Fugitive Testimonies Visual Diary

Katie Davies

Randomly selected image

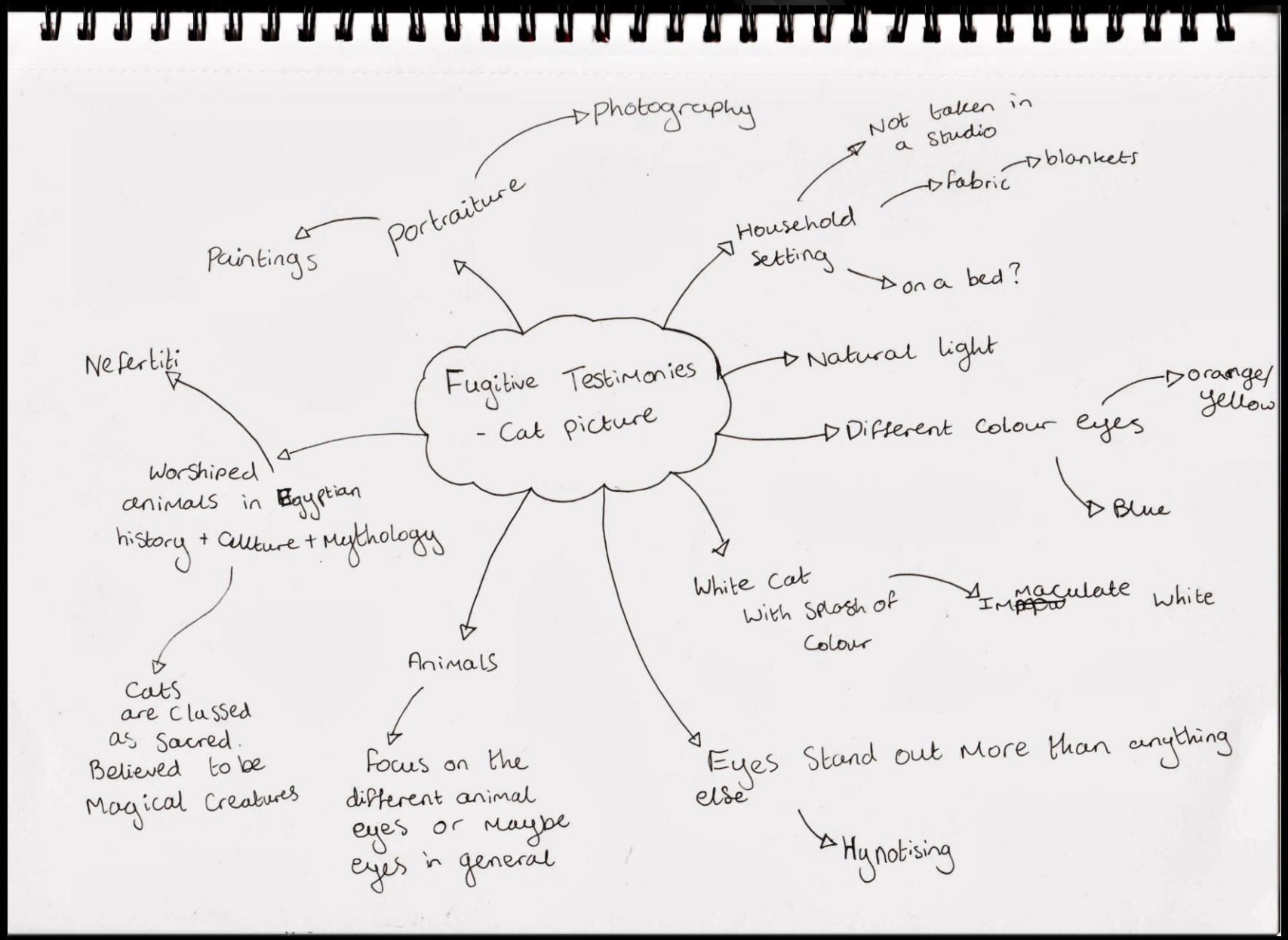
1200px-June Odd-eyed-cat cropped

Punctum
The thing that stands out me most in the image is the cats eyes, I don't know if it is how bright it's eyes look next to the white of his fur or if its the way it looks at you, almost as though it is staring right at me. It is possible a combination of the two.

The mind map shows my ideas that I had after looking at the cat photo. I had a hard time coming up with ideas at first, but after going back and fore looking at it over time I kept getting ideas and seeing things I had not noticed before.

Looking at the image and considering my ideas from the mind map, I have decided to start focusing on working with idea of colour when taking photos especially the colour blue, due to it being the colour that stands out most to me when looking at the image of the cat and exploring portraiture due to the image being like a portrait.

I also plan on experimenting with natural light instead of studio lighting or any synthetic light, this is because in the image it looks quite bright and appears as though it was taken in daylight which seems to reflect in the eyes of the cat and compliments the colours in the image, so I plan on experimenting in daylight and possible using candle light.



What does the colour blue mean in art ?

- The colour blue has had different meanings with in art and in history, it has been believed to be a colour to symbolise mystical powers and then later seen as a symbol of wealth and a colour associated with royalty. Blue is seen and used in different ways throughout art and day to day life for example blue is used and seen as a colour to create a feeling of calm and productivity.
- The colour blue was a very popular colour among these artists in particular Pablo Picasso, Wassily Kandinsky, Yves Klein, but it was also very popular in Egyptian art and culture especially with Egyptian pharaohs which relates back to it being used to symbolise wealth and royalty. Throughout history people have used lots of different materials to create the colour blue in their art pieces just like Egyptian blue, Lapis lazuli, Ultramarine and Indigo.

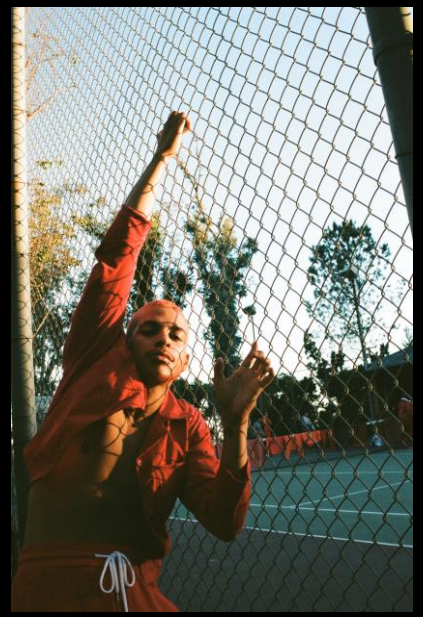
- The colour blue also means different things to different people and will make them associate it with emotions or situations. For me the colour blue means more then feeling calm it tends to make me associate it with feeling sad due to the expression of feeling blue. I also associate it with feeling cold as well as it reminding me of water and oceans as well as the sky, when associated with nature that is when blue can feel calm to me.

