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Programme of Study: Photography in the Arts

Module: M4X01603

Visual Studies 2 Lecturer’s Name: Sian Addicott

Reading Festival

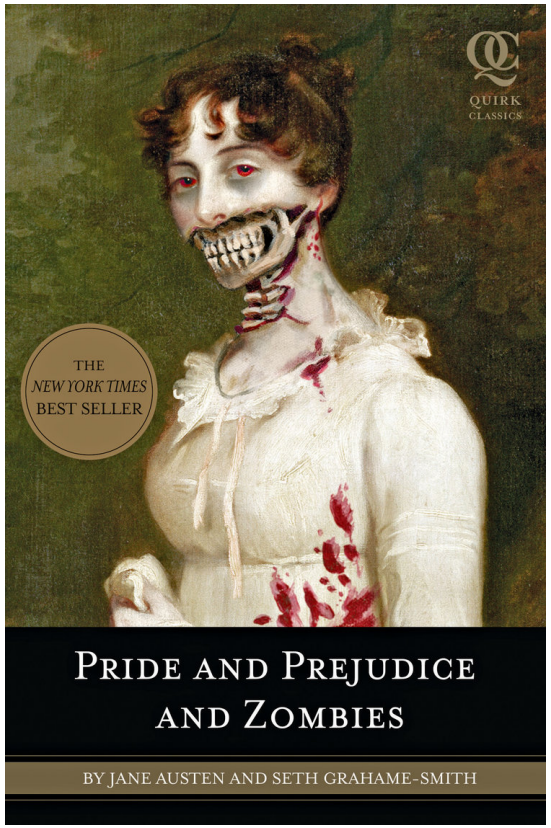
I am focusing on Paper Menagerie with mainly looking at family and loss.

My 5 key words:

- Family
- Alone
- Heritage
- Memories
- Loss

With these themes I and going to produce a series of old style family portraits and single portraits and make them look aged in photoshop.

Doogie Horner



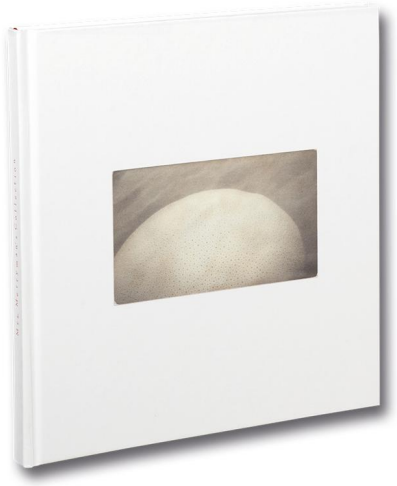
Doogie Horner is an illustrator who has produced many book covers and his own drawings based on films.
The cover to the right is for ‘Pride and Prejudice and Zombies’ which is based off of Jane Austin's book ‘Pride and Prejudice’. Horner has taken the painting style of the time the original book was made and but a twist on it to make the woman look like a zombie by showing the jaw/mouth skeletal structure. The contrast between the angelic looking woman and then having the zombie aesthetic over the top is nice as it then gives you an idea of the destruction of something precious and innocent.
This image game me ideas of how to position my model(family) in the photos.

Julie Cockburn

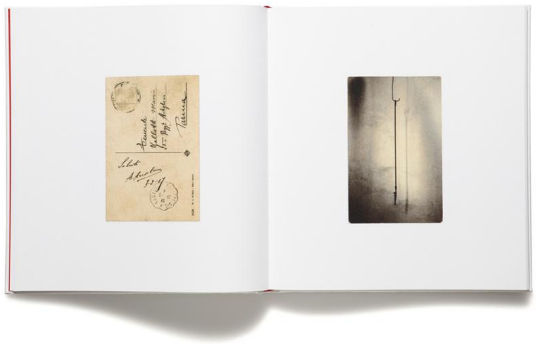


Julie Cockburn is an artist who takes photos and then paints, emborders and reassemble them. With this I feel like then she brings old photos into a modern aesthetic.
With the image on the left, I like the slight 3D effect with the shadows of the embordered colour strips on the woman's face, making them look like they are floating around her face. I also like how the embordered colours contrast with the colours/tones of the photo, with the embordered colours being bright and vibrant and the colours in the photos being muted and dull. I Like that the artist hasn’t covered the woman's eyes making it seem like artist doesn’t what to cover her identity.

