Visual Enquiry

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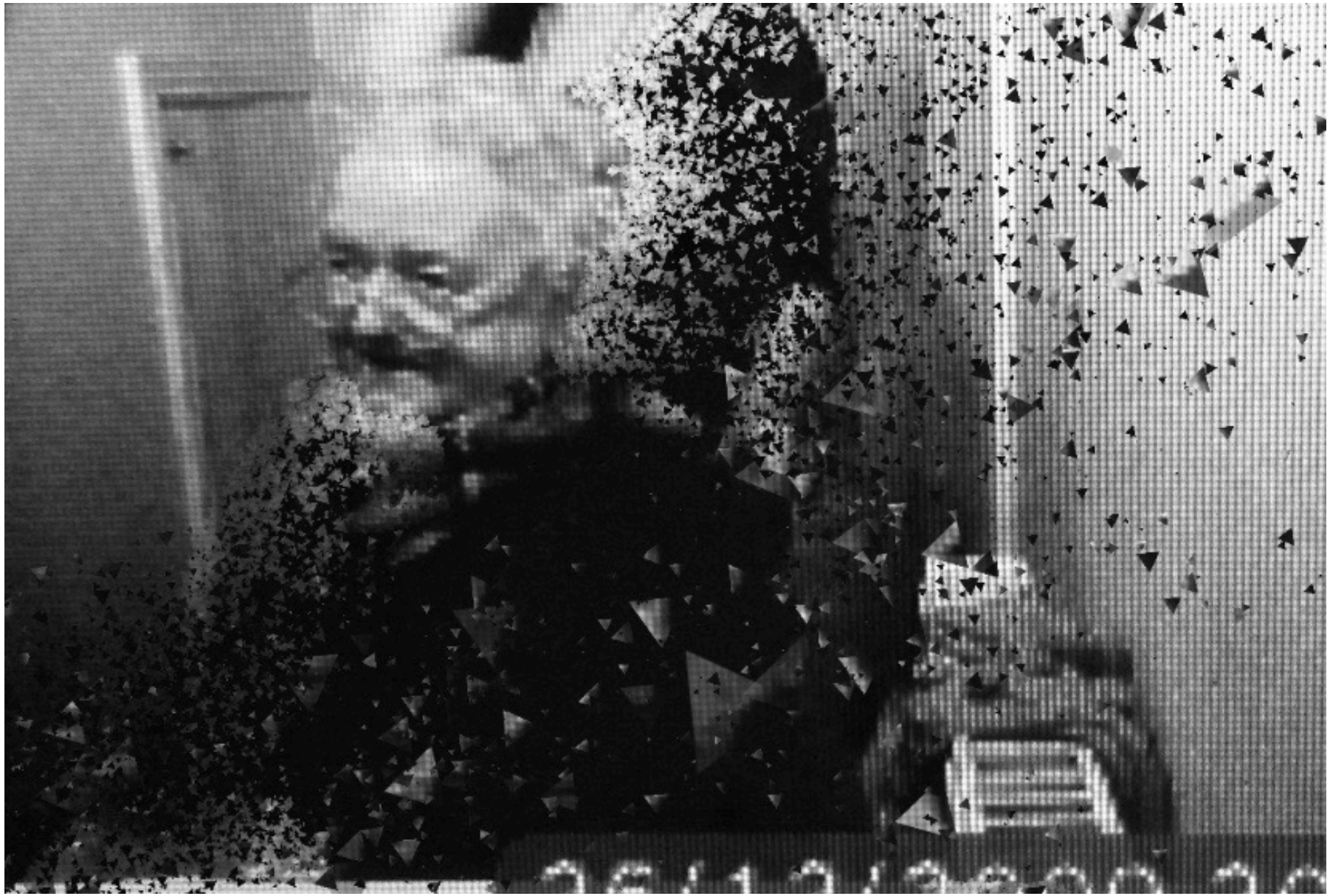
Pavé



Visual Diary / Blog

Overview:

As mentioned in my statement, this project will be about the concept of the life, memories or things we leave behind once we pass on. What legacy or things we leave behind or pass on and how we reflect? Through this project I will be looking through my own family history regarding family members who have passed on as well as my parents who are still alive and what memories they share regarding myself or my childhood or just history of what makes us who we are. Another interesting factor to look at would be how we interpret these stories and whether or not the memories still hold as much emotion as they once did. Not only will I be looking through my own family history and memories, I will also be looking for old photographs and objects that have been passed down or given to me to remember someone to incorporate that into my work. I feel this is such a wide topic with so many areas to explore and something that can be very experimental through trial and error.