Information accessed from- https://artuk.org/discover/stories/colour-in-art-a-brief-history-of-blue-pigment#
-Accessed on 17th March 2020

Natural lighting Photography

Colour in Photography

Savanah Leaf



Savanah Leaf

Savanah Leaf was a 2012 Olympian who decided to embrace her creativity and has since become an accomplished director and photographer. Although her more recent work tends to consist of short films, she still takes photos now and then. Her preferred style of work is using natural lighting especially when it comes to her photography. She uses the different directions of sunlight and shadows to her advantage, and similarly to the work done by the artist Jessica Drossin, Savanah's work creates a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere that leaves you feeling calm.

I was once involved in a project with Savanah were she was directing a video. In this experience I had a glimpse into her way of working and got to see how she would wait for a specific time of day, to get the type of sunlight that she wanted for emphasising the scene she was shooting. Her understanding and use of lighting in her work inspires me to try and create a similar effect in the portraits that I plan on taking in this project.

<u>Studium</u>

The work opposite is one of her older photos, it is a stunning piece of work that despite potentially being staged, looks as though it was caught in the moment. You can see the sunlight reflection on his back due to it glowing brightly, this then causes shadows across the rest of his body allowing breaks in the shadow to be caused by the sunlight reflection from other parts of the room. I think that it is truly a beautiful use of lighting and it has only come from one window creating a calm, peaceful and warm feeling in the room. I also feel that capturing the man relaxing in front of a solitary window emphasises him being there on his own, this also makes it seem quiet, further adding to the idea of it being peaceful and calm.

Jessica Drossin

Jessica Drossin

Jessica Drossin is not a very famous artist as she tends to work commercially, and sometimes creates tutorials to aid people in getting the most out of their photos through lighting and photoshop editing, along with creating her own work. I have included her as an example of portraiture similarly to Savanah leaf, due to her use of natural light and colour in her portraits. Her preferred style of work tends to consist of warm tones such as brown and orange, which creates an autumnal look to her photos. Her use of these colours tends to bring out the warmer tones in peoples skin as well as the colour of their eyes appearing bolder.

The photo opposite is a nice example of a portrait were she includes the colour brown in his clothes, chair and background to bring out the colour in his skin and eyes. Having the light source be the window next to him allows for subtle lighting that is not harsh or too bright to take away from the warm and comfortable feeling that this portrait now has. To me the photo seems very relaxed and comforting and comes across as calm and peaceful.

In my work I aim to use colour and lighting to compliment my images in a similar way as she does, but working more with cooler tones such as blue. After looking at her work I think it will be interesting to see how using blue in my photos will effect how the overall portraits look and how it will make people feel in comparison to the work she does with warmer colours.

Cristina Otero

Cristina Otero

Otero is a self taught, Spanish photographer who started at the age of thirteen and by the age of sixteen had her first solo exhibition in a gallery and became the youngest Spanish photographer to ever do so. I have included her in my research because she is very skilful when it comes to using colour in her photos, specifically her photo series *Tutti Frutti*. This series consists of self portraits were she does her make up to imitate a piece of fruit that she will be experimenting with. Doing this results in the fruit and the makeup complementing each other and causing them both to appear brighter and bolder, especially when the colours contrast each other. It works really well and she pays a lot of attention to detail, including elements and detail from the fruit you don't tend to see or pay attention to until she has it painted on her face.

One thing I really like about her use of colour is when she changes her eyes to match the fruit. The watermelon picture on the right is a nice example of how she does this because the eyes in this image are green, bringing out the slightest visible part of green on the watermelon. The portrait of herself and the mandarin is slightly different because she has changed her hair and eyebrows to an electric blue that is dark and contrasting to the orange fruit. She has then considered this in the eye colour as it is blue, matching the hair, but also has a slightly orange centre.

The eyes reflect how she has used colour in this piece, due the blue surrounding the orange, just like the outside of the eye is blue and the inside is orange.

It is really interesting to me that when you use colours in particular ways it can make a big difference to how your photo looks and the colours can compliment each other really nicely if it is done right. I plan on applying a similar concept with my work, as I aim to use colours in my portraits to bring out a models features such as their eyes and hair.

Experiment outside

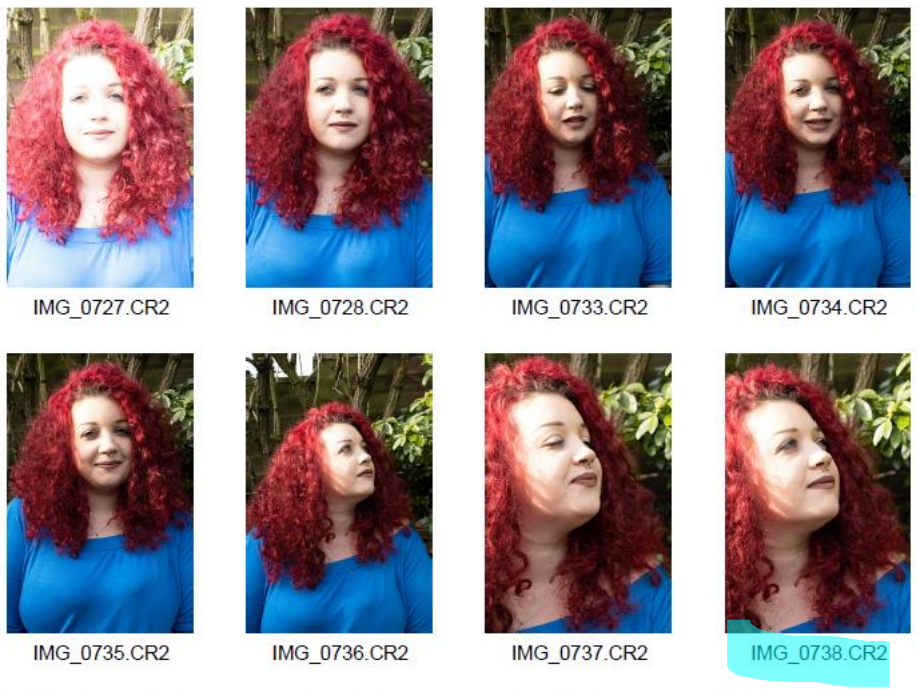
Contact sheet
Page 1

These photos show an experiment were I had the model wearing blue, this is because I wanted to see how the use of the colour blue in the photos would impact the colour of the models eyes. It was fascinating to see that when she wore blue her eyes were a lot brighter and appeared more blue as well.

