

Final project

Serena Weston (Ren)

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Theme and ideas

Name: Serena Weston (Ren)

Student number: 205780

Proposed name of project: It's just skin part two

Describe project in five words:

- Feminism
- 'Imperfections'
- Nature
- Self-growth

Provide a short summary of the proposed project: 100 words

Within my project i want to focus on how when society see imperfections in nature, we admirer it but when it comes to “imperfections” with women society judges. This project I’m taking from a personal perspective of self-growth with my body and how through the years after being bullied for years in school for how my body looked.

I’ve chosen to tackle this subject to be able to show how stretch marks, body hair, ace, scars should be seen as imperfection but signs of growth,

Provide a detailed description of the proposed project (250 words)

What is the subject/concept/theme that you are exploring? What are your motivations behind making the work? What are the medium(s) in which you will work? What are the methodologies you will be employing?

My project is exploring the Weaponization of the female reproductive system and women's health care through my own depiction and theory. I'll be looking at different techniques to broaden my work by using a mix of digital and coloured film.

My project is exploring the way that society judges' "imperfection" with women but admires it within nature. I'll be looking at different techniques to broaden my work by using a mix of digital and coloured film.

After looking into 'in a parallel universe' by Eli Rezkallah it made me think of how we see the universe especially when it comes to male and female roles within society where people still believe in how a women's role is to cook, clean and have children but it can lead to how society judges the stretch marks that comes with having children .

Carrying on from my second-year final project that focused on how my own mental health, during over summer i did an exhibition where i used more of a multi media approach with my work i want to carry this on within this project but still using photographic techniques with this project. Self-portrait will be my focus in this project but also taking images of my mum showing the connections with my mum and how we share the same insecurities.

Timeline and schedule October- December

Start date	End date	Activity or task detail
01/10/2025	05/10/2025	Proforma
10/10/2025	13/10/2025	Sculpting clay flowers and painting them
14/10/2025	16/10/2025	Gluing clay flowers onto canvas
17/10/2025	20/10/2025	Artist research on black and white imagery (Edward Weston)
17/10.2025	23/10/2025	Planning stretch mark photoshoot (with mum)
24/10/2025	24/10/2025	Stretch mark photoshoot (with mum)
24/10/2025	26/10/2025	Experimental black and white editing stretch mark images
26/10/2025	28/10/2025	Planning self-portrait shoot
31/10/2025	31/10/2025	Self-portrait shoot
01/11/2025	02/10/2025	Preparing for rolling crit
04/11/2025	04/11/2025	Rolling crit
06/11/2025	15/11/2025	decided to change whole idea for my practice
16/11/2025	17/11/2025	Planning shoot (imperfections within nature)
18/11/2025	18/11/2025	Shoot (imperfections within nature)
20/11/2025	21/11/2025	Creating mock-up of design to be printed on vinyl (paper and photoshop)
22/11/2025	23/11/2025	Planning on what the vinyl is going on
28/11/2025	28/11/2025	Wrapping vinyl on plinth and Pilar
28/11/2025	08/11/2025	Write up and continuing with project over Christmas break
09/12/2025	09/12/2025	Hand in