Mrs Merryman’s Collection







Mrs Merryman’s Collection is a book by Anne Sophie Merryman and is a collection of postcards that were collected by her grandmother; Anne-Marie Merryman, who she never met.

With this book, I like how you could form a relationship with the grandmother with out meeting her just like Anne. The book has little writing with the main important writing being ‘For Grandma’ on the last page with red stitching around it which goes through another piece of paper. The most fascinating thing about this book and story of her grandma is that its all fake. The book was made by Miki Soejima, who leaves clues throughout the postcards and created a hidden message at the end.

Tests

Burns

https://creativepro.com/how-to-create-a-burnt-paper-effect-in-photoshop/



Fold Lines
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQcuKvi4Gis



Contact Sheet











Finished Edits



With this photo I feel like it defiantly looks like it has been folded but I think the white is too bright and stands out too much.



It was hard getting the full burn looks as the photo is dark and hard for the orange colour to look realistic.

Making physical copies

I decided that I would make physical copies of the images so then I would get more of a natural look to the photos, then once finished I would scan them to get a digital version.

What I did to the photos:

- Tea stain them
- Fold/crush some
- Scratched some
- Burned them
- Rip them

Fold and Crush

To make the folds look like they have been there for years, I first folded them the way I wanted them to look and then got scissors and ran them across the folds to take away the first layers of the image which then showed the white paper underneath. I also ran the scissors along the sides to make them look worn. I did this to the images before doing the tea stains so that the exposed pieces of paper then get stained and don't stand out against the rest of the photo.

I only crushed/ scrunched up one of the photos as I didn't know how it would turn out once I scanned them. Then I scanned the photo, were the photo had been scrunched, the colours had changed to more of a blue and you could see the faint line.

Scratch and Rip

For the scratches I used a pair of scissors and scratched the top layers of the photo to show the white paper underneath. To make this look convincing I had to make sure that I didn't do the scratches in a pattern as that will give it an artificial look and not natural.

For the ripped photos I decided to rip the images through the models face as it then gives the idea of a lost memory/person. For this I had to make sure that I didn't control the rip too much so then it would look more convincing.

Burn

To make the burns, I just used matches to set the photos a light. This was a little hard as it was a little wind and cold so it took some time to light a match. I originally wanted to burn some holes in the images but the paper was too thick so it just made the back of the photos black and made little bubbles on the front. I ended up just burning the corners and edges.