Why do we keep objects of loved ones that have passed away?

"Physical reminders of the deceased can help reduce trauma of loss" – by keeping something such as a sentimental object to remember a lost one can provide a comfort through the grieving process, which can make you feel a lifelong connection to the loved one.

"An object should trigger both sadness and positive feelings." – This is something that I personally feel adds value to the objects as it teaches to tolerate sadness in a bitter-sweet moment and be optimistic through a loss.
(https://www.headspace.com/blog/2017/11/26/grief-mementos/)

Background/ inspiration

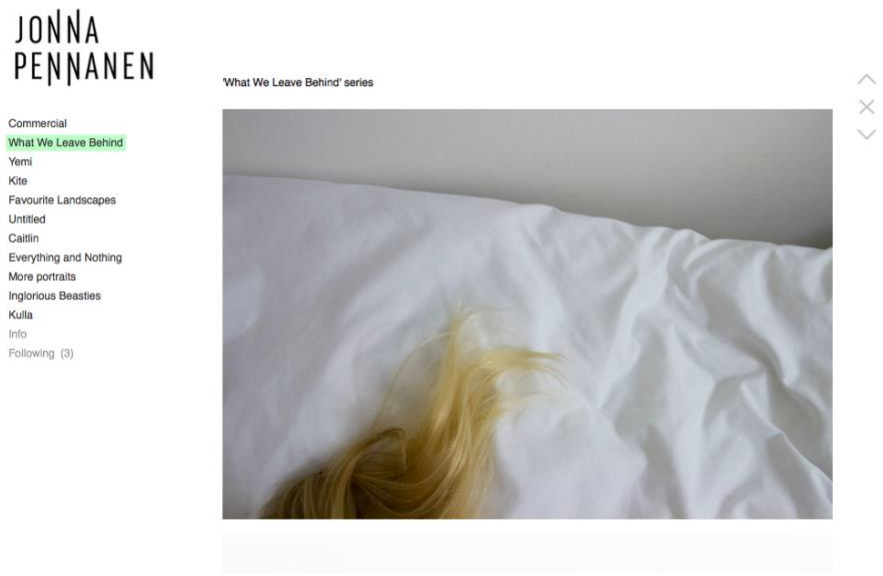
When my nan passed away it was very unexpected though knowing she was unwell as a child you don't realise the reality of life and how easy it is for loss to happen. Processing a loss through death can feel different for everyone grieving is a process that everyone goes through in different ways. I think once it happened, I never processed it or grieved I just continued with normal kid stuff and stayed strong, that was another thing growing up though being the youngest I always felt protective of my older sibling and to always stand up for my sister as she felt emotions deeply that anything could affect her, so I always wanted to be the protector which led me to supress my own. A few years later once I grew up, it hit me and the objects that I kept from my nan was something that felt secure to go to and helped create a connection. Furthermore, not only through death but living we keep memories and attributes to connect to one another. There's lots of memories and family history that i'm unaware of such as my fathers' parents I don't know much about them but have heard stories from my father that helps me envision what they were like so by having more conversations and memories will develop a more personal connection. I would like to delve into my childhood memories but also my parents' childhood memories to see some similarities etc. I love looking at old photographs and to listened to other experience or stories regarding photographs, once the pandemic ends I will be able to go to my uncles to find old photographs to use in my work.

