

Visual Studies 2

Libby Turner

Fugitive Testimony Image:



The image above is the photograph that I randomly chose. Shown in the photo in two identical images both with 3 donkeys in a landscape. The reasoning behind having two identical images is to create something called a stereoscopic. Using lenses over the two images will create a 3D image creating the stereoscopic image. When looking at the image, I was stumped on what to deconstruct of the image to then build upon in my own work however I decided to look into the idea of using two images next to each other to follow the same idea of stereoscopic and use trial and error to see what images work best.

According to Fixthephoto website (Tata Rossi, 2025), a stereoscopic image 'is when two slightly offset photos are combined into one three-dimensional picture. This effect is created based on the stereopsis principle. Our eyes are situated in different locations and see various pics. As a result, the difference between these images enables us to perceive depth.' The idea of this art form came the idea of solid vision (binocular) in which many animals and humans have. Its first appearance was in 1830 by a man named Sir Charles Wheatstone who was the first to create an original binocular-type apparatus. In order to create these imagery illusions, they had to create a device which forced each eye to look at a separate image. The device was made from a small box, two lenses with a 2.5 inch gap between them, holes on the side of the small box for light to seep through and finally a slot at the end to allow for images to be slid into place. However, with this layout came problems including headaches being cause from the tension of having both eyes focus on two images and then join them as one.

Attempt 1

Man Ray- Untitled Rayograph, 1922



The image to the left consists of a photogram which was made in the darkroom. This is created by placing objects on top of a piece of light sensitive paper and using an enlarger to expose light upon the objects and paper.

It intrigued me how you can't tell what the objects are within the photogram due to only getting the outline of them. One quote I found from Man Ray was 'I would photograph an idea rather than an object, a dream rather than an idea.' (A-Z Quotes, n.d.). I chose this quote as in my opinion it perfectly reflects the image I chose as you cannot tell what the photograph is of. This shows that his style of photography is personal to him as an artist. This enables the audience to interpret the image themselves and have their own opinion on what they see. I want to explore this during the creation of my work as it allows the audience to interact more within the image and its meaning.

When looking at the image I see what looks to be a slinky along with a lens at the bottom right reflecting the light/shadow across the paper adding that torchlike effect. There also appears to be smoke at the top making me question, what Man Ray used to create this effect. As this was created in 1922, I would presume that it is cigarette smoke as smoking was allowed in all places during that era.

William Eggleston- Untitled, Circa 1983-86

This image was photographed by William Eggleston using a DSLR camera. This photograph depicts a table in an old-fashioned diner with a checkered tablecloth. On the table are classic condiments like salt, pepper, ketchup, mustard, and a red glass container that I believe to be a candle, lit by sunlight from a nearby window.



The photograph was taken in a way that puts focus on the objects on the table, drawing the viewers' attention to them and using the negative space around the objects to give emphasis on the various things on the table. Another way Eggleston does this is by having everything else, like the pavement and the chair on the left, out of focus. Reinforcing my idea that he wanted the full attention on the objects. I believe that Eggleston was using the rule of thirds due to the objects being slightly to the right-hand side of the image as well as using the sugar containers left side and the window beams right hand border to split this image into 3 sections.

I find it interesting that all the objects are different however still grouped together, possibly showing that he wanted to give the viewer a subconscious thought about the way people think about minorities and segregation due to the time period this photograph was taken in, as well as the shadows being a group, further supporting my theory of this image.

Stephen Gill- Hackney Flowers, 2007

Stephen Gill- Talking to Ants, 2009-13



The images to the left were taken by Stephen Gill using a DSLR camera where the left-hand image shows an overlay between two different photographs, and the image on the right was created by placing a piece of nature in the lense and then taking the image. This creates two different types of overlay. One which is created in post-production and one whilst taking the image itself.

Both overlays were created in a way that you could still see the background giving the viewer an insight to where the images were taken. The image 'Talking to ants' uses contrast between the darkness of the nature between the two lenses and the light background to create depth, showing the viewer that it is a naturally created photograph, whereas the strict colour scheme of the photo to the left shows how it was edited after taking it.



I chose these two photographs as I was very intrigued by the differences between the creations of them whilst still keeping a running theme of nature between the two. Another reason I chose the pair was because I admire how Gill can use a variety of techniques in his work. Both images contain contrast in two different ways, the first being the difference with how new the plants look compared to the derelict background and wall. Whereas the second image shows the contrast between light and dark, whilst still keeping the theme of nature as the primary focus.

