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Programme of Study: BA Photography in the Arts

Module: ADAA4000

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I - Studio portrait



This image is a special one considering it was my first time using the lighting studio. I knew for a fact that I wanted to create something special, make a certain someone feel beautiful, and knew that I wanted to reference my favourite musicians.

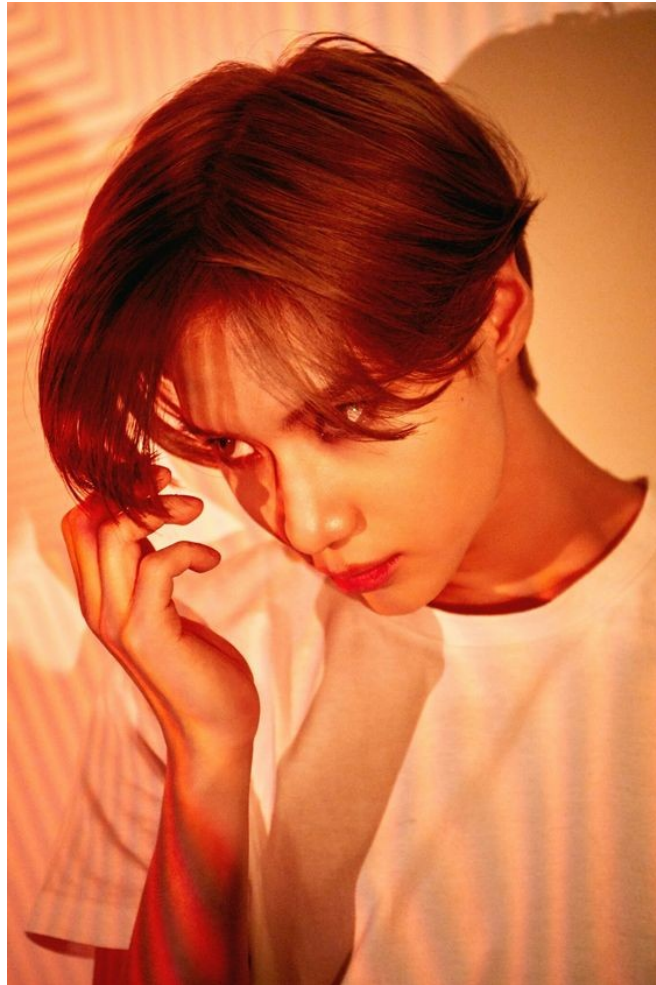


Figure 1 – Lee, Taemin (2018) *“Want”* photoshoot

Lee Taemin is a South Korean solo artist, musician and a dancer who focuses on exploration of gender expression and themes of sensuality and sexuality. We included his music in the studio space to channel his energy into images.

During this shoot, I placed the biggest importance on playing with shape and shadows to fit my personal style. In studio I used a continuous light on the left side of my subject, and one light with a coloured gel attachment placed to illuminate the white background. Shadow details were made using a patterned attachment mounted inside the continuous light set.

II. Location image – artificial light



the unreality of time, K.Dierzuk, 2022

Lisa Bukreyeva's "Where I Was Born" is an ongoing project set on documenting Kyiv and the country of Ukraine as a whole, its people, culture and history. I'm particularly interested in her work due to my own personal connection to Kyiv through family members. Many of the places I visited as a child have been lost to revolutions and war.



Figure 2 – Lisa Bukreyeva "Where I Was Born" 2020 – present

Key themes across Bukreyeva's work include sense of lost time, liminality, nostalgia. Her series *Where I Was Born* captures places seemingly ordinary in looks, but ones us Eastern Europeans hold close to our hearts. We realise we've grown up too fast and never got to play, always trying to run toward the future, but never appreciating the past, until it was too late.

The photograph titled "the unreality of time" was taken during my stay in Krakow, in late 2022, during a blizzard. I knew that I wanted to make an image referencing Bukreyeva and her use of built-in camera flash, so a snowy weather was a perfect opportunity to experiment and try something I've never done before. Through this image I'm making up for my lost childhood, trying to catch images of places that will change without me, and holding onto them.

III – location image – available light



As an artist, I take heavy interest in film made by Eastern European film-makers, as well as Chinese, Japanese and Hong Kong cinema. One of my favourite artists is Wong Kar Wai, a Hong Kong director, screenwriter and producer, who is very well known by his heavy use of saturated colours and grain. Wong Kar Wai is particularly known for his 1995 film *Fallen Angels*, which also inspired this photo shoot.



Figure 3 – Wong Kar Wai (1995) “Fallen Angels”

A broken mirror was used creatively to reflect a portion of the light back onto my subject, while also providing additional texture. It also changes the way of perceiving the image, as we now observe it through broken glass, which opens up grounds for philosophical discussion; it changes the classical meaning of a *spectator* and *spectrum* by placing itself in the middle and posing a question: what are we really looking at?

Bibliography:

Bukreyeva, Lisa (2020) “Where I Was Born” [portfolio available at <https://bukreyeva.com/Where-I-Was-Born>]

Lee, Taemin (2018) “Want” Concept photoshoot [available at <https://kpoping.com/kpics/Taemin-WANT-Concept-Teaser-Images>]

Wong, Kar Wai (1995) “Fallen Angels” [Available at <https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/wong-kar-wai-film-fallen-angels/>]