Visual Enquiry 1

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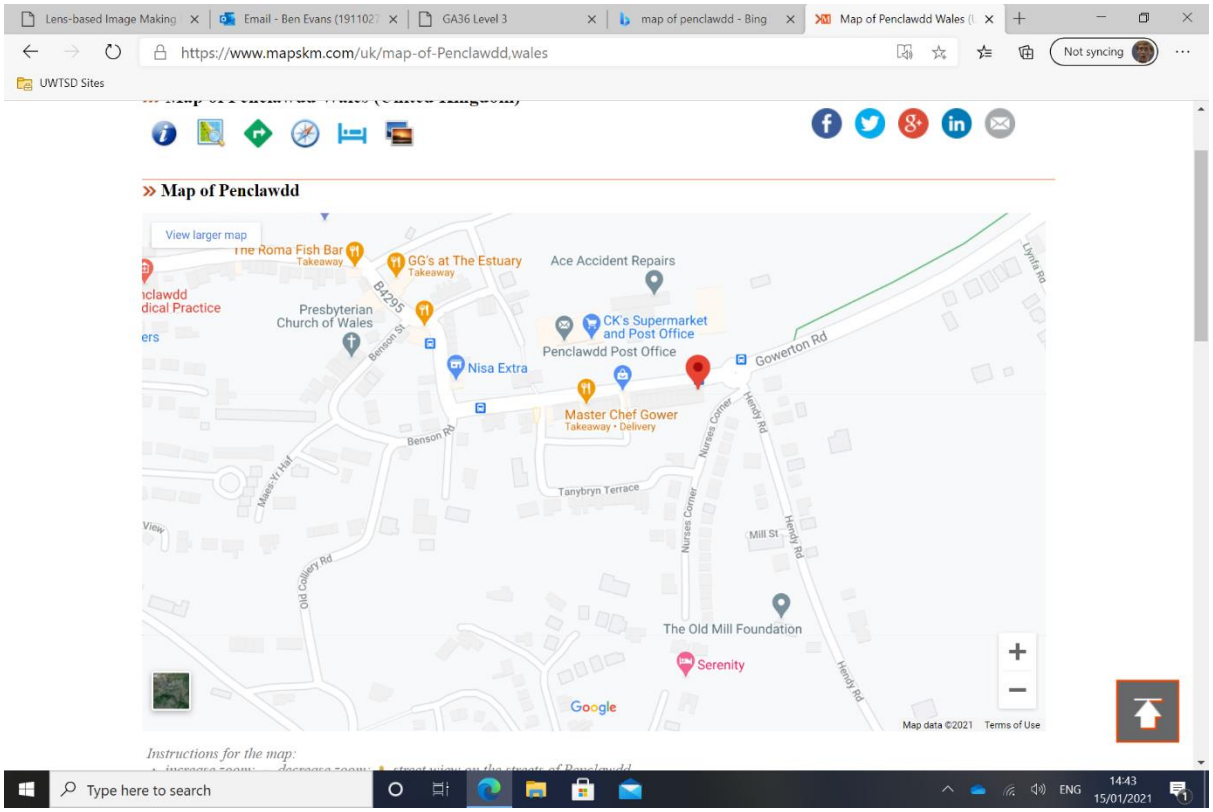
Ben Evans 1911027

Loss, loneliness and the importance of truth research report.

For my site-specific assessment, I decided on Penclawdd as my location.



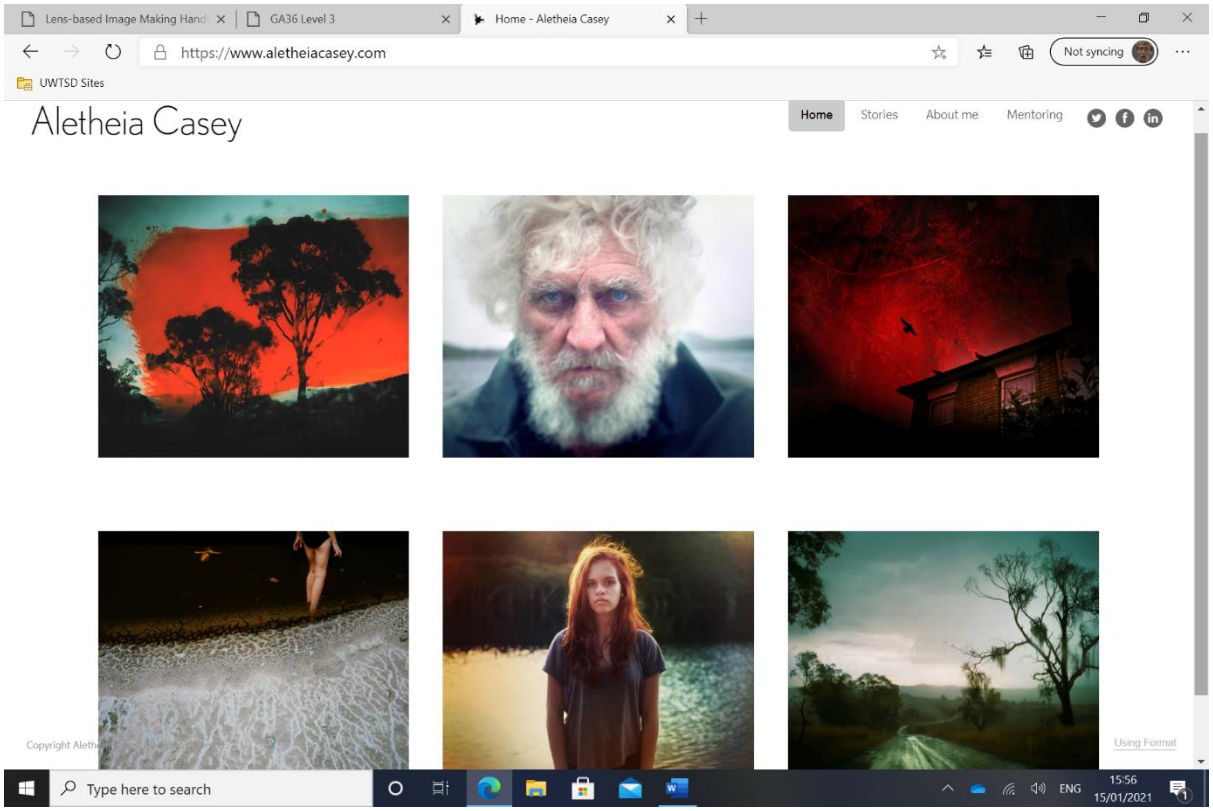
The location was significant to me as it was where my partner's Father grew up as a child and then worked as a cockle picker. He lived in Hendy rd. near the old mill foundation shown on the map.