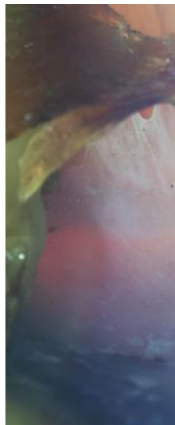
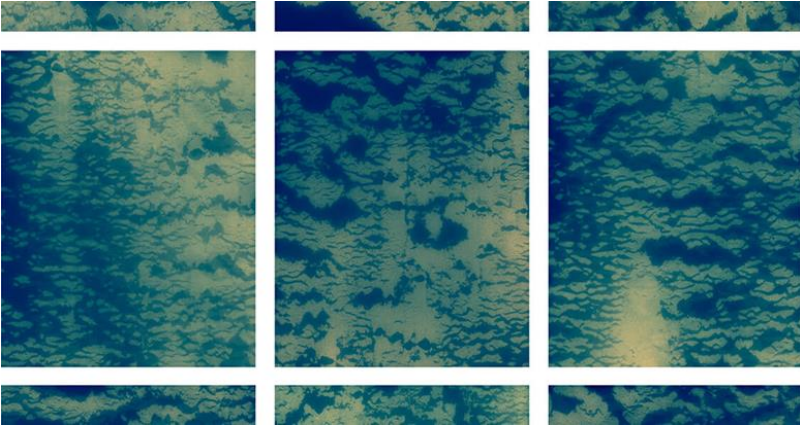
Stephen Shore, U.S. 1, Arundel Maine, July, 1974, 1974



The image taken by Stephen Shore in 1974 shows a deserted gas station. The image stood out to me by how isolated and lonely the image feels. The time period in which the image was taken shows through the image due to the phone box in the frame.

The phone box and signs have been placed near the centre of the frame making them the main focus. As well as the fact that there is lots of emptiness in the image showing the phone box and signs as the only sign of life there. This reinforces the idea of Shore wanting the image to look lonely.

A quote from Shore that stood out to me was 'I wanted to make pictures that felt natural, that felt like seeing, that didn't feel like taking something in the world and making a piece of art out of it.' (A-Z Quotes, 2015). This quote stood out to me as when looking at the image to the left, Shore didn't try make the location seem anything more than what it really is, empty.



Object

Objects have a feel



Image

Images fool us



Excursion

Excursions disorientate

Reason for why I picked excersion:



Eugene Atget. Coin de la rue Valette et Panthéon, 5e arrondissement, matinée de mars. 1925



The reason behind the choice of image is due to the emptiness of the frame. The image shows the location of one of Paris's busiest streets however it looks empty due to the artist, Eugene Atget, using a low shutter speed to remove all of the people that were walking through.

This shows how he wanted to give the feeling and emotion of loneliness and emptiness. I chose this photo specifically as it brings comfort to me as it shows how even in one of the busiest street of Paris, one can still feel alone when surrounded by strangers.

I think others would feel that as well when seeing the piece as in my experiences with other people, I have discovered that many feel alone even when in a group or with friends.

Stephen Shore, U.S. 1, Arundel Maine, July, 1974, 1974



With Shore including the sign and phone box within the frame as the main focus it makes the viewer perceive the two objects as almost human. With this contrasting the empty background it makes the image look lonely and scarce.

I really like this photo as it contrast the previous image as the one taken by Atget removed the people by choice through his technique whereas this image shows how Shore didn't have to do that as there was nobody around conveying the loneliness within himself.

Again, this bring the viewer a sense of comfort and allows them to relate to how Shore was feeling at the time of taking the photograph.

Artist Study: Viv Collis, Women's Work, 2025



The image to the right shows one of many photographs from Viv Collis's exhibit named Women's Work. This exhibit really stood out to me as not only did it include images from present day, but she also included photographs from years ago showing the development in Women working in the world.

The main story that I got from this work is that women aren't just housewives and are capable of much more. Due to this being an exhibit open to the public and schools, I feel as though it will help young girls understand that they can be anything when they are older and opens up their knowledge on different jobs in the world. This exhibit goes against the stereotypical view on women and presents reality to the audience.

