landscape shoots, capturing the worlds true beauty.

Some skills I have developed through this project would definitely have been binding for books, although I do not think I've mastered it I have really enjoyed learning about the different styles and how each one can make a book look different, I also believe I am a lot better now and have a better understand of binding for books than I did at the start. This project has changed the way I look at a book, and how much thought and effort goes into them.

When you first look at the book I have created, you see quite a plan, almost scrapbook styled book. I decided to go away from the typical photo book, known for being crisp and clean, and went down a different route. I wanted there to a drastic difference compared to the outside of the book compared to the bright, edited, and full subject images within the book itself. This heads down the same route as the saying" do not judge a book by its cover." The masking tape gives it that extra made at home style/ scrapbook look to the outside. The images then on the inside are bright colourful looks to them, close subject photos. The series on images edited are supposed to represent the trial and error of life, sometimes you will mistake but you will learn from them. I wanted to have the" perfect" image to be our goals and ambitions, the series is to represent that no one is perfect, we all make mistakes, and we learn from them.

While looking at the book I have made I am happy with the way the images have turned out, I think the colours are exactly what I was looking for. They stand out and catch your eye as you open the book, I also believe the series that is laid out in the booklet is also really clear and shows the message I wanted to convey, which was also the reason I did not add any context to the book as the images speak for themselves alongside the timeline layout. If I had more time I would definitely re try the stitched binding for my book as I feel like it would hold the images more secure than glue, I would also have liked to of followed my original plan of cut pages to match the ones on either side of it. As a future project I would definitely like to add to the booklet with more images linked in, to create a fuller looking book, and more of range of plants and flowers within the book. Overall, I am very pleased with the way my book as turned out.