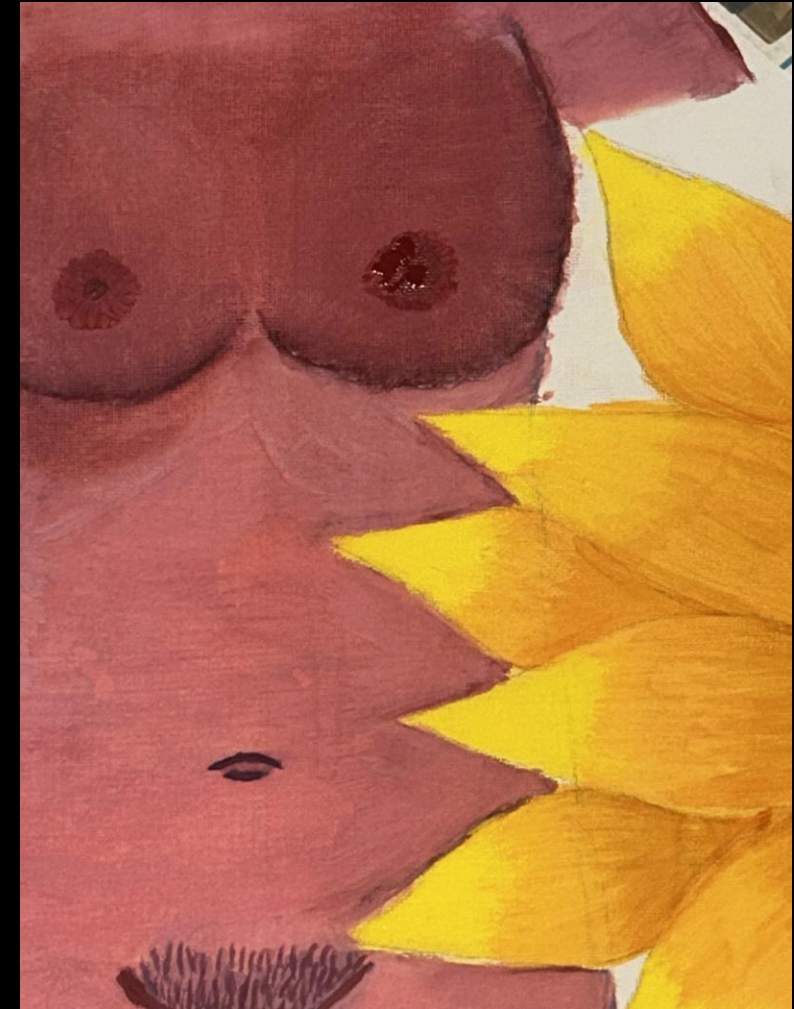
Budget

Materials and equipment	Price
Das 1kg modelling clay/ stone grey	£5.00
Mini hot glue gun	£5.00
Mini hot glue sticks	£6.00
A3 self-healing cutting mat	£7.00
Red acrylic paint	£2.00
White acrylic paint	£2.00
Canon Mark 5RD lens 22mm-105mm	£1,439.99
Canon EOS 5D Mark IV Camera Body with Canon Log	£ 2,489.99
Matt vinyl	Roughly £200 (if not printed in house)
Plinth (width 110com – height 153.5com	Roughly £60 (if not available in house)
Total = £4,216.98	

Summer project

During summer I did a side project to experiment with different multimedia technique, and I want to be able to carry on onto my third-year project.

Within my project I want to connect it back to my summer so I'm able to express how I feel about my body and be able to show it visually.



Artist research and practise



Rachael Jablo the hysteria project. When looking into the hysteria project and what it is about the project itself Jablo went to different women so that they were able to tell their own stories on dealing with menstruation, reproductive, and pelvic disorders these life size portraits of the women's uterus Jablo used traditional darkroom methods to create prints onto gold leaf to create something that people suffer from and make it beautiful.

(Jablo, 2021)

Idea for practise

To start my project, I want to start with creating a sculptural piece that symbolises fertility and purity where these two words are still relevant within today's society.

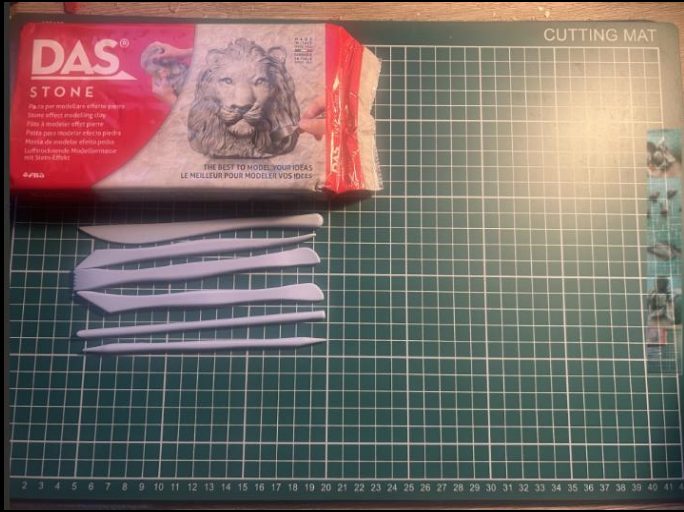
By making clay lilies that signify fertility and purity and breaking them and putting them back together like Kintsugi a Japan's ancient art of embracing imperfection wear they put a broken pot back together and seal the cracks with gold leafing.

"Lilies symbolize a range of concepts, including purity, innocence, rebirth, love, and femininity, with the specific meaning often varying by colour and cultural context."

By using lilies instead of any other flower is because of their ties to purity and fertility.



