

Exhibition 2.0

Photography in the Arts

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In my early stages of my project, I undertook research to help with my ideas and considerations on how to construct the project. Doing so, I explored the work of Erik Kessel's (*Muddy Dance*), Michael Somoroff and August Sander (*Absence of Subject*) and Sally Mann (*Immediate Family*).

Erik Kessels' *Muddy Dance* influenced the techniques I use within my work to change a narrative. In this work, Kessels removes the football from a match, creating a performance that has a slight rhythm to it with how the players, fall, jump and slide. From this, this helped influence the idea of removing a subject from the image and altering the narrative.

Similarly, I was inspired by of Michael Somoroff *Absence of Subject* and how August Sander uses the portraits to create a presence through an absence. The dialogue between Somoroff and Sander is shown through the way Somoroff takes Sander's photos and digitally removes the people from the image. Having the images placed side by side in the book *Absence of Subject*, helps to see closely the differences of what is there and what could be there. Therefore, this influenced with the way I considered the sequencing and format of my images.

Through Sally Manns, *Immediate Family*, I looked into the settings in which her images were taken and her use of minimal text. Her photographs, which feature her three children in their natural home environment, helped my own process of selecting images. I was drawn to the way her children are very comfortable within the familiar setting, despite the controversy of the work. In addition, the use of minimal text allows the viewers interpret the work on their own, something I found inspiring for my approach.

The development of my ideas has changed continuously from the initial ideas. Initially, I wanted to explore the theme of family in this project, building on my first-year project *Threads of Time*. This led me to consider working with childhood images. Through experimentation in Photoshop and feedback received from lecturers, over time I created a body work and clearer plan on the presentation.

The final body of work consists of childhood photographs, paired with versions of the same images where all the people have been removed except for my younger self. The way in which this was displayed was through lenticular prints which were printed externally. Through the effect of the images shifting depending on the viewers angle,

I was able to show the passage of time and highlight the short-lived nature of childhood. The images were printed at a 4x4 inch size and mounted directly to the wall using double sided foam board for secure attachment, adding to the 3D effect and creating a slight depth to the display.

As part of the exhibition planning and set up, I contributed within hospitality area. This role included discussing bar stock, collecting the stock and working on the bar. With previous experience in working on a bar and coffee shop, I was familiar with working in a fast-paced environment. This experience came in hand as I volunteered to have the first bar shift of the exhibition.

When preparing my work for the public display, I considered how viewers would engage with it. I aimed for an experience that encouraged curiosity at a first glance, leading into a deeper reflection as they moved past the images. The lenticular prints invited movement and interaction, which helped to communicate the themes of memory, time and childhood.

Throughout the semester I attended lectures and class discussions that helped me to understand how to exhibit work and write artist statements.

I also expanded my technical skills in photoshop, as well as practical abilities such as mounting work and experimenting with new materials. This process expanded my understanding of presentation and craft within a gallery context.

Overall, this project has been impactful in how I approach making, researching and exhibiting work. It helped with the value of engagement and collaboration whilst most importantly it allowed me to produce a piece that communicates personal yet universal ideas in a visually engaging way. This has prepared me with more technical confidence and a stronger artistic direction, which are qualities that I will continue in support of my development within the creative industry.