Visual Enquiry 1
Sight-specific

Considering the home as a sight for exhibition. We spend a lot of time in our homes, we have connotations, negative and positive, we associate with it as we do with other locations. In our bedrooms we decorate, adjust and move things around, how much do these objects reflect about us? Homes, depending on how long you've lived in one, also carry significant memories. How we interact and interpret a space that is familiar to oneself is what I want to focus this project on. Especially during the current pandemic people are spending a largely increased amount of time at home, day in day out in the same walls and same surroundings, same smells and same people.

History of my home/rationale

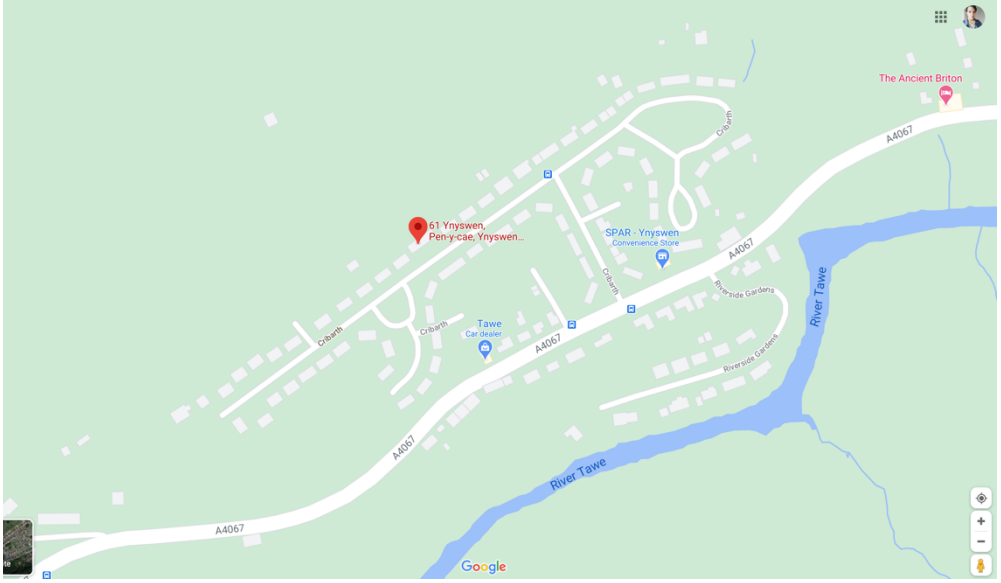
I moved into this council house when I was 12, although I've lived in this village my whole life with my previous house being only a few doors down. I've seen this house change a lot and a lot change within it. Both my brother and sister now live away and I'm sort of the last one left, just me and my mother (and my old dog). I lived here all of my teenage life. I've grown to like these walls, although this wasn't always the case having moved her due to my parents divorcing in sour circumstances that as I a kid I was too young to understand. These are the walls I recovered from my eating disorder in, the walls where I first began my journey with art, the walls where I felt safe enough to finally come out and start living a life I hoped would be better for me. But I know that these walls don't contain only my life, they've homed maybe people's lives, or sections of lives depending on how you look at it. I've always been intrigued by people who say they moved around a lot in their teens because I couldn't imagine growing up anywhere else.

A teenager puts a lot of themselves into their room, plastered on every wall with blue tack which will inevitably peel the wallpaper off. Everything I put into the room was stored away as it was repainted, everything I collected over the years gone. It feels weird being back now, in my 20s, like a part of me is missing, like it's a reminder that I'm not a kid anymore no matter how much I certainly don't feel like an adult. I feel almost like I'm invading my own home as my own belongings being to fill up my room again, like I'm overstaying my welcome at a friend's house.