Artist Study: Viv Collis, Women's Work, 2025



To link this to a theory, we can use Marxism's views upon gender equality, This can be seen through the quote '1. Gender is a product of the division of labour within a capitalist society... 3. The capitalist class benefits from mainting gender roles and stereotypes.' (MrSociology, 2024). Using this quote, we can see how stereotypes are common within photography and other art mediums however using Collis's work with this quote shows how overtime stereotypes have been changed and have been forgotten about. This breaks the capitalist view upon gender roles and shows the marxist theory in action.

Plan for Shoot- Aim

The purpose of this shoot was to create a visual showcase based on my chosen theme of 'emptiness' while also improving my image editing skills. I aimed to capture scenes that reflected a sense of isolation or absence, using composition and lighting to convey the mood. To support this, I chose to use a DSLR camera instead of a film camera, as it allowed for greater flexibility in both shooting and post-production. This decision also helped me become more confident with digital photography techniques and editing software like Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.

Plan for Shoot: Location

For this shoot, I chose a location in which was isolated within the busy town centre. I found this location by walking around the town and noting down possible places for the shoot.

This idea of the locations came from my research photos of excersion as both images showed loneliness. The first research image by Atget gave me the inspiration to find a busy location and turn it into something deserted and flip the narrative of the place.

The images to the right show the map and street view of the location I picked. As you can see, there are a lot of buildings in the area representing that this location isn't as abandoned as I will make it. The location is located round the back of a Uni campus as well as being right next to town centre. This meant that the street would be used a lot due to students going from town to uni, cars travelling through as well as busses dropping students and the public of nearby.



Plan for Shoot- Equipment

For this shoot, plan to shoot on a digital camera, more specifically a canon 1300D. This is due to that camera being my own allowing me to use it whenever I can and not having to worry about loaning it out from Uni. By using a digital camera, it allows me to manipulate the images more using photoshop. This will make it so I can use postproduction to make my images match my idea that I got from my research photos.



The contact sheet on the left displays the images from my planned shoot. Upon reflection, I believe there is clear room for improvement, particularly in terms of the number of photos taken. One of the strengths of the shoot was going during the week, which resulted in a quieter environment—something that aligned well with my theme of ‘emptiness.’

However, to better communicate this theme, I would need to capture a wider range of shots that highlight the openness of the landscape and surrounding environment, rather than focusing too narrowly on specific details. The next few slides include some images I decided to leave out, as I felt they did not effectively contribute to the overall concept.

I chose to leave this image out because the bright pink bin in the foreground was too visually dominant and distracting. Its bold colour drew attention away from the intended focal point of the photograph—the dusty red door—which was meant to convey a sense of abandonment and emptiness.

Additionally, the composition felt overly cluttered, with the bin in the foreground making the surrounding space appear cramped rather than open. This went against the theme I was aiming to capture, as the image lacked the sense of space and stillness that characterises the rest of the series.



This image didn't effectively show the surrounding environment and didn't match the theme I was aiming for. Instead of conveying a sense of emptiness, it gave off more of an abandonment vibe.

There wasn't a clear focal point, which made it difficult to use negative space in a meaningful way. Because of this, I felt the image didn't contribute to the overall concept and decided to leave it out.



I decided to leave this image out for reasons similar to those mentioned on the previous slide. While it technically met some of the visual criteria I had in mind, it ultimately didn't align with the overall theme I was trying to explore.

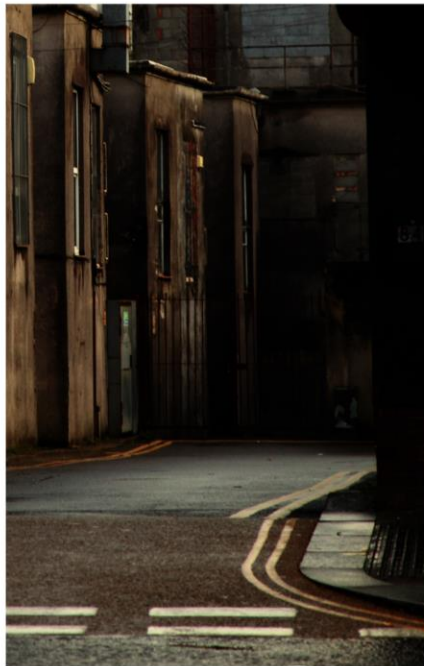
When I revisited the image during the editing process, I found the composition quite flat and lacking in visual interest. It didn't evoke any particular feeling or atmosphere, and I struggled to connect with it on a creative level. As a result, I felt it didn't contribute anything meaningful to the final series and chose not to include it.