About photos taken:

It's hard to be able to see how my photos will expand as I was only able to use one photograph that I have of my nan right now but once I am able to see my uncle and dive through my old photos and videos I will be able to have many areas to expand on. The first image is of how me and my nan would bond over the teddy that she gave me. The next is about how we resemble one another and have similar attributes and the last 2 is about looking for answers. There's also some old film that is undeveloped that would be interesting to include in my work.

Research:

https://cargocollective.com/jpp/What-We-Leave-Behind



Jonna Pannanen has a photo series called 'what we leave behind' which talks about how when a house is burning something most people go to save is photographs. She investigates through images if people chose to save photos as a way to record memories from previous years and prevent those memories from disappearing by saving images. Majority of times photographs are something that hold significant value as they can't be replaced like certain objects can. Everything we do has a permeant mark on us whatever we do but

photographs perceive many things that hold significant emotions and attachment behind. I chose to look at her work as this links to something I want to explore which is how photographs hold a lot of memories, this is important as 3 years ago my uncle's house burnt down and they were unable to save a lot of objects and photos. That house was my father's childhood house and had been a part of their family for many years so seeing everything disappear in a matter of minutes was very upsetting, so would like to explore the meaning of losing something so significant.

MARCOS GOYMIL

He is a photographer from Argentina and his passion is to photograph relationships people have and the invisible trace that people leave behind. He began observing things with his eyes and decided to capture the world around him to show the impact that humans have on one another and the world. This links nicely to my topic as he is in the things humans inhabit due to nature and I am interested in the impact on the more personal things that we inherit from family members and the invisible trace that follows us or who knows what will happen to things.
(https://artofcreativephotography.com/contemporary-photography/marcos-goymil/)

https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/interactive/2013/may/19/power-photography-time-mortality-memory - This article talks about how photographs are taken and how we cherish them, how they live on for time to create further memories. Moments go even as the shutter clicks, photographs

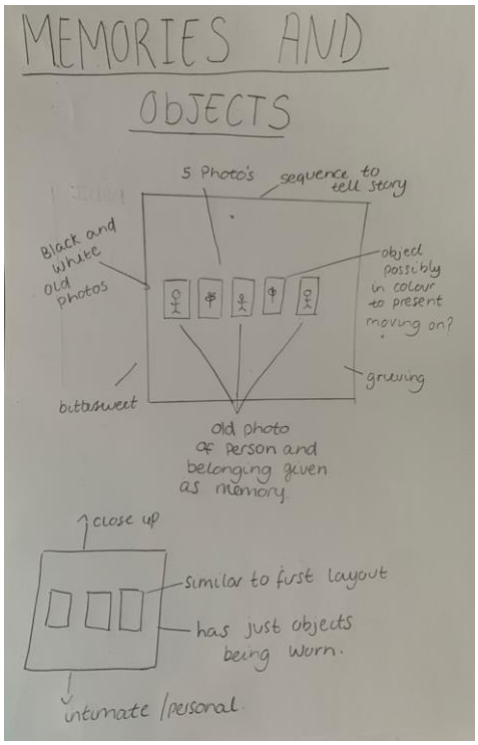
can make you feel connected to the past not only your own but other family members.

<u>How to develop further – rough ideas</u>

Over summer I aim to experiment through this topic and find new ways to develop my ideas, research new ways of photoshopping or editing so that am able to portray what we leave behind. Once we are able to get more photographs from my uncle and explore more in depth with the idea to make it more personal and to feel a connection to my work I will be buying a film camera as well as a disposable camera as I've been told that's how the majority of the old photos were composed. I've only used film once and it was an intriguing process that will make these new photos feel more authentic.

Another idea I want to explore is maybe creating a camera obscure? With old photographs on to myself or my family that reflect who we are or how we have been impacted by the ones we have lost. Or maybe experimenting with a projector.

I have an idea to possibly making a moving image piece using the projector and old stories or objects that have followed through many generations.

Sometimes to get a vision or idea on how to portray my photos I will do a quick basic sketch as a way to get inspired and motivated. Here is a look at the diagram.

Using old photos next to the objects, I feel will add a narrative for the images and add a personal experience.