

Portfolio Evaluation

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Documentary Photography and Visual Activism

This Portfolio contains photographs of my Nana taken in her home whilst she is recovering from a troubling fall, which happened when she was walking to her bathroom in the night. Usually, she has lights that turn on when she gets up, but they malfunctioned, just before she got to the door she tripped and blacked out. She then sat and waited for an ambulance for 30 hours. She had already had her hips replaced with fake ones due to a fall a couple years ago, so this wasn't going to be good. My want to take these photos came several days after the fall, I went up to see how she was doing, and I found her chair in the kitchen empty, and not only that, but it had been replaced by a hospital hip-support chair with handles either side of it. It was this medical blue colour with white metal bars, a shocking site, my nanas favourite chair in the kitchen had been swapped with an imposter. I then walked into the living room expecting to see her sitting casually and watching TV, but instead I was greeted with her sat upright in a modified sofa-chair, a heart rate monitor beside her, 3 types of painkillers on a modular table, a Zimmer frame to her left and she looked exhausted, this was not the nana that I knew. But at least she had Count down. This shock that I felt made me want to do this project, photograph my nana in the state that she is in, not to gather sympathy or to expose my nanas weakness at this time, but purely to document how she was after the fall. Not her entire recovery, but just the change that occurred after the fall. Handles were attached to her bed, a wheelchair in the hallway, her chair swapped with a plastic one with handles, the fact that she could no longer walk without a cane or Zimmer frame and so on. This change is what was important to me, when you see your relative start to waver you realise that they **can** go and **will** go, something that isn't always present in your mind. I wanted to document change and the effect that it had on her through my eyes. Her recovery did start to pick up, I went back up there another day and found her still in the chair, but cheerier and she was cutting green beans for a Sunday dinner, before the fall she would send three or four dinners to my house on a Sunday for me and my brothers, another large change. This was good to see and made me want to show these photos in a less gloomy way, have them be full colour and vibrant rather than gloomy and flat. I wanted to show that change will happen, but it's not always going to be bad. I feel that I have shown this successfully in this Portfolio.

I have attached below my multi-Media study, which is composed in the same train of thought as my photographic portfolio.

Multi-media link: <https://youtu.be/tipuq45a5LA?si=KLfExdMbXmWatIOl>