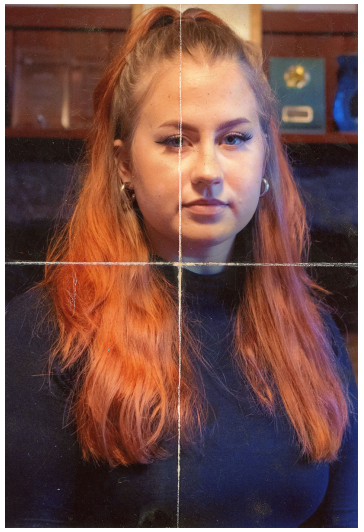
Tea Staining

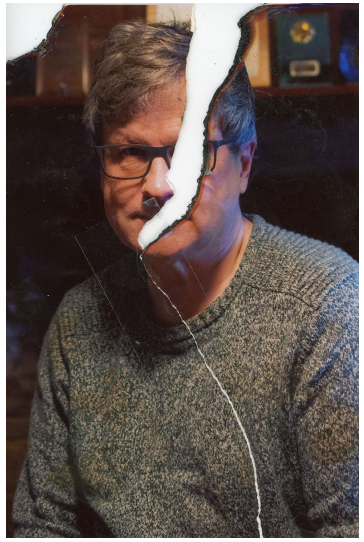


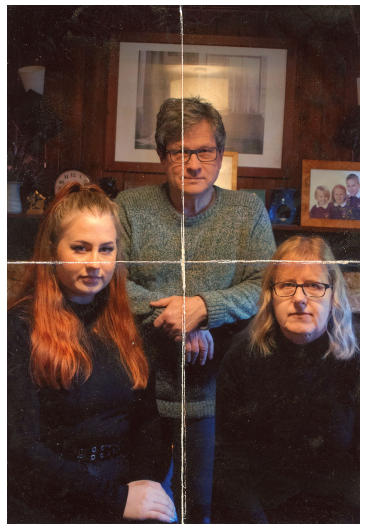
The tea staining was probably the least affective process I did as the majority of the photos were quite dark so only showed up in the light/ highlights in the photo. It worked well with the photo of the cat as the background is majority white from the window being over exposed.
Doing the tea staining also made little bits of the tea leaves which gave the look of dirt which I liked.

Physical Copy Scans











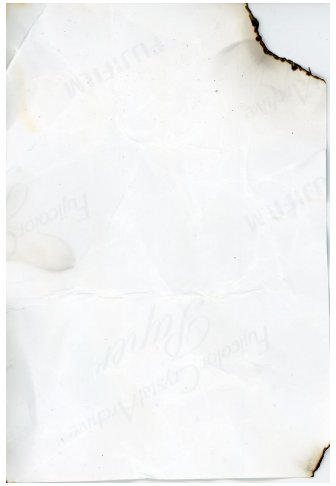




Scanning the backs

After having a tutorial, the idea of scanning the backs of the photo to show what effect the methods I did had on them. I would then pair the matching photos to for the final pieces to see the effects on each side. Also you get to see the soot on the back from the burns which contrast the which background.

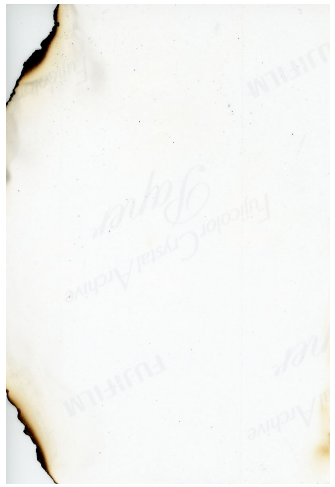
Scans















Evaluation

For this project, I set out to produce a couple of portraits that I was going to age/destroy. Originally, I was going to do it mainly digital but then decided to do it physically as then I would get a more natural look to the photos instead of an artificial which you get when doing it on photoshop. Also, I found it hard to make the burns look convincing on the photos as they are quite dark, making it hard for the orange colour I used for the burns to standout.

Once I had chosen Paper Menagerie, I knew I wanted to do something with my family as the story is family oriented. When reading the story, I very much got feeling of loss and lost from the mother. Family portraits/ images are important to some families as they are the only memories some people have of family members. Then with having them look aged and ruined gives the idea of a lost memory of something they once loved.

With looking at the artists, they gave me ideas of how to position my models(family) in the photos, so they then have an aspect of old-fashioned portraits. With looking at the book, it showed how important family artifacts are, even if it’s made up, some people can relate to it still. With having these ideas, it helped me with creating my final photos to the way I want them.

When I started with this project, I was doing the effects digitally on photoshop with creating burns and fold lines. I feel like these came out ok but work on different colours. The burns worked well on light coloured photos and the fold lines worked well on darker photos. After doing digital test and edited some of the family portraits I took I decided that I would make physical copies. When making the physical copies, I first folded and ripped a couple of them first then burned the majority of them with matches after. I then did some scratches on some after where I had to make sure I didn't end up doing a pattern with as then it would look more artificial.

I feel like I could have gone a little bit more with the destruction of the photos, but I didn't want to go too far with it and completely destroy the images, and if I had more time I would have experimented more with the destruction and tried out other methods. Also, I would have taken more of a variety of photos, maybe some photos of places in the village I live in that hold a memory.

In conclusion, I am happy with the outcome I was able to produce, I feel like I defiantly showed what themes I was going with. I feel like I could defiantly improve some of the photos that don't have many effects on them, but I still like the way they look. Overall, I feel like I did ok with this project seeing as I have limited resources.

Bibliography

Doogie Horner

https://www.doogiehorner.com/illustration

Julie Cockburn

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Mrs Merryman's Collection

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