I chose to take the photos that day not only because it was sunny outside, but because my sister had just washed her hair, making it go back to her natural curls. I quite like how her hair looked and how big it was, so I wanted to see the impact it would have on the photos. I do prefer the photos when her hair is moved over to one side of her face like IMG_0751.CR2 because it no longer filled the frame of the photo and made her hair come across as more subtle. Due to how bright the colour of her hair is, it seems as though it clashes a little with the bright blue top and would possibly look better if the top was a little darker. However, it makes the images look really bright and colourful especially when the sun comes out.

Through out the contact sheets you can see the change of scenery were I have tried to take photos of her in different areas of my garden to see the difference in how the portraits look. Despite liking the images when I have the plants and garden scenery around her, I do feel it makes the photos come across as busy and as though there's a lot going on, mainly because of all the different colours. The ones were I had her stood in front of the dark fence (IMG_0751. CR2, IMG_0752.CR2)were a lot stronger and made the colour of her hair and top stand out and become bolder, because of the fence.
Not quite sure whether I will continue to work more in this way, I might try and take photos inside and against an alternative backdrop.

I went through my contact sheets I highlighted the photos that I felt looked best.



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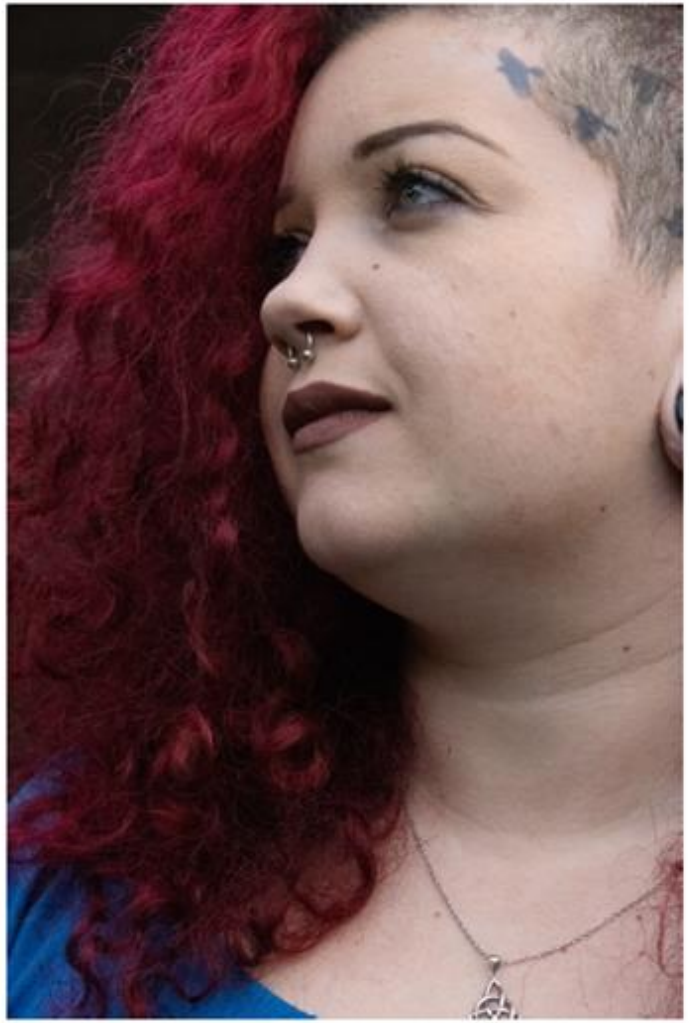
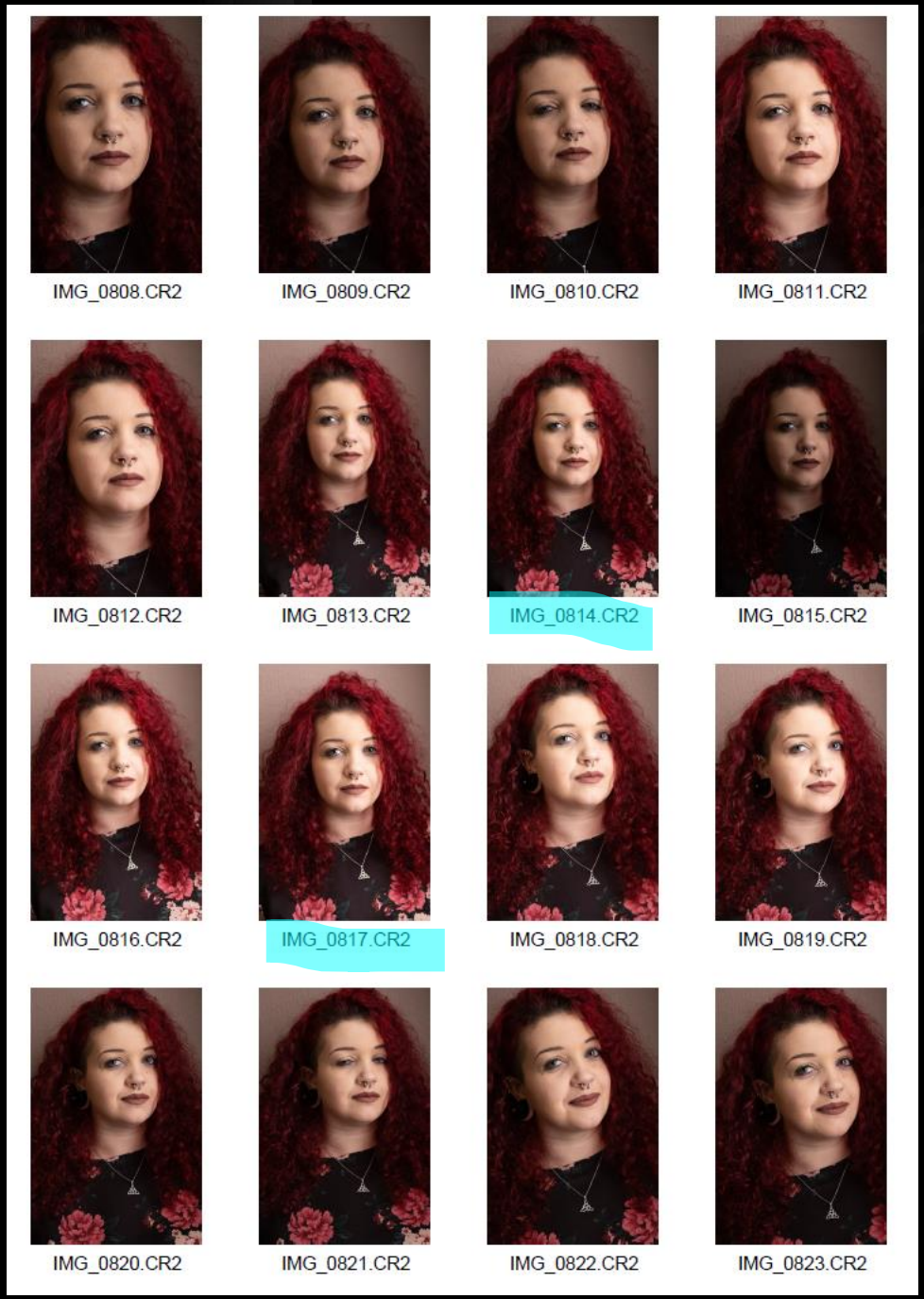