Attempt 1:



The images to the left show the before and after of my first attempt. In post-production, I started by cropping the image in to just show the alleyway. This cut out the bush and sign-post. This made the image link toward my research image from Atget in which shows no sign of human life and instead just an empty street. I duplicated the image twice in the final edit to link to my starting image of the stereoscopic donkeys where two images put into a device will create one image with depth just like our eyes do.



Using levels I decreased the brightness and then increased the contrast of the image to create a darker atmosphere within the image. This gives the image a sense of horror in which some people would feel scared to walk down it. Although this is different from the research images of emptiness and loneliness I feel as though I still gives that feel to it due to it people avoiding the area cause of the dark atmosphere lurking.

Attempt 1:

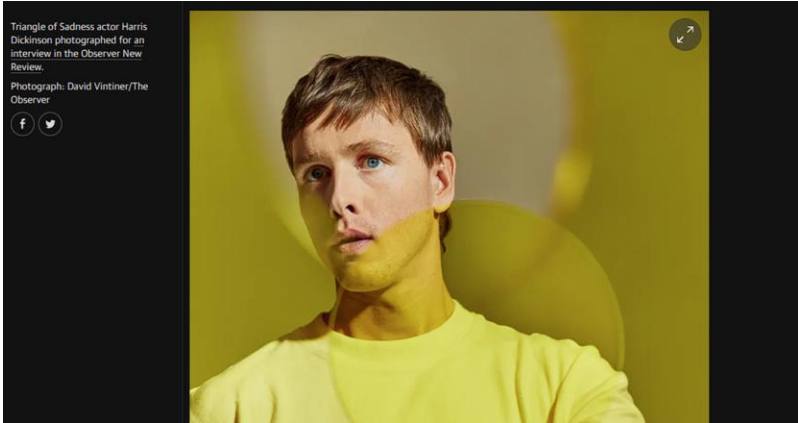


The images to the left show the before and after of the first attempt. Like my previous image I went for a darker atmosphere within a location that shows no human life. I did the same layout as the first image to try replicate a stereoscopic image in line with my initial image of the donkeys.