Aim for the project

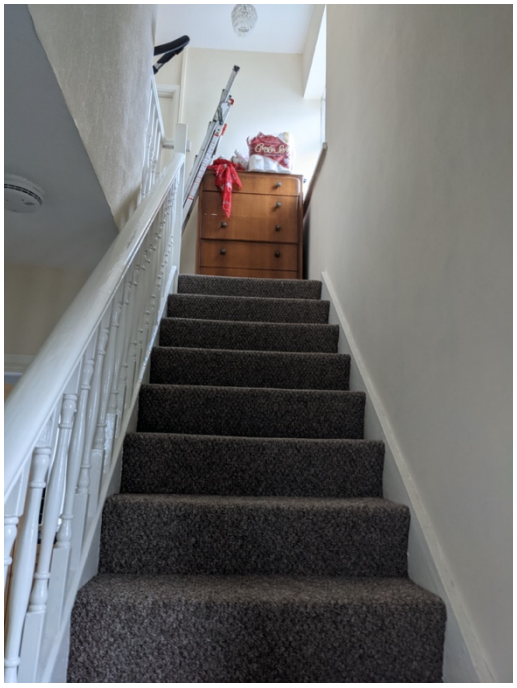
Within this project I want to explore a few things. Feeling of being stuck in a place, like your life belongs there in a sort of way. I also want to explore materiality and study some of my possessions and how they can show you these little glimpses into a person. I also want to use unconventional ways of photographing, like using my scanner as I only have a polaroid camera and scanner at hand so I want to see how I can experiment with these to convey my home. Ultimately, it's a reflection of feeling and space, how the two intertwine and how we respond to that intertwining.

Location



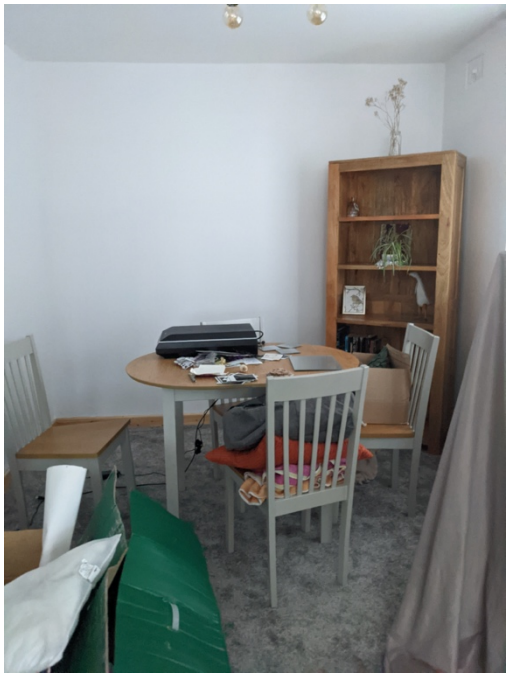
My house is located in a small village in a pretty secluded area, you can't really get anywhere unless you have a car or get the bus which comes once every 2 hours. I've always felt isolated living here and I suppose that feeds into the isolation I feel when im in my room, alone, too.