Experiment indoors

After taking the photos outside I decided to try and experiment with my sisters hair colour and find ways of creating accents of the same colour with in the photos, similarly to the way Cristina Otero works . I placed her against a pink/brown wall and asked her to wear a top with flowers to match her hair. I quite like the contrast between how warm these pictures seem in comparison to when I used the colour blue, her skin appears darker and it emphasises a lot more features. I also feel that doing the photos with these colours compliments her hair colour better too.

It was really fascinating to see the difference colour can do to an image, but despite liking how they turned out I am considering just focusing on exploration of the colour blue because I have lots of ideas of what I could do with that colour already and I wouldn't have time to incorporate both.



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IMG_0853.CR2

IMG_0854.CR2

Experimenting with Blue

When I first looked at the cat picture the thing that stood out to me was the bright blue eye next to the white fur, this reminded me of cyanotype prints, because the end results are a similar blue and white contrast. This inspired me to experiment with the cyanotype process and the photos I had taken, it not only works with my idea of focusing on colour, but it also works with the concept of capturing photos using only natural lighting because cyanotype prints require sunlight to work.

Despite liking how a lot of these turned out I have decided to not go further with the cyanotype experiments due to not having enough time to experiment with them properly because of the unpredictable weather .

Roni Horn- You are the weather

Roni Horn- *You are the Weather*

After a group tutorial it was said to me that the previous photo shoot outside looked really interesting as a sequence of photos in the contact sheet due to the colour, lighting, and different poses and angles that my sister was taken at. I was then recommended the work done by Roni Horn called *You are the Weather*. *You are the Weather* was made between 1994-95, it consists of 100 close-up portraits of a woman's face as she emerges from hot pools in Iceland. Each set of photos in the series was taken in different hot pools around Iceland, so despite having the same concept and idea behind the images, each set of photos is different. This is down to the expressions on the models face, the distance the photo was taken at, and even how cold the weather is causing the hot pools to create more steam, adding to the dynamic of the portrait that day.

I like how the photos were taken in different locations because it adds unpredictability due to not knowing what the next hot pool will be like, or how the weather will change as it is taken on different days. Another thing I like is that in some photos you can see how blue the water is in the background, it is not only a beautiful colour, but it also compliments the models blue eyes as well, in a similar way to the portraits I have been taking. Horns work is really interesting and has inspired me a lot, it has made me consider changing the background in my images to blue instead of the model being the one to wear the blue. I feel that having the blue around the models face would compliment the photos differently to when its worn on a top, so I am interested to see the difference.

