Student Name: Ffion Edwards

P Number: 2005075

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Lecturer’s Name: Ryan Moule, Sian Addicott, Paul Duerinckx.

Ffion. Edwards (2005075)

Photographic Art Practice Research

Whilst working on the photographic art practice I looked at French and Saunders and Celeste Barber for inspiration because they all look at doing parodies of films/videos/photos and I wanted to look at doing parody photos of stills from The 1990 film Misery.

French and Saunders;

French and Saunders first started back in 1987 where the iconic duo Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders look at creating parodies and skits of popular British TV shows like Gogglebox or major films like Silence of the Lambs (IMDB, 1987).

Particularly for the cinematic image I found the parody that French and Saunders did for Silence of the Lambs really inspiring for the photos because they linked it to themselves and I felt it worked really well so I thought it would be best for me to look at the relationship of my models within my photos and play on that.

Fig 1. A Bucket o' French and Saunders, Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders.

Fig 2. Nicki Minaj, Celeste Barber.

Celeste Barber;

Celeste Barber is an Australian comedian and is well known for recreating celebrity photos and puts a comedic twist on them. Barber has recreated photos and videos from hundreds of celebrities including; Justin Bieber, Kylie Jenner, Selena Gomez, Kim Kardashian, Katy Perry, Sia, Nicki Minaj, Rihanna and many more.

I found Celeste Barber's photos very inspiring for my photos for The Cinematic Image because I found the parody approach worked really well and was very funny, and thousands of people find her photos really funny too.

Particularly within the Collaborative Image I tried to use mixed media within my photography, like drawing and stitching onto my photos. For these pieces of work I was inspired by Alana Dee Haynes and Mana Morimoto. I have drawn and stitched onto my photos in the past but I wanted to do it again for this project so I could be more creative with my images.

Alana Dee Haynes;

Alana Dee Haynes is an illustrator who takes photos from other artists and draws patterns and designs onto them. She said she likes to draw on a plain part on the photo because she uses a black pen and she "likes the contrast" and she likes drawing on people as if it was a tattoo (gestalten, 2015).

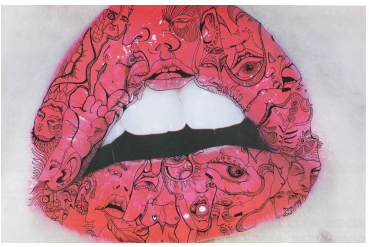

Fig 3. Lips, Alana Dee Haynes

I find it really interesting the drawings that are incorporated within the photographs. I find her illustrations on photographs quite inspiring for my work and I hope to produce more like this in the future.

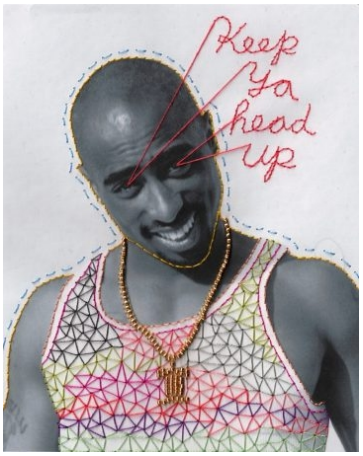

Fig 4. Tupac, Mana Morimoto

Mana Morimoto;
Mana Morimoto is a Japanese artist who likes to stitch onto old found photographs (Sandra, 2015). Morimoto began her *Embroidered* series when she found a box full of embroidery equipment and the 'idea came' to her . Morimoto embroiders different patterns or words into black and white photos as she felt the "colour compositions became more three dimensional and vivid" (Phaidon, n.d).
I find the embroidery within the images really fascinating, particularly where she does a continuous stitch, these inspired me for my collaborative image because I liked the idea of doing a continuous stitch around the cards.

Evaluation

Overall I am really happy with the work I produced for this module. Visually, my favourite pieces I made are for the Poetic Image because I think the composition I used and the subject of using my grandparents' relationship to play on the poem worked really well. At first when we were given the brief for The Poetic Image, I really struggled analysing the poem and being able to think of any ideas for photos, so this made me even more happier when I saw my final photos because I wanted to look at the relationship between my grandparents and how it differs from the one in the extract of the poem I looked at, which I think worked really well.
When first given the brief for The Cinematic Image I instantly knew I wanted to recreate stills from films so I started looking round and found French and Saunders' Silence of the Lambs and found it really funny, so I thought I should look at doing stills from a film I loved and decided on *Misery*. For The Cinematic Image I was more happy with some of my photos than others because I felt like some worked visually more than others. However, I did find the photos I created quite funny, though if I were to do this again I would try and focus more on making photos more like the ones I did with objects being used in replacement of other things.
When given the brief for The Collaborative Image I initially decided on taking photos of landscapes I visited often as a kid and get my brother, who animates, to do animations or drawings over them, but the more I thought about it the less enthusiastic I got about the idea. So I decided on taking close up photos of my mum's hands whilst playing Cards Against Humanity because we play that a lot and I thought about using one of the photos and stitching and drawing onto them with a colour my mum chose. I am relatively happy with the photos I made for The Collaborative Image because I was able to be creative and use mixed media techniques on my photos. Though I did have some technical issues when it came to this part of the brief because once I had stitched the photos I needed to scan them onto my laptop, however, the scanner I was trying to use was not connecting to my laptop so that delayed my completion of The Collaborative Image slightly.
I had my idea of what to do with my photos for The Networked Image when first handed the brief for it. I am really happy with the meaning I managed to produce behind my Networked Image photos because when I think of 'networking' I think of people being together, so I wanted to show that we cannot be together like that anymore and I felt like photographing empty bars/restaurants/cafes would have

worked well, and they did and I'm really happy with the outcome. Even though I was really happy with the photos I produced for The Networked Image I would have been happier if I had been able to burn them like I had originally planned to, but coronavirus restrictions meant I was unable to print the photos to burn them. I really enjoyed doing this module because it allowed me to be creative again, and I haven't been able to be creative in a long time because of coronavirus, but this has allowed me to create photos again and be productive with my photography.

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