Clay lilies



When making the clay lilies I found making the petals separately so that each petal is a different size and texture. Making the lilies consisted of trial and error due to the amount of time it took to make one I will not be making multiple but once my singler flower is dried I will be breaking it apart and gluing it back together and painting in the cracks like the Japanese art process Kintsugi but unlike Kintsugi I will be painting in the cracks.

Due to the petals on the flower breaking while drying I'm going to break apart the lile so I'm able to transfer the petals onto a canvas.



Experimentation

Final product clay lilies on canvas

The inspiration of the lilies on canvas stems from how lilies are seen as flowers that represent fertility and purity. By making these flowers pink is to represent the mixture of purity and blood within the handmaids tale. Atwood uses colours as a big part of her representation of different characters handmaids are dressed in red as a symbol of blood. When painting the cracks in the flowers I decided to use red to symbolise how the flower is still bleeding from the trauma of being constantly broken which within the handmaid's tale it's show how the handmaids are seen as objects and vessels because they have viable wombs being volatile just so they will have a child for the family they serving only for them to be taken away.



Edward Weston (fungus)

When looking at Edwards Westons work fungus I find that there is some kind of beauty in it even though it's seen as an imperfection in nature but why is something like fungus is seen with beautiful, but a woman's stretch marks is seen as an imperfection and judge, but in my eyes, I see stretch marks as beautiful and sighs of growth from ether having children or weight functioning.



(The Museum of Modern Art, 2025)

The mother photoshoot (outcome)



6T3A7056



6T3A7057



6T3A7058



6T3A7059



6T3A7060



6T3A7061



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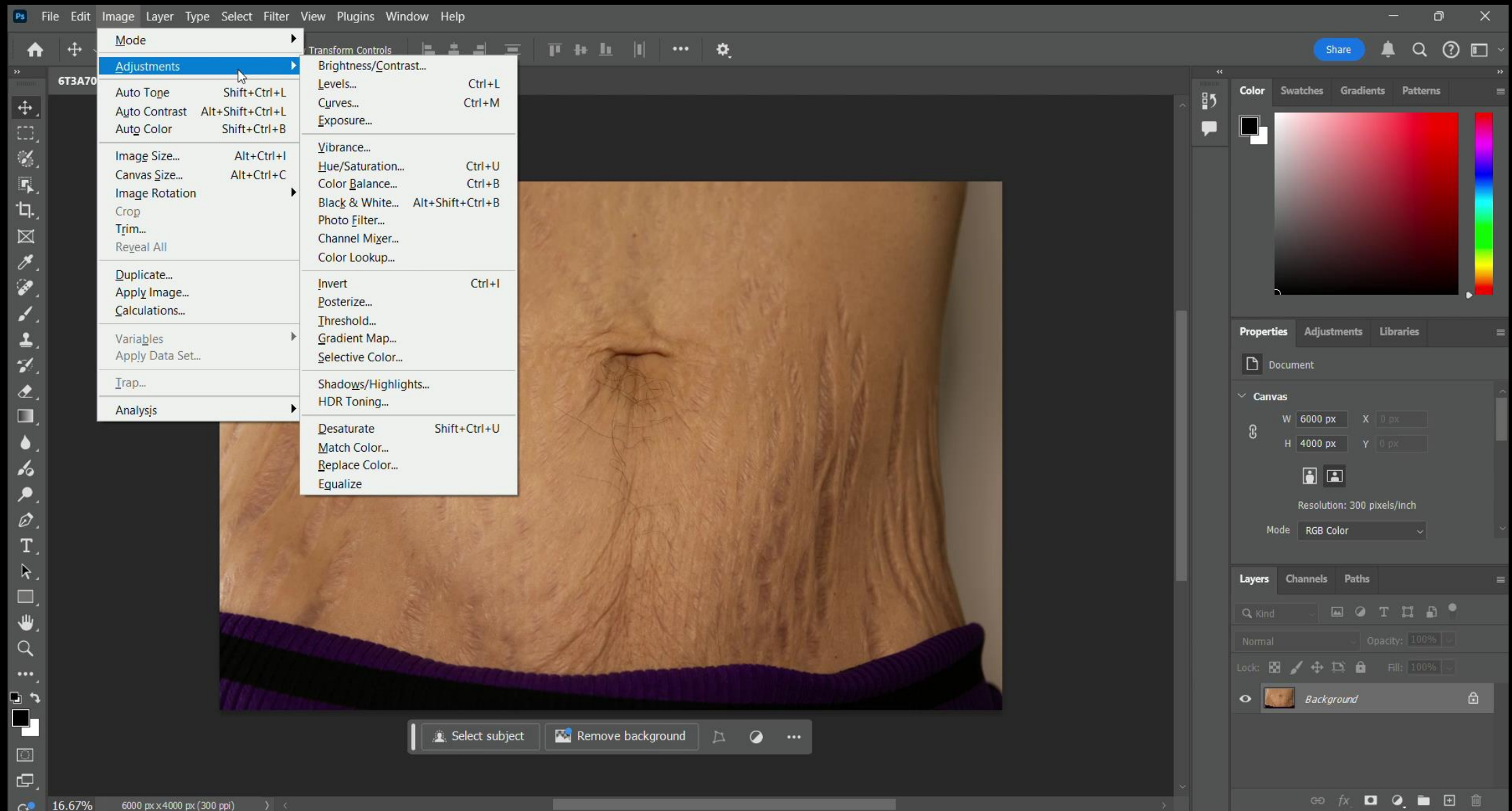