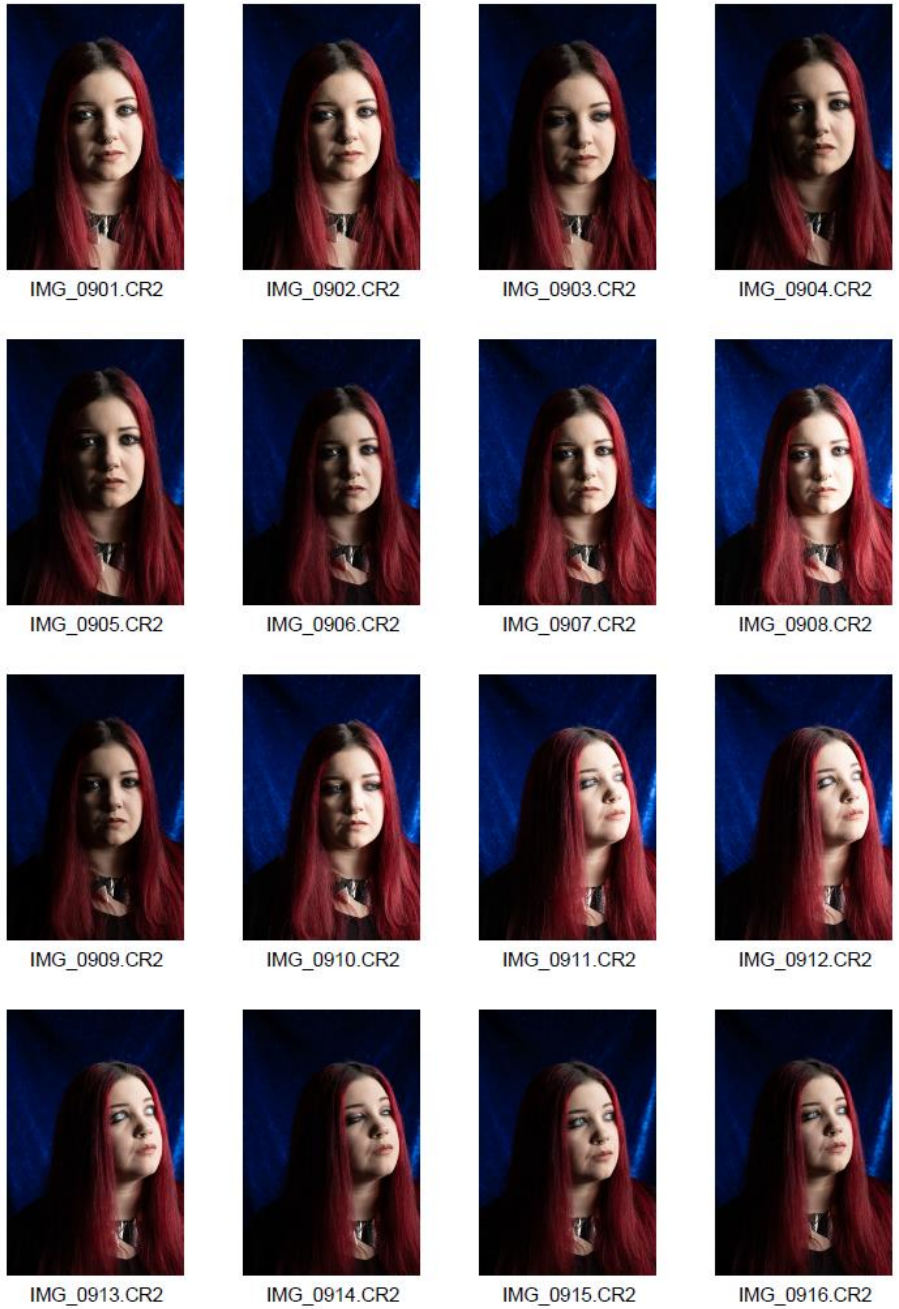
Sequence of Events

After looking into the work done by Roni Horn and getting advice from others, I decided to incorporate the concept of photos being in a sequence. The plan is to capture the portraits using natural light, and still focusing on playing around with colours, but having the photos be in a purposeful sequence instead of random photos taken in different places, having different backgrounds.

For these portraits I decided that instead of having the blue be what the model wears, I could try the blue in the background and see what effect this has, as I have mentioned previously. This idea reminds me more of the original cat picture because I thought that the cats blue eye seemed brighter, and stood out more not only from the bright white fur, but due to the blue blanket behind it.

Already I feel that the blue being in the background looks better then it being worn by the model because the blue is darker on the background then on the top worn previously, it now compliments the hair colour better as well as her eyes. I do feel like the brighter blue on the clothes made her eyes appear a brighter blue as well, but now they look like a deeper, darker shade of blue, therefore reflecting the colour of the back ground. It was interesting to see that using different shades of blue when taking the photo resulted in her eyes appear different shades of blue as well. I also like how in these photos the darker clothes she is wearing compliments her dark make-up, and how the dark eye make-up makes the colour of her eyes stand out more as well. This was inspired by how Cristina Otero uses colours or more of a colour in the photo, to make different elements stand out more.

I have called these photos *Sequence of Events* because sometimes my sister would react and start giggling, and instead of waiting for her to compose herself I would take photos of her smiling and laughing at me. As an experiment I sometimes intentionally joked around to try and capture her reactions, the hope was to have a collection of reaction photos in a sequence. At first I was just hoping to capture a sequence of changing poses and expressions, and now it keeps to that idea but more like photos going from one pose to the next gradually looking unimpressed by me as I teased her, then resulting in laughter. I liked this idea because it made the portraits interesting, giving me a series of photos that tells a story.



Contact Sheet
Page 1

Contact Sheet
Page 1 and 2

IMG_0901.CR2

IMG_0902.CR2

IMG_0903.CR2

IMG_0904.CR2

IMG_0917.CR2

IMG_0918.CR2

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IMG_0932.CR2

Contact Sheet
Page 3 and 4

I would need to edit a lot of theses photos slightly if I was to use them for my sequence because the camera was set to automatically adjust to the change in lighting making her face appear yellow in some photos, when it got brighter in the room.

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IMG_0963.CR2

IMG_0900.CR2

Sequence of Events

These portraits were the ones I felt worked best in that photoshoot. I edited some of them slightly to make the colour appear bolder as well as fixing the yellowing that happened when I was taking some of the photos.

I do have a slight issue with picture 1, due to there being a dark shadow on the side of her face because now it doesn't quite fit in with rest of the photos in the sequence. I will try placing them all next to each other properly to get a better idea of how they fit, because if it doesn't work next to the others and I want to use them as a final outcome, then I can just take that picture out and work with the others.

Another thing that I feel I could have done better is not making the camera close up of her face, it feels like number 5 and 6 look a little out of place now, which is a shame because I liked those images a lot. However, it does kind of illustrate the build up of laughter before she has her outburst, as it zooms closer to her face.

2 Second colour experiment -1.jpg

1 Second colour experiment -2.jpg

5 Second colour experiment -12.jpg

6 Second colour experiment -11 x2.jpg

3 Second colour experiment -6.jpg

4 Second colour experiment -8.jpg

7 Second colour experiment -7.jpg

Sequence of Events

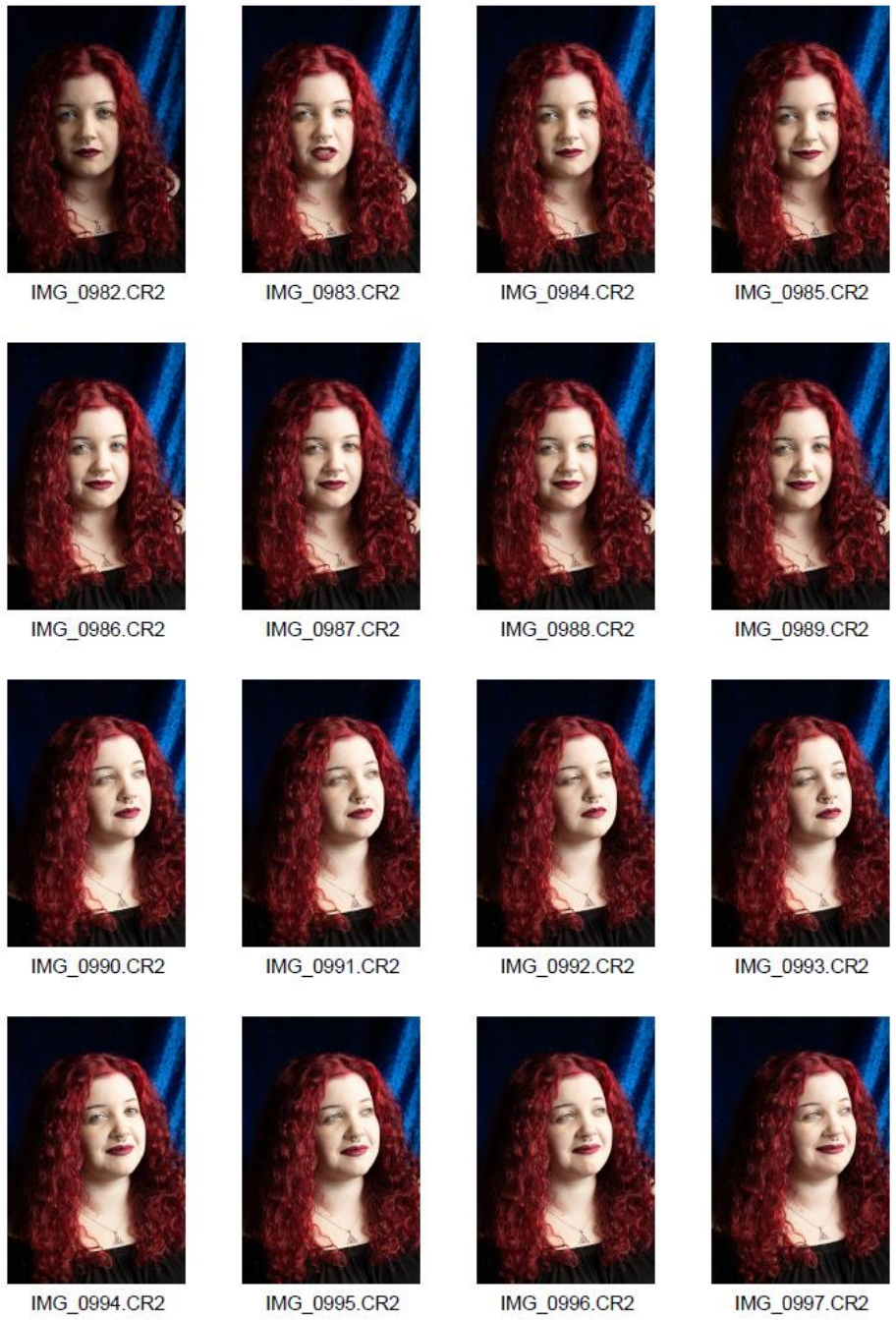
After seeing the photos in a sequence like this I do quite like how they look and I now aim to will further with the concept of sequences.