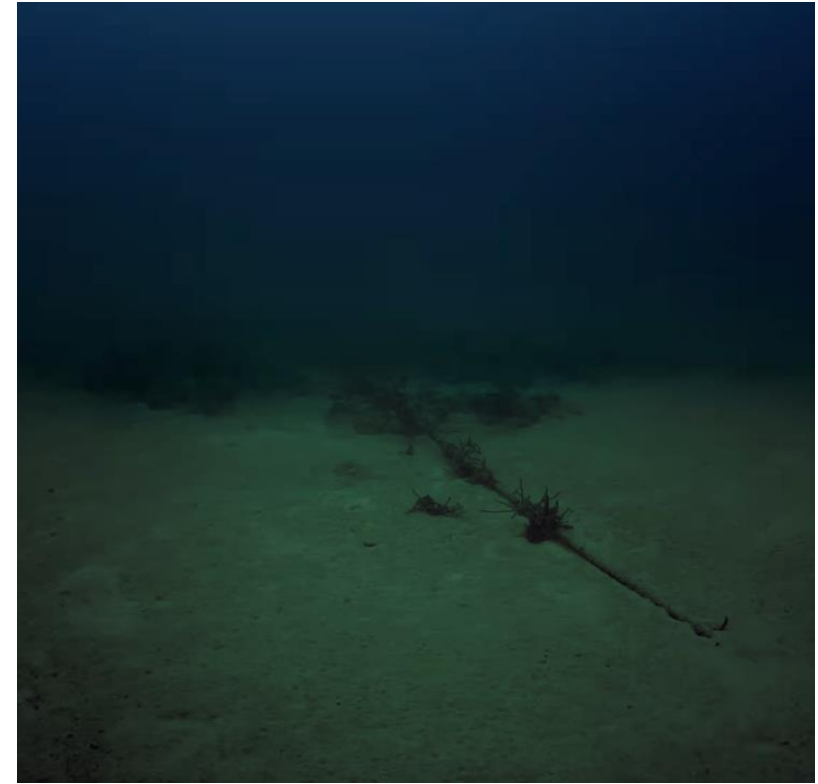
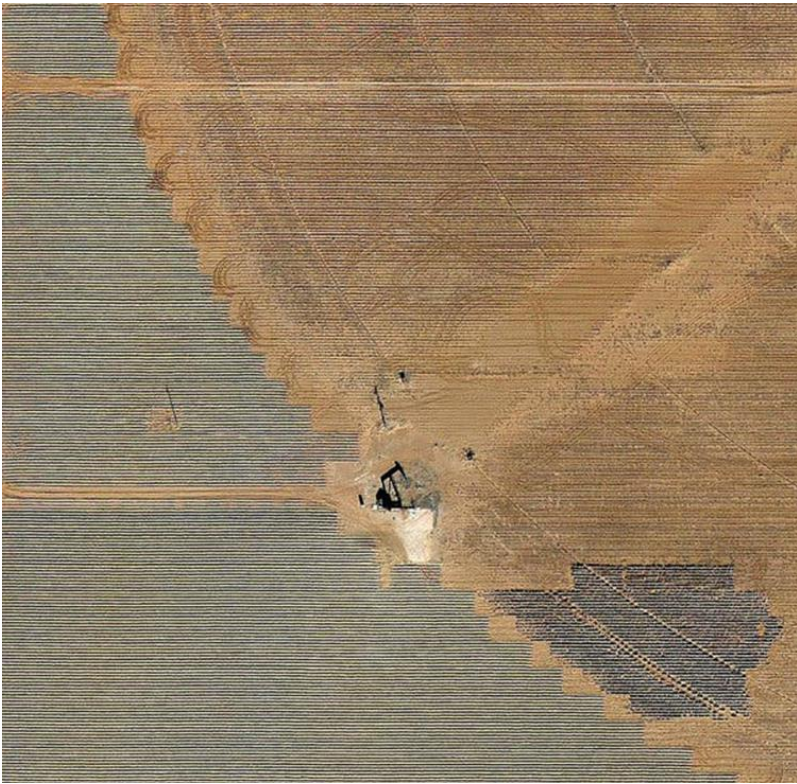
During the post-production process, I used photoshop to manipulate my images. This included darkening the levels, increasing the contrast as well as increasing the saturation of the image. This resulted in my image having lots of colour as well as emphasizing the darkness in the corridor. By doing these edits it has given a horror aspect as well as suspense as to not knowing what is in the dark area of the photo.