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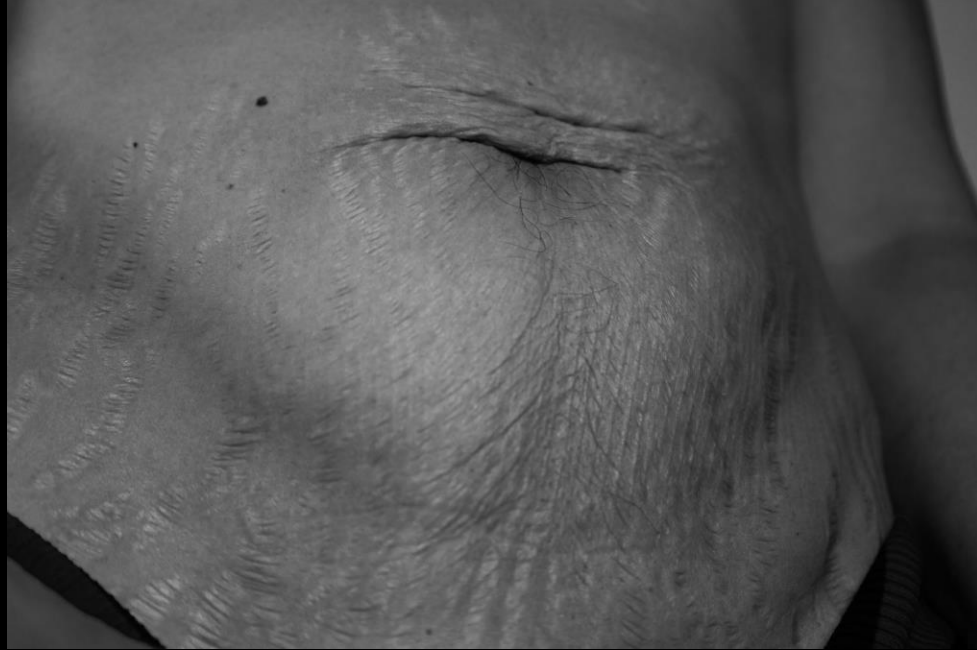
The mother (selected for editing)



The mother (editing proses)



The mother (edited outcome)



The mother (edits darker saturation)



The maiden (photoshoot outcomes)



EL4A0138



EL4A0141



EL4A0141



EL4A0143



EL4A0144



EL4A0145



EL4A0145



EL4A0135



EL4A0135



EL4A0138



EL4A0136



EL4A0149



EL4A0149



EL4A0146



EL4A0146



EL4A0148



EL4A0148

The maiden (unedited)



Close up images of my own "imperfections"



I've chosen to highlight things that I've been told are imperfections like how my eyes squint when I smile so I started to smile less, my hormonal acne being told to cover up with make up the same goes with my skin on my arms.

I want to challenge society and show my imperfections but how I don't see them I see them as growth.

Moving forward with this project im going to continue doing self-portraiture but taking more images close up of my own insecurities but how I now find them beautiful because they are part of me.

I will also be taking images of nature but the imperfection in nature that society finds beautiful but when it comes to women its judged.