One day at a time

Day 1
Contact sheet
Page 2

For this experiment I wanted to work more in the style of Roni Horns *You are the Weather*. Everyday I would ask my sister if I could take some photos of her, but unlike the photos taken previously I would leave the back drop set up in the same place for a week, along with the camera and tripod. These were the controlled element of my experiment, but similarly to Horn's work I couldn't control or predict what the weather would be like each day, so some photos are brighter then others. I took the photos inside set up next to a window to make sure I had a bright light source, even if it was cloudy one day and sunny another. However, due to mine and my sisters schedules needing to make room for other work as well, we had to just take the photos when convenient. This would add to the unpredictability of how light or dark the pictures would be, due to the afternoons being when the sun was coming in that particular window, and the photos taken in the morning not being that bright, even if it was sunny outside. This was not an issue and it actually made it more obvious that the photos were taken on different days, and it made taking the photos interesting and unpredictable, forcing me to try something new.

Despite previously trying to have the clothes and make-up styled to benefit and emphasise parts of the photo, I decided to just take photos with what ever my sister was wearing on that day, which added another unpredictability element to the photos. I thought it would make it interesting to see how what she wears everyday was going to look like and how it could impact the colours in the photos. When going back through the pictures I noticed that a lot of the time she wears lipstick to match the colour of her hair or she will co-ordinate it with her outfit or eyeshadow. Despite hoping this was accidental she later told me she intentionally was matching her lipstick with her hair because she really likes the way it looks and how it all compliments each other.



One Day at a Time -Day 1

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IMG_1006.CR2

IMG_1007.CR2

IMG_1008.CR2

One Day at a Time -Day 2

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IMG_1013.CR2 IMG_1014.CR2 IMG_1015.CR2 IMG_1016.CR2

IMG_1017.CR2 IMG_1018.CR2 IMG_1019.CR2 IMG_1020.CR2

IMG_1021.CR2 IMG_1022.CR2 IMG_1023.CR2 IMG_1024.CR2

IMG_1025.CR2 IMG_1026.CR2 IMG_1027.CR2 IMG_1028.CR2

IMG_1029.CR2 IMG_1030.CR2 IMG_1031.CR2 IMG_1032.CR2

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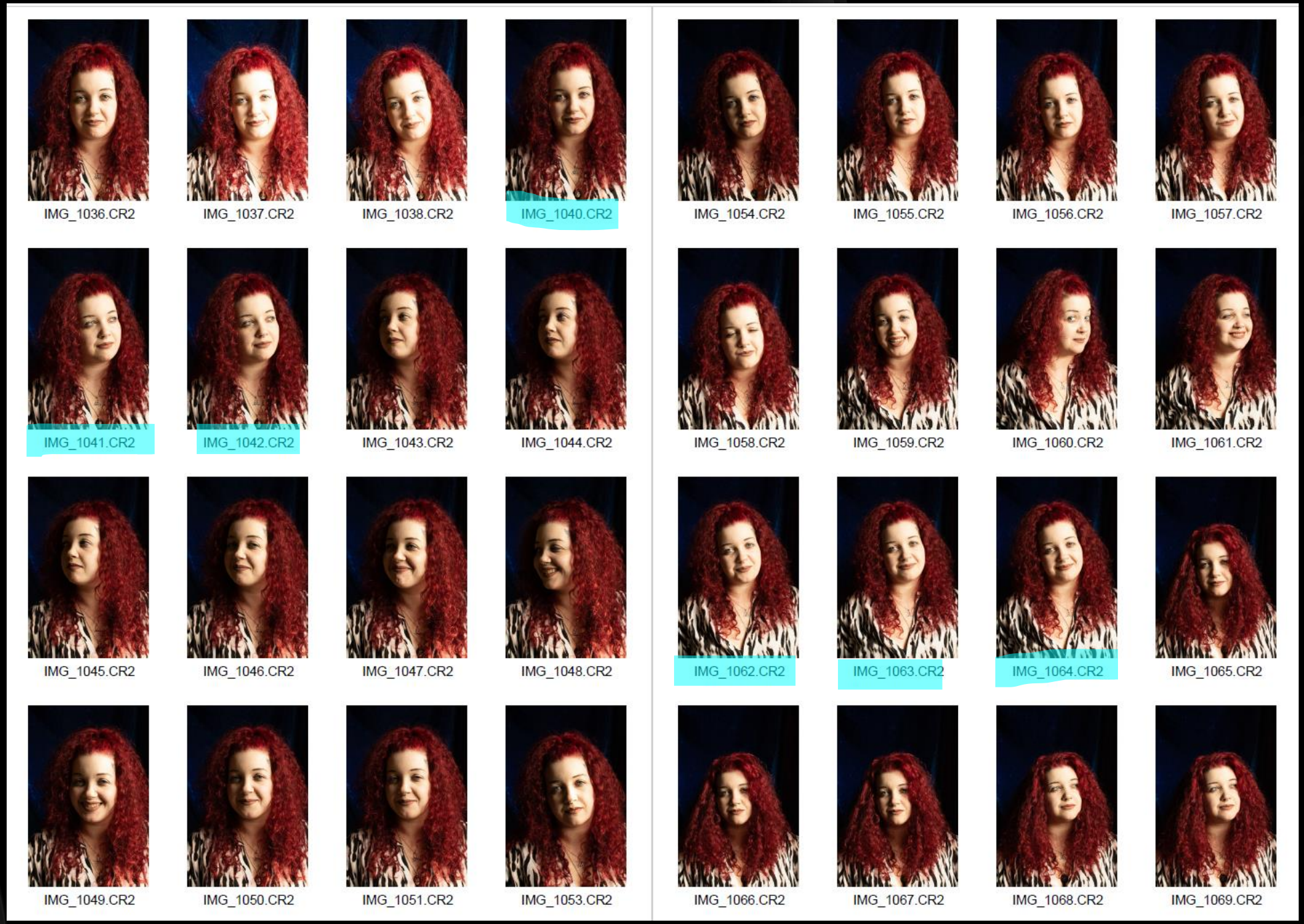
One Day at a Time
-Day 3