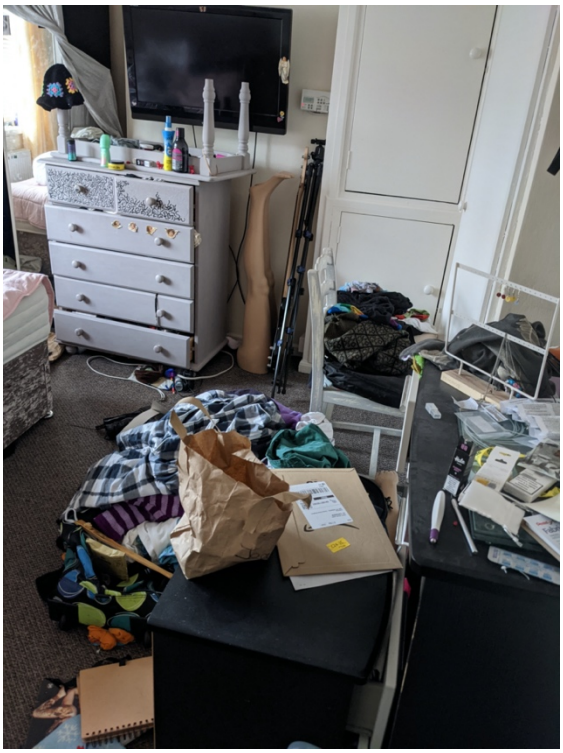
Environment

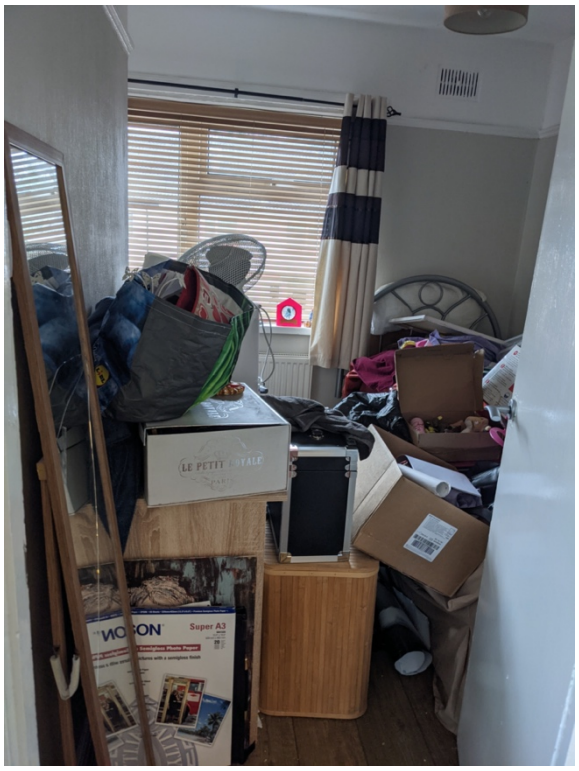


I went around my house with my phone just to sort of study my environment in a quick, flow-like way. I wanted to do it naturally, I didn't clean up or try to make things looked nice because that isn't what my house is like.

Sometimes my house feels cold, chaotic, messy, cluttered and dishevelled. People feel shame when it comes to your house, once I moved out of my childhood home i got used to this environment. My mother suffers from depression and so do I so it can be hard to keep on top of simple things, I've grown to be less ashamed because I think it just shows how real it is? The house is lived in, a comfortable place despite what others may think of the "mess".







Spare room used to store belongings.

My main reaction for this project is to my bedroom in the context of my house as a whole. It's unorganised and sort of messy, which I think reflects myself. I go through phases of cleaning it but it ends up the same unorganised manner a week or two later.

My idea for the actual exhibition if I were to actually do one would be to have the images on the empty spaces on my wall, reflecting in the environment around them, amongst the mess.

The photos would be printed maybe A3 so they would stand out and not just look like posters on the wall.

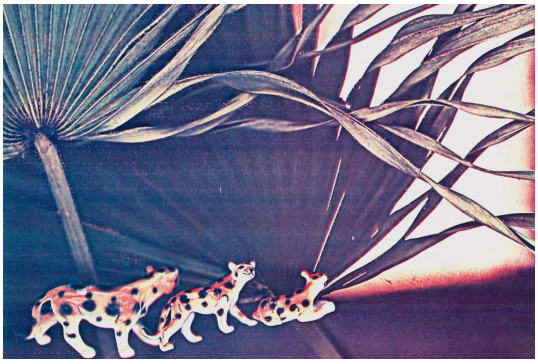
Artist research

Tracey Emin- My Bed (1998)

Tracey Emin's most famous piece, My Bed, was an instillation piece she constructed after a depressive episode where she remained in bed for 4 days consuming only alcohol. She looked at the mess she slowly accumulated and was inspired to make this piece. To me it shows the rawness and unromantic side of depression and isolation. It's unkept and unsightly. This is a controversial piece, many people think well "I could've don't that" to which tracey replies "well, you didn't I did!" type attitude.

Her work sort of shows how the "mundane" can say a lot about someone or a period of time, which is something I want to put across in my experiments for this project.

Lesley Schliff- Photocopier art in 1981



Schliff is one of many arists who began experimenting with photocopier "art" dubbed "xerox" art after the brand of copier. Utilising household items and an office appliance to create compositions. My scanner is one of only two things available to me (my polaroid camera) besides my phone I can use to capture my surroundings. She produced most of her xerox art during the early 1980s. I like how she uses objects and creates scenes. I want to use a

mixture of scanner art and combine it with other images, perhaps using it as a background to another image or something to set a scene.