Attempt 2



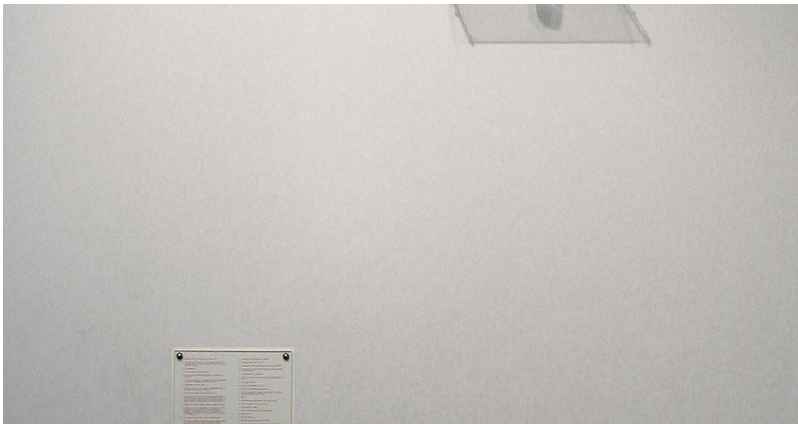
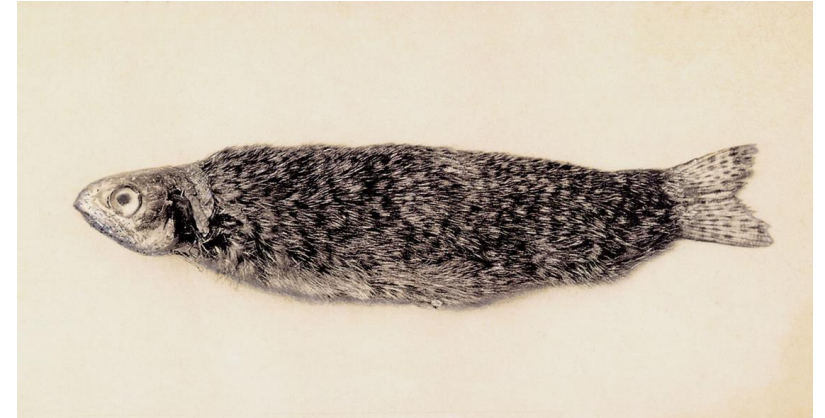
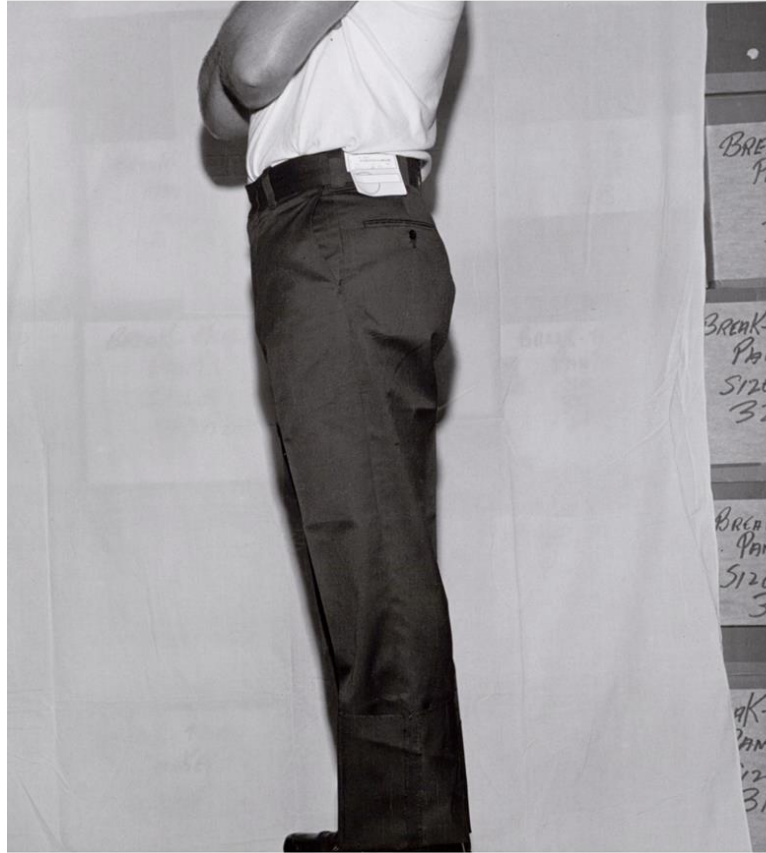
Discussion

