

Research

For my experimental project, I extensively researched many artists ahead of my shoots to gain ideas and could turn into my own original pieces.

The first artist's I looked into were photographers who are documenting lockdown due to Covid-19. Julia Fullerton-Batten, a fine art photographer who was documenting people, particularly families through the windows of their homes in the London area. I took an interest into this way of working, and how this artist continued to work through dangerous times and was able to keep safe through the glass of the windows. I decided to take on board some ideas from this artist and plan some shoots of my own. Below are some final images from a shoot. It uses my grandparents as subjects, focusing on the difficulties people, especially the elderly had during the height of cover, not being able to socialise, confined to their homes.

I also looked at an artist Gabriele Galimberti, an Italian photographer who documented the lockdown in Italy, capturing the bare atmosphere in the city and individual people's lives in their homes through their windows. After this research, I began planning another shoot. This consisted of having a subject in the window on the last 3rd of the image, with barely any light except the window itself, which was lit up with LED lights. I liked how the artist betrayed the city being empty and bare so I wanted to create a similar feel in my image.

I researched the Magnum photographer, Alec Soth. His abandoned eerie looking images of towns and houses remind me of how my surroundings were during lockdown. I was also interested in his letters in which he was receiving from a man in prison. It writes about how he feels confined to his cell, and although Soth doesn't want to compare his experience to our lockdown experience, he says "His letters have taken on new meaning in the wake of the pandemic and the "stay at home" orders". Both of his projects have both influenced my work and the ideas surrounding my images.

I also really like Pinterest when looking for visuals for my projects when I need inspiration. I made several 'boards' which acted as mood boards.

Experimental Project

My project is focused on documenting people's lives during the coronavirus lockdown and 'the new normal'. I wanted to focus more on the unusual and not the mundane, things that are now deemed normal which would have been strange last year or before lockdown.

My first shoot depicts a subject in a bath, in despair. I used a friend for this shoot who recently lost her job due to Covid-19 and the lockdown. We used the subject's work suit and completely submerged it into the water, to symbolise how she felt thrown away and worthless by the company. This could possibly be a symbol of drowning in too much work for other viewers looking at these images. I took interest in the British artist Sir John Everett Millais and his painting 'Ophelia' which was painted from 1851 -1852. I like the emotionless expression on his subject's face and I wanted to incorporate this idea into my images. Many viewers of this famous and iconic painting have referred to it being interpreted as 'erotic' due to her pose with her open arms and gaze. I also tried to create this feel in my own images. I also turned them into negatives and took them into the darkroom. I didn't like the result of the film, looked at my images and decided to carry on digital. I felt they made my images look flat and my subject didn't stand out as much when they were digital images.











My second shoot took on a more funny take on the coronavirus and lockdown matter. The images consist of a subject draped over a washing line, full of disposable face mask coverings. My vision for these images was that it would make you look twice, or maybe it doesn't as its now deemed normal. I wanted to create images that we could look back on in the future and think of as a super strange time. No one really would be hanging up and drying their masks on a line a couple of years ago in the U.K. Much of my research for this shoot came from Pinterest or artists that started creating mundane and strange images in lockdown. This shoot was all shot digitally with a canon 5D. I then edited too black and white on Lightroom. I think that using black and white instead of their original colour makes them a stronger, deeper image. The lack of colour represents the bleak and flat feelings I faced during lockdown.





I used a street camera for my next shoot and used my grandparents as subjects in my images. I turned up announced, wanting to capture a non-rehearsed and raw scenario. I felt using a smaller camera than what I was using for my other shoots would be less intrusive and blend in to their life. I like how real the images felt, adding a bit of humour with my grandad's vizor through a thick glass window. After these images, I began researching other artists who kept working through lockdown, using windows to keep safe. Documenting people in their homes from outside. I spoke in depth about my research in my research PDF. I liked this concept and decided to try again with another subject in a different scenario.



I decided to look into how lockdown was affecting milestones and birthdays and produced these images from a shoot. I really like how the subject looks unamused and fed up. I only used natural light from the window and candle, which I think was successful.







Overall I think my images , although maybe don't match as a large set, show the individual lives of our mundane , humorous and difficulties during lockdown. Although I have mostly used digital to capture my images, I believe I've used a large range of subjects , different locations and scenarios to build my project. I enjoy working in a documentary style of photography so I wanted to keep that as a theme through my project.

Portfolio

