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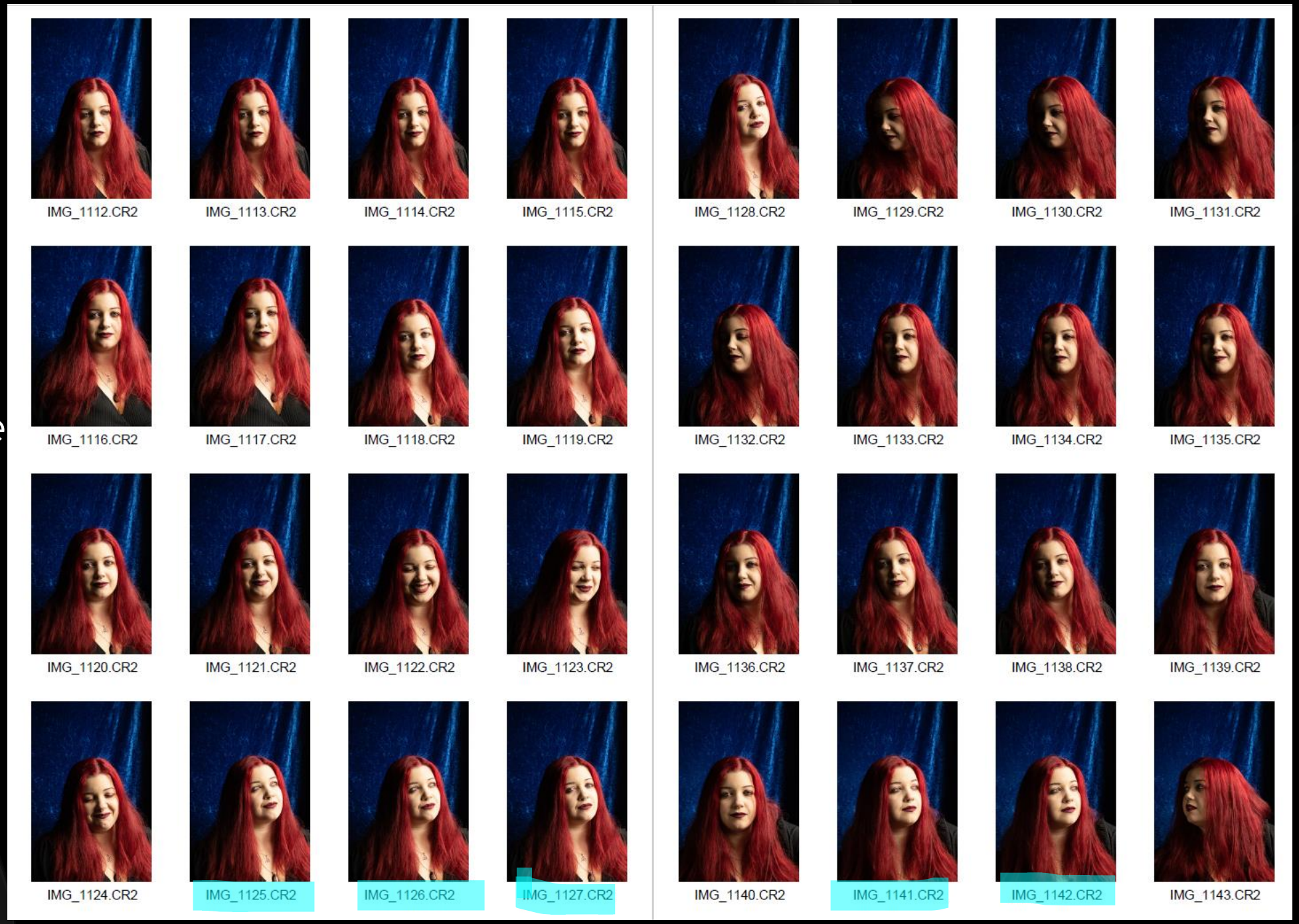
One Day at a Time
-Day 4