Discussion expands our viewpoint



Information

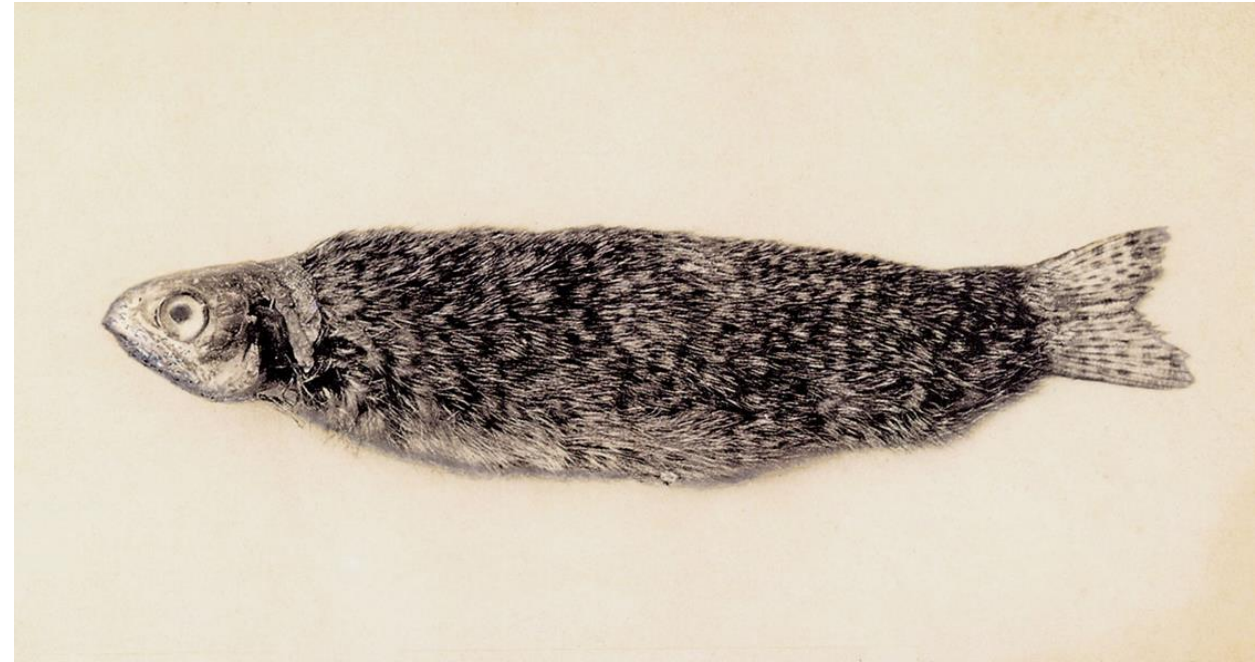
Information shapes our perception



Theory

Theory is an argument with reality

Reason for why I picked Theory:



Craig Martin – An Oak Tree – 1973.



The image to the right shows an exhibit project including a cup on a shelf. The project was named An Oak tree. At first this confused me as I couldn't understand how a cup of water on a shelf could be a tree.

However, after discussing the project in class, it was made clear that it was the viewer's interpretation of the project and some will think differently to others about the exhibit.

This gave me inspiration to look into creating a piece of work in which people will view it in different ways and will create an illusion set piece on not knowing what is really happening in the image. This will question the audience on what is real and what is fake.

Joan Fontcuberta – Hairy Trout from Lake Clifford. 1984



My second inspiration came from Joan Fontcuberta with the image of a Hairy Trout from Lake Clifford in 1984. A quote that goes along side this image which also contributed to the inspiration of my project was 'Reality does not exist by itself. It's an intellectual construction; and photography is a tool to negotiate our idea of reality.' This led into me thinking about creating something that wasn't real such as something not even there.

My work shows this inspiration as some of the images are empty with lots of negative space. My idea was to allow the audience to create their own reality within the work. This leads to each individual having a different view upon the work with each person seeing different things.

Plan for Shoot- Aim

For this shoot I will be continuing my previous idea of shooting locations that are empty and isolated from the business of town. However, I will change how I will edit the images. Instead of creating stereoscopic images I am going to focus more on the suspense and illusions that images hold. This was inspired by horror movies and how the illusionary images create narrative to the movie.

Plan for Shoot: Location

For this shoot, I chose a location in which was isolated within the busy town centre. I found this location by walking around the town and noting down possible places for the shoot.

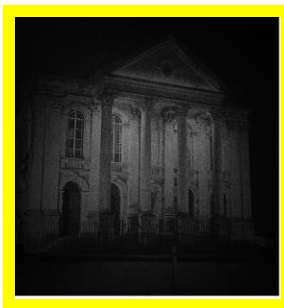
This idea of the locations came from my research photos of excersion as both images showed loneliness. The first research image by Atget gave me the inspiration to find a busy location and turn it into something deserted and flip the narrative of the place.

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Plan for Shoot- Equipment

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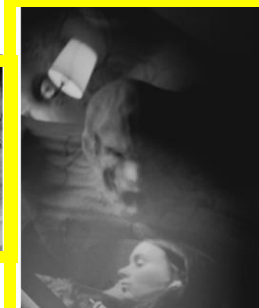
2.jpg