Unfortunately, I was never able to meet him as he passed away earlier last year. I feel a range of emotions due to his passing that I wanted to convey in my images. The reason we never met was because my partner and I never told each other we had feelings for one another when we were 17 in Gorseinon college. 23 years later she decided to come and find me and we both told eathother the truth that we were still in love with each other.

Although I never met her father it seems we shared a great like for similar music. We have also both suffered mental health issues with him being schizophrenic.

For my research I watched a TED talk by Aletheia Casey to begin with. I was fascinated by her site-specific portrayal of the indigenous peoples of Australia and Tasmania through the land she pictured. I felt she excellently captured the loss the children felt by being forcibly removed from their mothers through her photography.

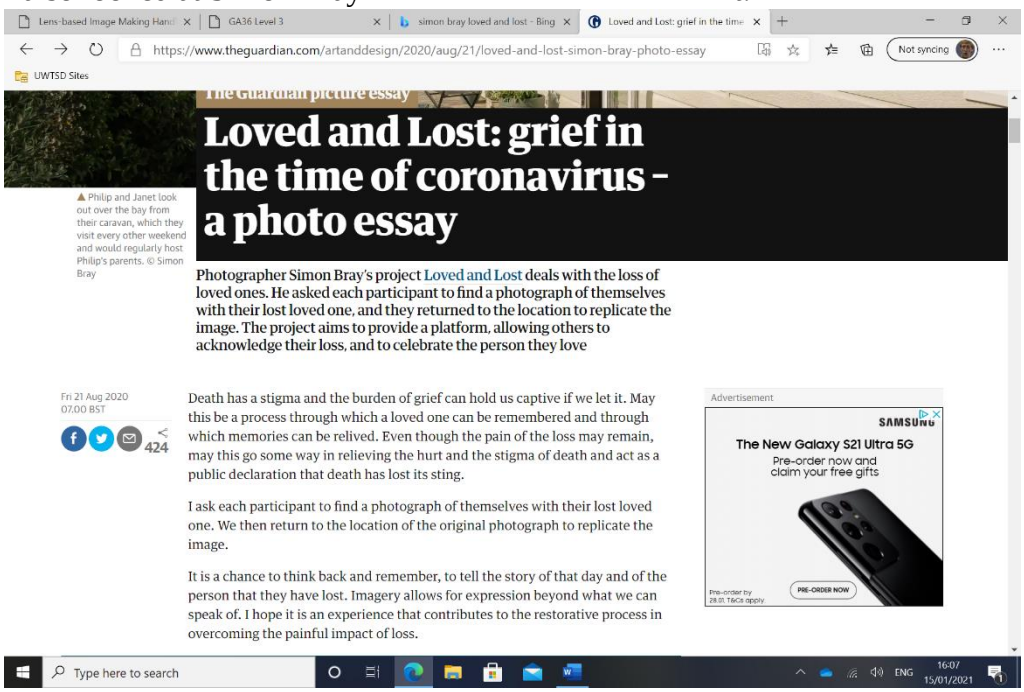
This artist was by far my favourite when researching and I feel my work in future could follow in her type of imagery.



In my imagery I wanted to portray the loss felt by my partners loss but also the loneliness through the landscape surrounding where he was brought up. I also wanted to portray the lost felt by his wife who know very often visits Penclawdd even if only to sit in her car.

I tried to encapsulate the feeling of connection to the land with my photos of the moss growing on a rock and the childhood upbringing through the photo of the swing being hidden by some grassland.

