

Esme Littlechild (2103253)- Me Myself and I

Link to my video: <https://youtu.be/X2x8An4AIKg>

“Photography cannot change the world, but it can show the world, especially when it changes” (Marc Riboud, 1923-2016)

Who I am as an artist is constantly developing through my practice, however the environments around me have shaped me into who I am and the art I want to portray to the world. Transitioning between three definitive places that have an influential effect on my upbringing and emergence into photography creates a montage of observations in society that contrast against each other. Chipping Sodbury is a small town outside of Bristol where I have grown up my whole life; surrounded by countryside and a sheltered life I was deeply inspired by my mother's creative practice, painting and pottery over academics. Predominantly a white, middle-class society it wasn't until I studied sociology and fine art that my passion for unravelling social inequalities and finding creative ways to transfer their impact on me to others took place. Following a walk through the countryside the video shows a route I often take when gathering inspiration for projects, the peacefulness contrasts to the busy city life of the others. Additionally a walk to the high street shows architecturally the difference with the prominence of the church, my sister also features as she demonstrates today's generation and is often involved in a lot of my photoshoots through my photography work. Bristol being the nearest city to me influences me greatly with its rich cultural history and thriving art scene, even walking through the city artworks such as Banksy surround you. Additionally, its multicultural environment means a range of social diversity I didn't have growing up and attending extinction rebellion protests and the removal of the Colston statue I immersed myself into activism. In the video I set my camera up to capture the everyday interactions between people and the range of age, ethnicity, social class, identity, and activity held a lot more than where I had been used to. Swansea is the last location and where I have been at university for two years, moving to Wales immersed me into a different type of environment and culture. Studying art and design and then photography is where I have experimented and chosen my career path so clips of the current protest demonstrate the themes of documentary photography and the economic issues affecting jobs and the activist approach as a response to this. Overall, I feel that my video conveys external influences that have shaped me into who I am as an artist today. Using the amount of clips to demonstrate the amount of time and influence of the place on myself is shown through majority of Chipping Sodbury then gradually less to Swansea. Furthermore, I would develop my video to be more still by using a tripod, I would also explore the relationships between people in each of the environments and the differentiation deeper in showing the social class, ethnic, age, religion etc as my connection to the community and people is what drives me as an artist to create work.