Nature images ('imperfections')



_33A2056



_33A2057



_33A2060



_33A2061



_33A2077



_33A2078



_33A2079



_33A2080



_33A2081



_33A2082



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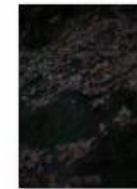
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_33A2108



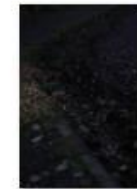
_33A2109



_33A2110



_33A2111



_33A2112



_33A2114



_33A2118



_33A2122



_33A2123



_33A2124

Natures 'imperfections' outcomes





Installation experimentation

Mock ups of images for vinyl (Paper)



Mock ups for vinyl (photoshop)



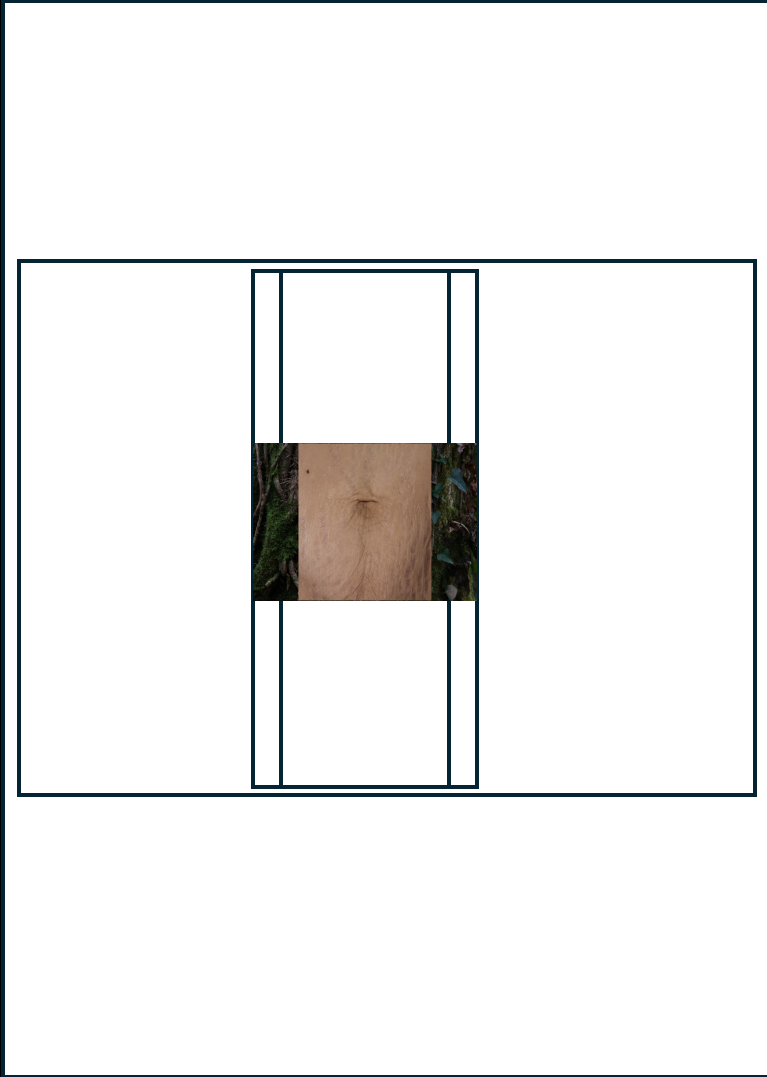
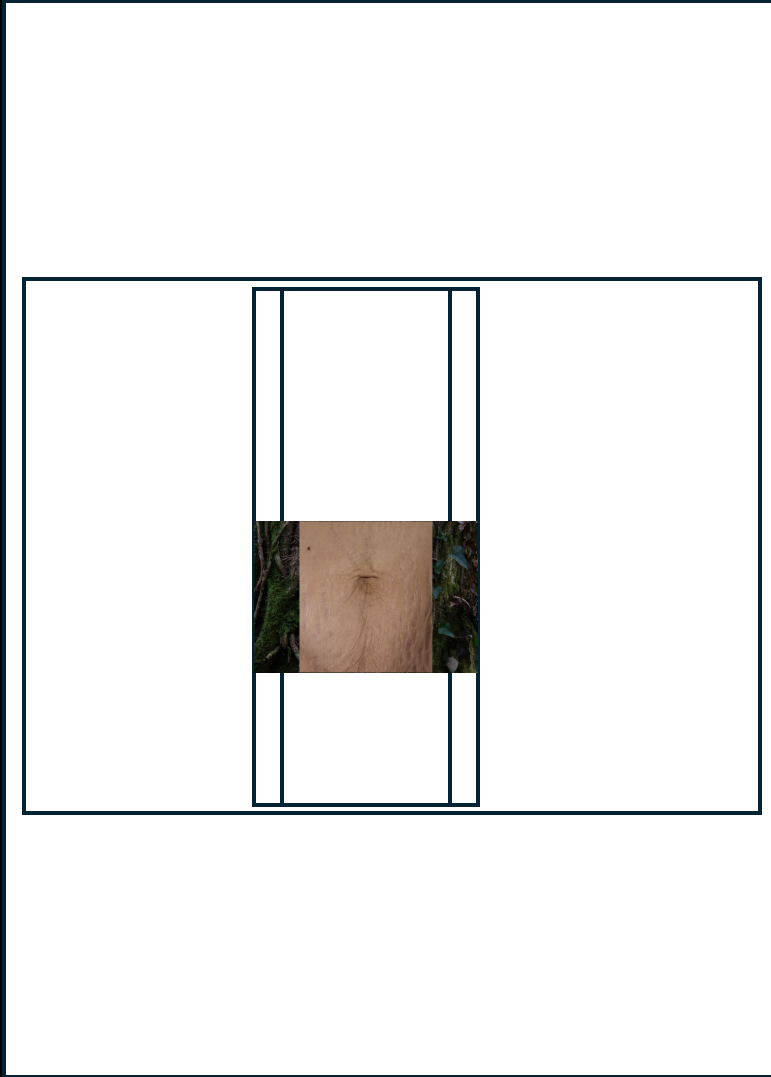
Vinyl plan for plinth and outcome