I also looked at Simon Bray's work called Loved and lost.



https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/aug/21/loved-and-lost-simon-bray-photo-essay

Loved and Lost: grief in the time of coronavirus – a photo essay

Philip and Janet look out over the bay from their caravan, which they visit every other weekend and would regularly host Philip's parents. © Simon Bray

Photographer Simon Bray's project Loved and Lost deals with the loss of loved ones. He asked each participant to find a photograph of themselves with their lost loved one, and they returned to the location to replicate the image. The project aims to provide a platform, allowing others to acknowledge their loss, and to celebrate the person they love

Fri 21 Aug 2020
07.00 BST

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Death has a stigma and the burden of grief can hold us captive if we let it. May this be a process through which a loved one can be remembered and through which memories can be relived. Even though the pain of the loss may remain, may this go some way in relieving the hurt and the stigma of death and act as a public declaration that death has lost its sting.

I ask each participant to find a photograph of themselves with their lost loved one. We then return to the location of the original photograph to replicate the image.

It is a chance to think back and remember, to tell the story of that day and of the person that they have lost. Imagery allows for expression beyond what we can speak of. I hope it is an experience that contributes to the restorative process in overcoming the painful impact of loss.

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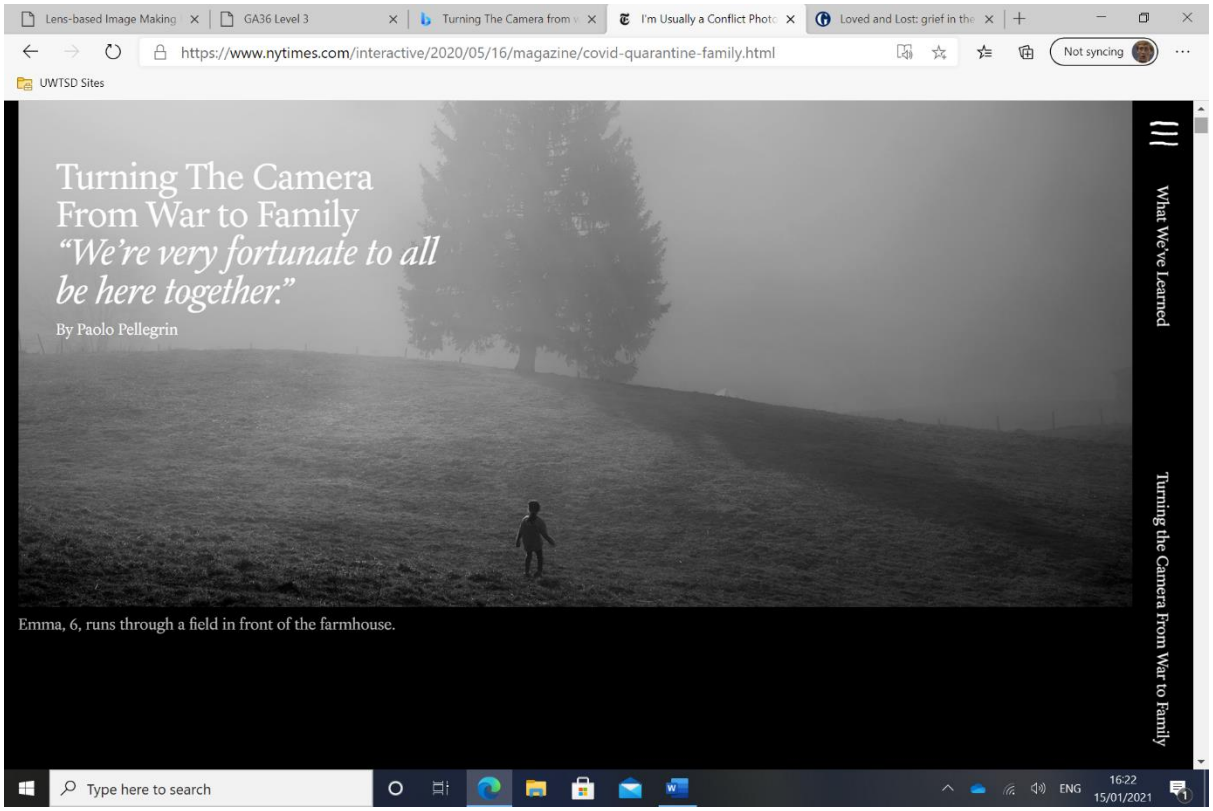
It was interesting to see that he had asked the subjects of his photos to go back to a location where existing photographs had originally been taken.

It reminded me of some work I did in the first year where I took some photos in memory of a young man called Eyob from Ethiopia who had drowned after throwing himself into Swansea Marina.

I decided then to create a photo of my friend Chris holding a photo of Eyob that he took in the same place in Mumbles.

I couldn't get hold of any photographs of my partner's father at this time due to the Covid restrictions but would have liked to have seen them and tried to recreate some maybe.

The other work I looked at while researching this project was by Paolo Pellegrin who is a Magnum photographer usually depicting war but decided he needed to capture the pandemic as it began to spread.



I felt his imagery shared a certain loneliness that I found in the images I was creating.

It was also interesting to see that he felt he needed to capture these images before the chance had passed.