



Visual Studies 2.

Object.

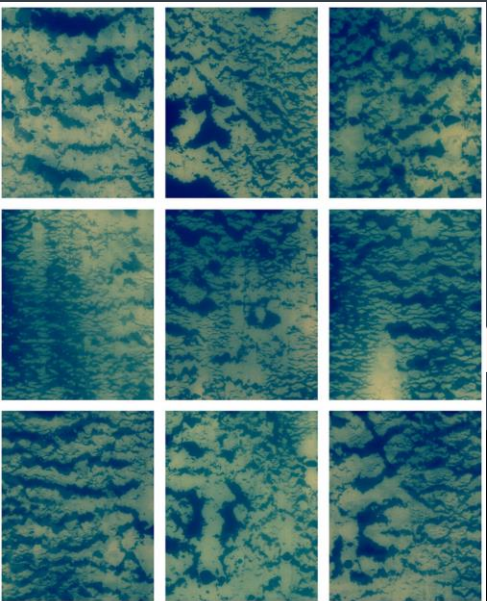
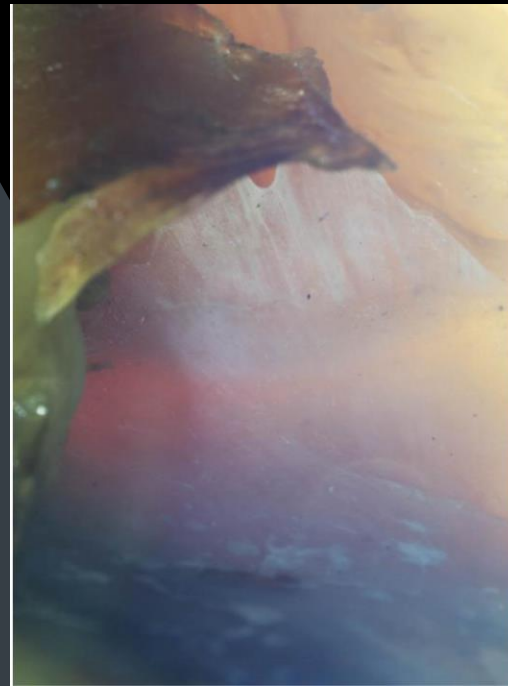
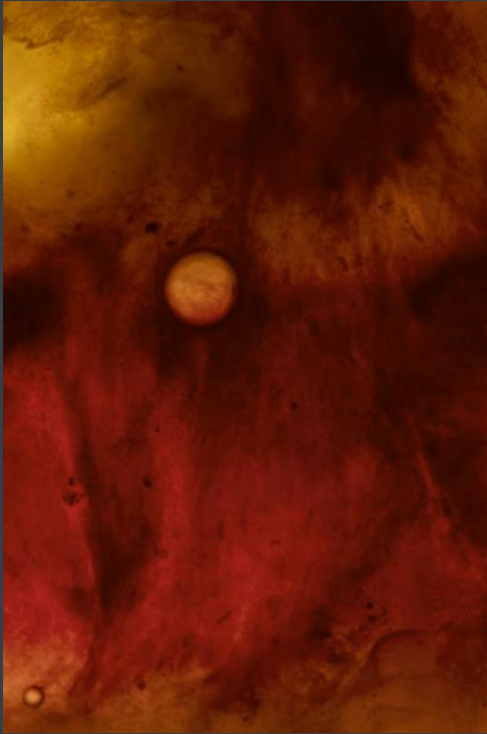


Image.

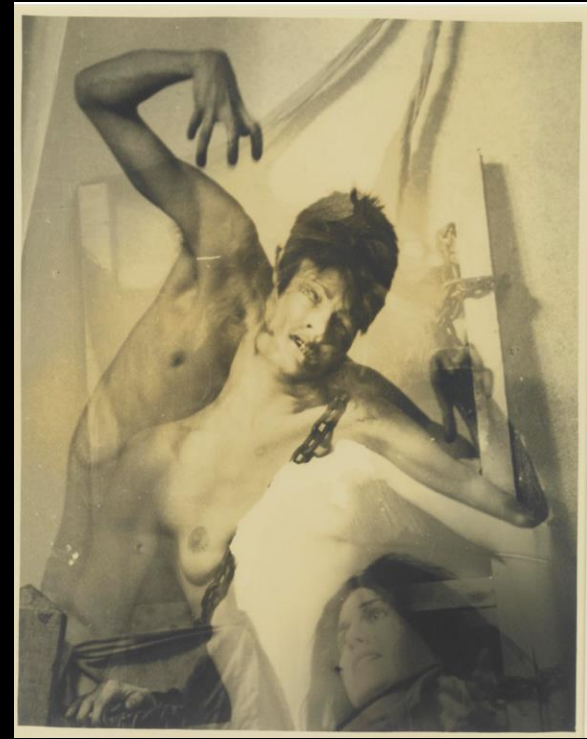


Excursion.



Artist Study : William Mortensen.