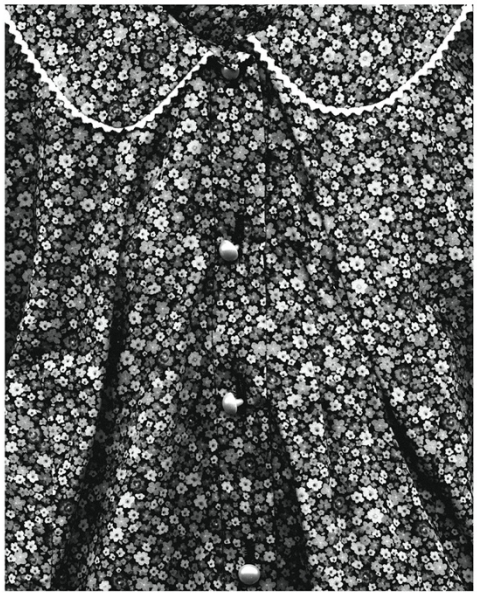
Nobuyoshi Araki- Polaroid works

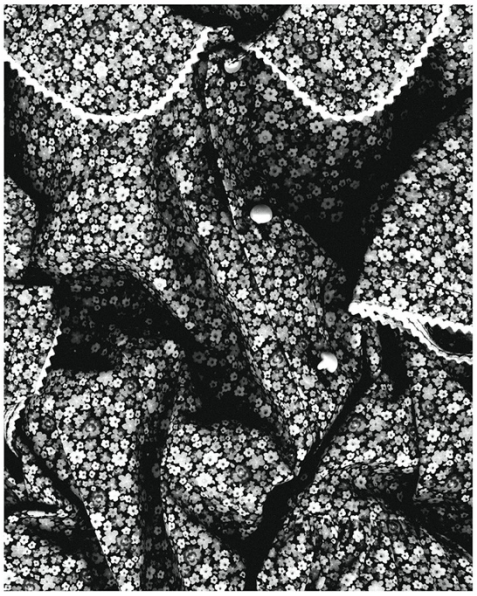
Although Araki's work often centres around images of fetish and sexual topics I like his polaroid cut-up's, they're simple but striking and have this subtly soft look to them. I want to use my polaroid camera to capture my house, the mess and myself and sort of pair them together as if I'm merging into my surroundings. When two images our placed together our brain interprets them as one initially which I think works because this project is about how significant the home is and how you're sort of a part of it.

Based on these artists research experimentation I'll use different processes to try and reflect my environment and how it reflects me too. It's a personal reflection, but I think it can be relatable to people who experience depression and isolation as well as the fact that these days we're being made to spend more and more time inside and often this disrupts routine and leads to feeling sort of all over the place. I also want my work to utilise different techniques as well as convey a sense of repetitiveness to represent the amount of time spent at home.

I produced 7 experiments with cut up polaroid's that interpret myself and the space. I also wrote something under each to sort of give it a more personal feel and insight into how I feel within the home.

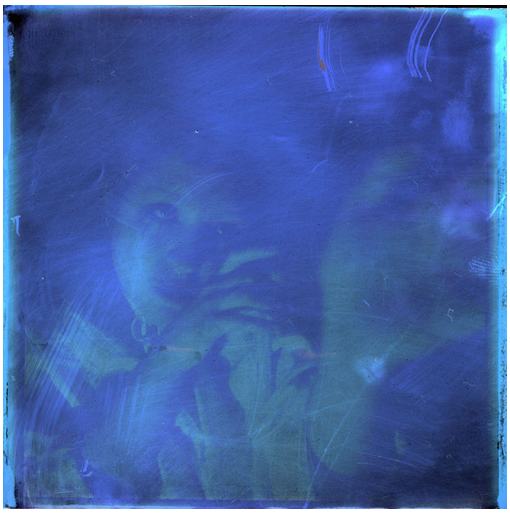
I also experimented with scanning objects in my room and overlaying images of myself.





Clean and Unclean

I then did a couple of experiments with scanning more things in my room, this time clothes, and pairing that with handwritten words.



And then included a couple of images that are less about the objects and more about feeling related to the location