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Experimental Strategies
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Evaluation

Throughout my topic experimental strategies, I came up with many different ideas to try and work with. I came up with the idea to look at identity and look at the types of identity. When doing this I wanted to look at hidden Identity looking at the photographer Michalina Woźniak. In my opinion I feel that Woźniak looks at hidden identity because she uses mask on her models which to me shows that they are trying to hide something.



Figure 1: Michalina Woźniak. "untitled"

I chose this photo that the photographer took because I like the way that the photographer has a model standing in a mirror with a mask over her face. I like this because it allows you to see how someone is trying to hide who they really are which links to my idea of identity.

Overall after looking at a few different ideas for identity I decided that that topic was not working for me and the images I was taking did not fit with each other. The images that I took would also need to be explained a lot in order for people to understand what I was trying to show. I then decided to look at one of my ideas and develop that one idea further. I decided to look at stereotypes in children because I think that that topic would have had a stronger outcome than if I looked at hidden identity. What I wanted to do was look at a small boy wearing a dress and develop this idea using experimental techniques. I did this because boys are often told that they can wear dresses because they are for girls.

To look at the stereotypes that children face I had to do my research to come up with inspiration and ideas. A photographer that I found that would fit well with my idea was JeonMee Yoon. I wanted to look at her work because she looks at stereotype in children using items and colours that are labelled for a boy or girl.



Figure 2: JeonMee Yoon The Pink and Blue Project, courtesy of the artist”

This is one of the images that Yoon took throughout her project “pink and blue”. I like how this image looks because it shows you that from a young age child are expected to know what colour and items are for girls and boy and that they should like those items because they are labelled for their gender.

I looked closely at Yoon’s work when creating my images because I wanted to make sure that you could see what I am trying to show and made sure that I experimented with my images. I am happy with the outcome of my photos because I created a series of photos of a boy wearing a dress. When I was creating these photos, I made sure that I found someone who enjoyed wearing a dress because that way it allowed all the photos to look natural and not forced. After I took my photos I then decided to play around and experiment with them using the dark room and cyanotypes. I printed my images out onto acetate which I had to do by turning them into black and white and then colour first. I did this because it allowed the lighter areas to look dark and the darker areas to look light. After I had my acetates I went into the dark room and experimented with the exposure and overlaying 2 images onto one which I liked and enjoyed doing because it showed the different technique that I used. I also used cyanotypes and at first I was just using my cyanotype but as I got experimenting I decided to use the crown, wand and neckless that the little boy was wearing and place them onto the cyanotypes as well. After doing some more research on cyanotypes I came across H. LISA SOLON who does wet cyanotypes when she does this by spraying her light sensitive paper with white vinegar and then placing her objects over the paper and exposing to the sun.



Figure 3: H. LISA SOLON “untitled”

This is H. Lisa Solon's image that she created using a wet cyanotype which allowed it to have a washed-out look.

After looking at H. Lisa Salons image I decided to do this but when I created my wet cyanotype I painted my chemicals onto the paper and then put the acetate onto the paper and allowed it to expose under a UV light which I liked because it gave my cyanotypes a new look and allowed them to stand out a lot more.

Overall I am happy with the body of work that I created because all of my images fitted well with each other and there was a lot of experimentation, however there was a lot more experimenting that I wanted to do but was limited with resources because of the current pandemic which is something that I could develop further.

Bibliography:

https://www.boredpanda.com/identity-series-by-polish-photographer-michalina-wozniak/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

<https://www.itsnicethat.com/features/jeongmee-yoon-the-pink-and-blue-project-photography-040319>

<http://www.hlisasolon.com/watergarden.html>

Illustrations:

Figure 1: Michalina Woźniak. "untitled"

Figure 2: JeonMee Yoon The Pink and Blue Project, courtesy of the artist"

Figure 3: H. LISA SOLON "untitled"