William Mortensen was a photographer who worked in the early – mid 20th century. Mortensen often used strong contrasts, careful lighting and staging to make images that feel surreal and theatrical. His work explores dark, mysterious and macabre subjects, as pictures in 'The Hag' included on this slide. This set him apart from the more documentary style of photography happening in this era. His work has a deep sense of narrative and myth, which can be though provoking.



The use of shadows and contrast in 'the hag' emphasise the woman's wrinkles, which gives an impression of older age, or a life of hardship. The expression of her face is one of anguish, or fear. These deep emotions mixed with the grainy texture of the image, make it seem as though it is a still from a play or a dark fantasy.

Ansel Adams famously labelled Mortensen as 'The anti-christ' , aiming to get him banished from official histories of the art form for his grotesque subject matter. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/photographer-who-ansel-adams-called-anti-christ-180953525/>

Artist Study : Joel-Peter Witkin.

Joel-Peter Witkin is an American photographer who's work mostly deals with themes of death, corpses, and people with a range of different physical features. Most of Witkin's work is within a studio setting, with careful composition that is reminiscent to a renaissance painting. The careful arrangement mixed with the careful use of light and chiaroscuro, meanwhile using corpses and body parts, are a juxtaposition. Photography the 'disgusting' in a beautiful setting. His work confronts viewers with aspects of life that are often avoided.

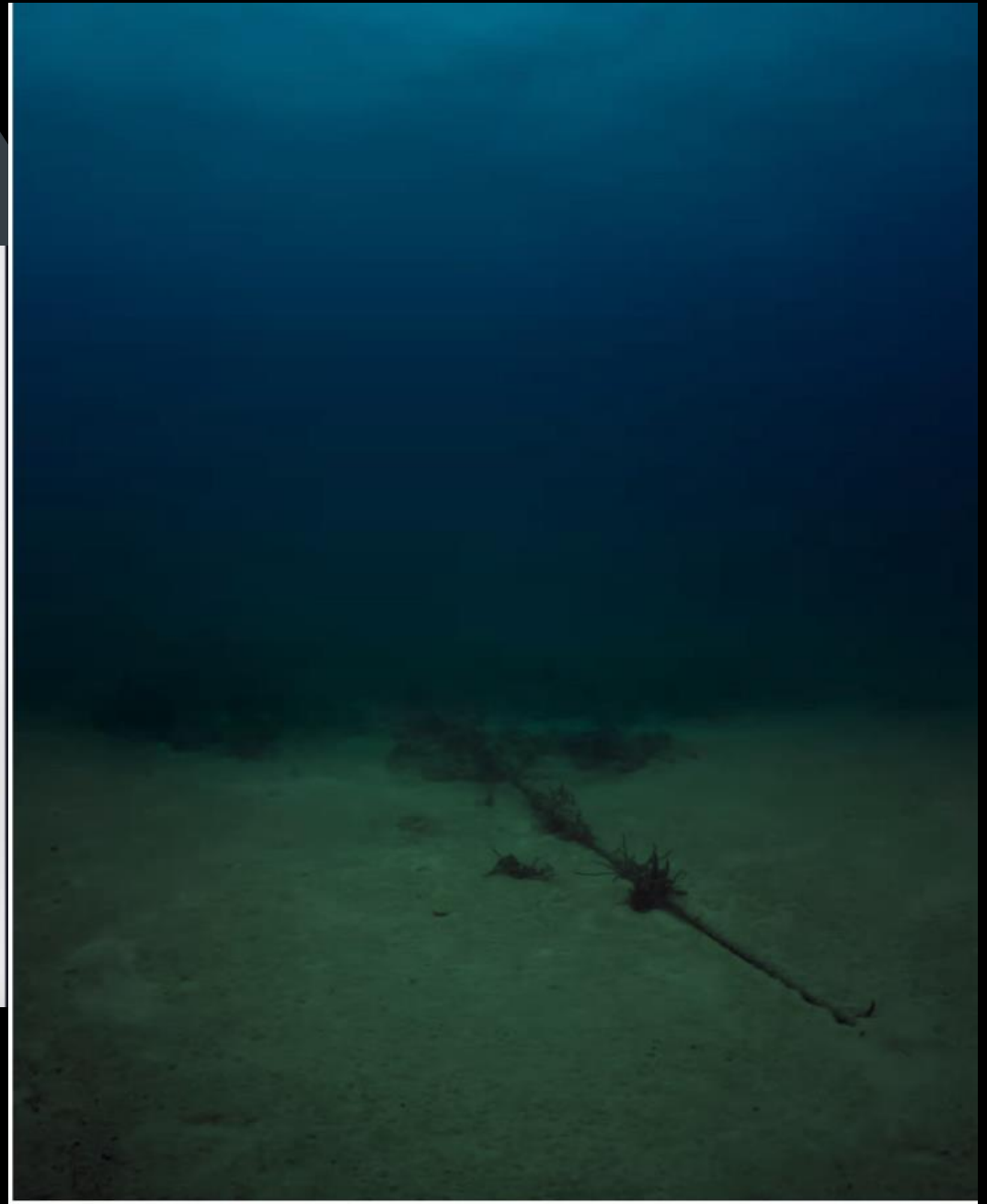


Witkins work challenges the viewers perception of beauty, morality and the human condition. It feels taboo, and gives a sense of 'Should I be seeing this?' or 'Should I find this image interesting?'. His images are both visually stunning, and deeply unsettling.