Height – 153.5 cm
Width- 110 cm

For the vinyl that will be going onto the plinth I measure the plinth to be 153.5cm x 110cm so I'm going to have the image printed to that scale so the image should fit on the plinth with only a small gap at the back.

Vinyl plan for pillar



My plan for the images to go onto the pillar is to have two images printed of the same image so that I can put them on different pillars so that I can see which will work better.

For the first image I will be having the image at my waste height, but for the second image I will be putting it on part of the wall that have more texture to see how the image will look with more texture added.

Vinyl plinth installation outcome

For the plinth to go onto the vinyl I had to resize the image that I wanted to use to 110cm in width and 153.5cm in height but due to the size of the vinyl I was using to print only being 105cm in width the back of the plinth had a white gap same as the bottom of the plinth.

If I was going to do this differently, I would have to make a plinth that width is less than 105cm so that the image will be sized to the plinth and have no white gap. But also if I was going to do this another different way I want to wrap the vinyl onto something that has more texture so that it creates more texture within the image.

I found also by wrapping the image round the plinth it makes the plinth the subject, but I didn't want the plinth to be the subject I wanted the image to be the main subject so moving forward I will have to make changes.



Vinyl on pillar installation



When sizing the image to go on the pillar I decided to have the image A2 because I thought that the image would fit fully onto the pillar but because I didn't measure the size of the pillar the image didn't fit the pillar fully.

I chose to have two of the same image printed on vinyl so I could work out which way worked better.

I found that the image where I deliberately had the image on the dips in the wall so it would add texture to the image itself. But I found with the image that I put on the wall at my own waste height didn't work as well because not everyone has the same waste height as myself.

Artist research (Alix Marie)



I've taken a huge interest into Alix Marie's work because of the use of the female body and using it to create abstract imagery but also incorporating nature into photography. I found her use of latex and nature inspiring to stem it within my own practice moving forward.

What I'm going to do moving forward with my practise?

- During Christmas break I'm going to start researching into different materials to use to go towards my final works.
- Take more images of my mum's stretch marks but also do some more self-portrait shoots of my own stretch marks, scars, cellulite etc to see if I can incorporate them into nature.
- Find different artists and practitioners that use nature and the female body to create imagery.

Reference list

Marie, A. (2017). *ALIX MARIE*. [online] ALIX MARIE . Available at: <http://alixmarie.com/> [Accessed 6 Dec. 2025].

Jablo, R. (2021). *Stockholms Kvinnohistoriska*. [online] Stockholms Kvinnohistoriska. Available at: <https://www.kvinnohistoriska.se/pain-unseen/art/rachael-jablo?locale=en> [Accessed 4 Oct. 2025].

The Museum of Modern Art. (2025). *Edward Weston. Fungus. 1932*. [online] Available at: <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/58498> [Accessed 15 Nov. 2025].