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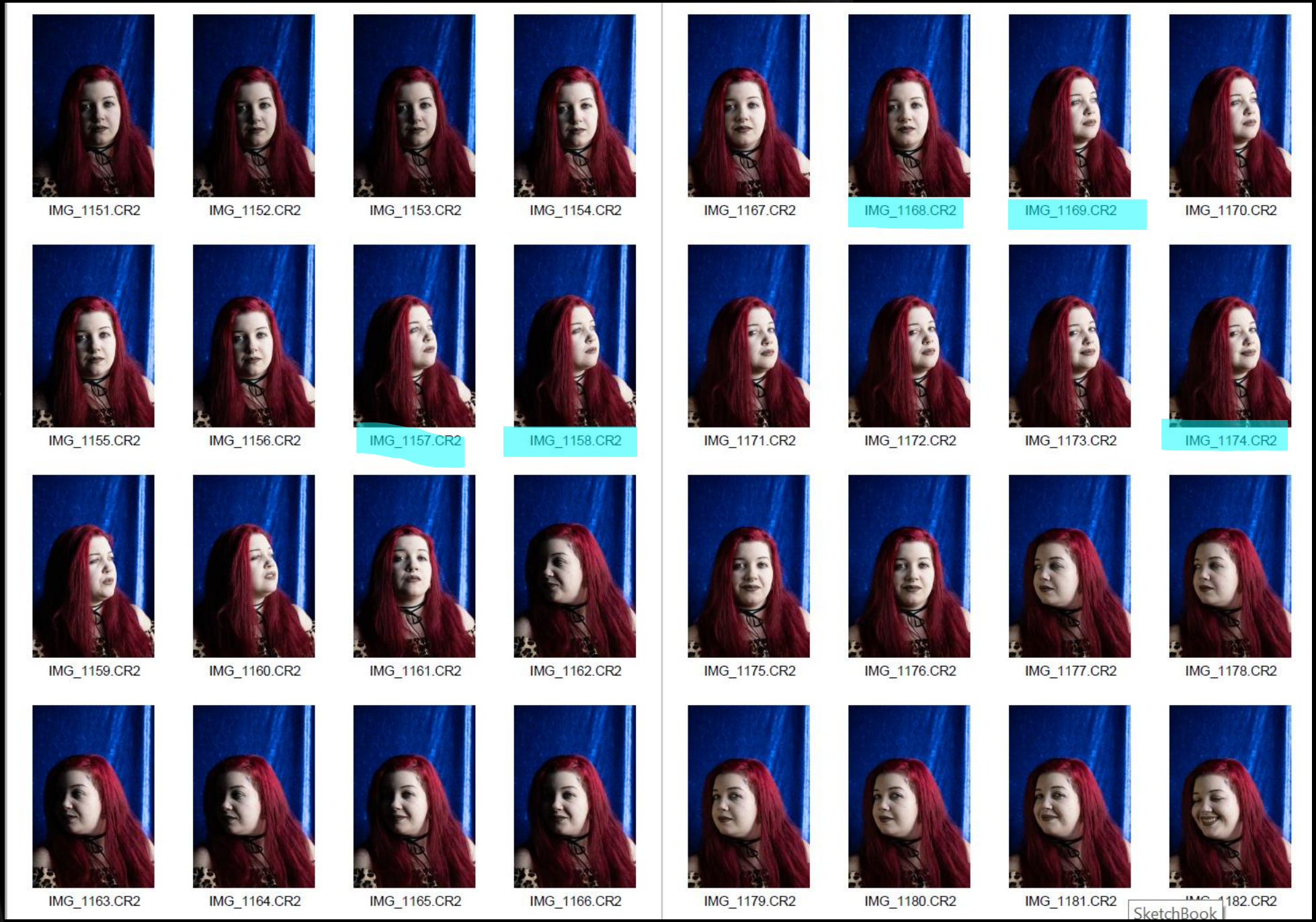
One Day at a Time
-Day 5



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IMG_1191.CR2

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One Day at a Time
-Day 6

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IMG_1276.CR2 IMG_1277.CR2 IMG_1278.CR2 IMG_1279.CR2 IMG_1292.CR2 IMG_1293.CR2 IMG_1294.CR2 IMG_1295.CR2

One day at a time

When I take photos I always take a couple at a time for each pose. This was especially convenient when I have been working with trying to capture sequences, and after looking through my images I did consider taking the multiples of one pose from each day, and use them similarly to Roni Horns work. However, I have since decided to take a different approach. This is because everyday I would try and have my sister pose in the same way, and because I tried to keep the camera, tripod, back drop, and chair set up in the same place they all look alike. This then made it easy for me to pick two images from each day and use them in a sequence. The contact sheet opposite shows my chosen and edited images.

I decided to try and use one pose looking out the window and one facing the camera, I thought that instead of only showing one sequence styled with one pose, I could see what two different poses would look like due to each pose giving a different impression. These images are very simple and are a lot different to what I am used to, but I really like how they have turned out, and I even like how they look in the contact sheet, due to the way she goes from looking at you to then looking away. I also like how each day she looks away her facial expressions are different, some days she's smiling, some days its half a smile, and other days she's not smiling at all. It makes you wonder what she could be thinking and feeling in those moment's to make her look that way. It also makes this sequence of images tell a story, which is something I liked about my previous photoshoot.

One Day at a time-1.jpg

One Day at a time.jpg

One Day at a time-4.jpg

One Day at a time-2.jpg

One Day at a time-7.jpg

One Day at a time-6.jpg

One Day at a time-11....

One Day at a time-10....

One Day at a time-13....

One Day at a time-12....

One Day at a time-15....

One Day at a time-14....

One day at a time

One day at a time

Evaluation

After looking back through my work for this project, I have decided to use both photo sequences from my One day at a Time experiment as a final set of images to conclude this project. Despite them no longer having the strong link to my theme of experimenting with colour, they still show my idea of using natural light to take portraits. It is funny how they unintentionally went full circle and now look a lot like the original cat picture with the blue in the background, and the sideways pose. I like how they look as a set of images and it has been interesting to see how my ideas for this project have developed and progressed into the final photos.

When I started working on this project, I did not know how to use a cat picture as inspiration, but I have since developed my skills and can now analyse a photo for ideas. My development of ideas and experiments was not quite were I thought it would go when I started, and I do feel as though I could have tried to learn a lot more about working with colour in photography as well as getting the most out of using natural lighting to capture my photos. However, I have enjoyed working this way and trying something new, it is something I would possibly come back to and explore further, in the future.

If I had longer to work on this project, I would have explored a wider variety of colour themes, as I did have other ideas, but just run out of time to try them, such as exploring with more warmer colours and other models. I would also have liked to have done more work with the cyanotype process and acetate because despite not having enough time to experiment with it further at the time, I did quite like how they turned out.

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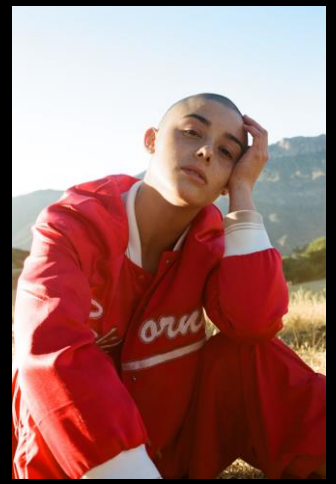

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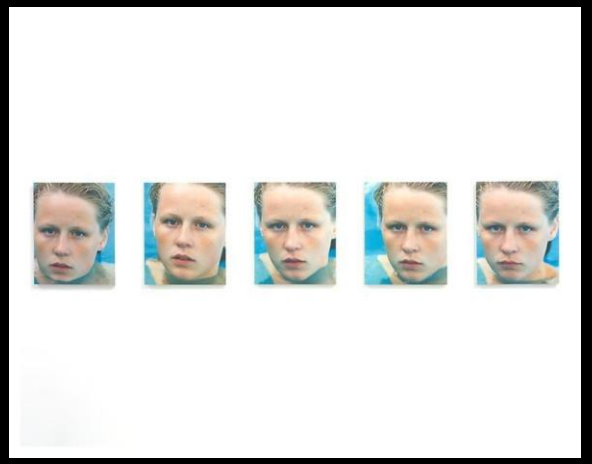

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