Discussion.



Information.



Theory.

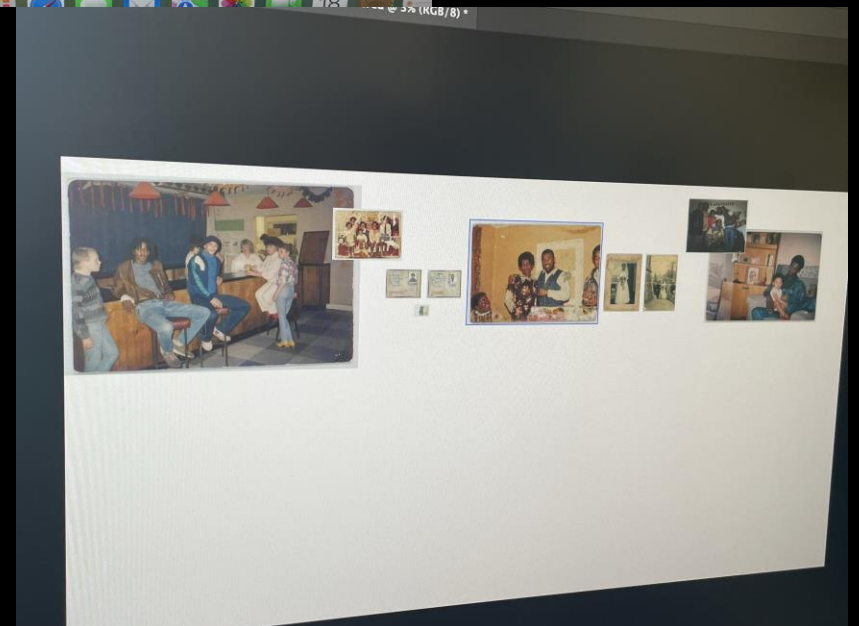


Image as a research method.

Using Image as a research method, I first gathered old family photographs that were given to me by my aunty. These contained images of my grandmother and grandfather, and my father, aunts, and uncles.

My original plan was to scan these in and turn them into digital negatives, so that I could then use them to make prints in the darkroom. I felt that this would give them a more vintage look. However, after attempting to scan them in with the Epson scanner instead, I much preferred the results of this. I found that the images being old themselves already gave a vintage feel, whilst using the Epson scanner helped to keep the details.

I plan to use these images within exhibition work, and have attached an image of the planned layout. The aim is to make the exhibition piece appear as a collage.



Artist Study: Dawn Parsonage – Spectrum of Emotions.

This body of work explores the multifaceted nature of human feelings through abstract and figurative forms. Her work is primarily based on emotional expression. The emotions are not always explicitly defined which allows viewers to interpret and connect with the artwork based on their own experiences. 'spectrum of emotions' is rooted in contemporary emotional and psychological exploration within art.



Artist Study: Nathaniel Bailey – Parish Walls.

This body of work is an exploration of community, identity, and the physical boundaries that define them. 'Parish Walls' centers on capturing the essence of various parishes through portraits of their inhabitants, architectural details, and landscapes. It focuses on the everyday lives and environments of these communities. The images often depict people in their homes, workplaces, or local gathering spots, which provides an intimate glimpse into their lives.

'Parish Walls' can be seen as a response to broader discussions about community identity, social cohesion, and the impact of globalisation on local cultures. By documenting these parishes Bailey contributes to a visual record of how these communities may be undergoing significant change or facing challenges to their traditional ways of life.

Bailey often uses natural lighting, and avoids dramatic staging. This allows the subjects to speak for themselves. This direct approach lends a sense of authenticity and respect to the subjects, inviting viewers to engage with the stories of these communities on a personal level.



Excursion as a research method.

To use excursion as a research method, I decided to follow a route that I walk everyday. This would help me get full use out of the method, in terms of learning how to see a photo opportunity in things or areas I would not usually notice.

I chose to focus on trees, flowers, and architecture, as I feel that these things always can tell a story. Whether it's the climate of the area, the people who used to live in the area, the areas main use, etc.

After taking these images, I then decided to put them into lightroom and adjust the highlights, the contrast, and the tones. I did this because having taken the images on a sunnier day, I felt that if they were a little bit less bright then it would be easier to see the elements and main components of the image.



Link to my exhibition review.

Highlight, right click and select
'link options' to open link.

EXHIBITION
REVIEW. LIVES IN
MOTION – STORIES
OF MIGRATION
FROM THE 11TH
CENTURY