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20250212_173148~2.jpg



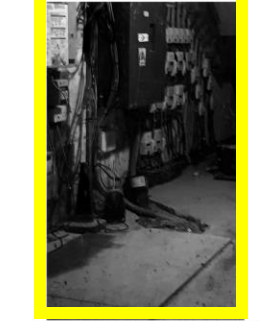
20250212_173200~2.jpg



20250213_200608.jpg



20250213_200617.jpg



20250213_200848.jpg



20250213_200848.tif



20250213_200853.jpg



20250213_201025.jpg



20250213_201036.jpg



20250213_201036.tif



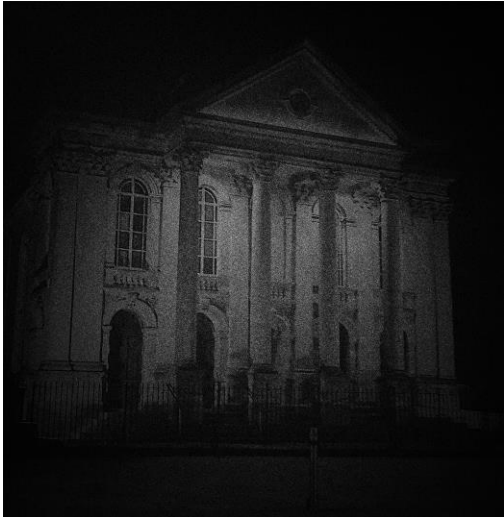
IMG_9804.JPG



IMG_9807.JPG

The contact sheet to the left shows the results of my second shoot of this project. It consisted of continuing my initial ideas from shoot 1 as well as some other ideas. When gaining feedback from the first shoot, I decided to look into the horror aspect of photos and the suspense that they can hold. This is the reason why I chose to turn some images black and white and edit them to make them fit the theme better.

Within the contact sheet there are many images I didn't pick, these included image 5 and 7 for example. This decision was made due to the fact that they do not fit with the rest of the images, and I wanted my images to make the viewer question what is happening, and I felt like these images did not fit with that atmosphere.



Attempt 2 Evaluation

I really enjoyed creating and looking at this attempt as I believe it shows cases my aim very well in how some images make the audience question what is happening in them. Two of the photos in the final edits are screenshots of movies to create the narrative of not knowing what is real and what is fake linking to the idea of illusions.

To edit these images, I used photoshop and increased the contrast within the photos. I also decided to turn them black and white so the colour of the images doesn't distract the audience from the narrative of them. It also adds to the illusions that the photographs make.

Improvements on Attempt 2

Attempt 2 Improvements

After looking back on my previous attempts, I feel as though the second attempt went the best. This has led me to carry on with this and take more images along the same idea. In the previous results I used multiple images from movies however I want to steer away from that and create my own images along the theme of horror and illusions.

To create the illusions, I want to edit the images in a way that you can't tell what some of them are. I will most likely include one screenshot from a movie to help create the meaning of not knowing what is real and what is fake.

Plan for exhibition

For my exhibition I have chosen to mount my work onto MDF. These will be small squares making the viewer move to view the images making them more emerged into the work. When mounting I will be painting the edges of the MDF black to help blend it with the images. To help with this I have attended workshops including mounting to allow me to understand the process more. This allows me to experiment with different techniques before and during the process of making my work.

When Planning how I was going to present my work, I originally had the idea of having a dark room with a flashing light however after gathering feedback from others, it was made clear that it would over sell the horror aspect and give it away to quickly.

Design Team

In the process of doing the exhibit I took on the roles of being in the design and creation team. Within the design team, no one had a certain role and instead we worked together in order to create a poster, signage, and logo. In the end we came to an agreement that Rebecca's design would be the one we would pick. I have learnt that by working in a group, many people will have different ideas and so it is hard to come to a decision.

This also led to my ideas not being seen and thrown aside due to everyone else pushing their ideas in the group to be seen. It was definitely a struggle at some points however it taught me a lot about working in a group as well as what goes into the designing of the exhibit.

OCULUS

This exhibition marks an exciting milestone for our first-year photography students as they showcase the outcomes of a year rich with exploration, experimentation, and critical inquiry. Each body of work in *Oculus* highlights the development of an individual photographic voice, thoughtfully engaging with themes central to personal creative interests.

This exhibition embodies the diverse approaches and unique perspectives of our dynamic photographic community at Swansea College of Art, UWTSD.

Mae'r arddangosfa hon yn garreg filltir gyffrous i'n myfyrwyr ffotograffiaeth blwyddyn gyntaf wrth iddynt arddangos canlyniadau blwyddyn sy'n gyforiog o archwilio, arbrofi ac ymholi beirniadol. Mae pob corff o waith yn *Oculus* yn amlygu datblygiad llais ffotograffig unigol, gan ymgysylltu'n feddylgar â themâu sy'n ganolog i ddiddordebau creadigol personol. Mae'r arddangosfa hon yn ymgorffori dulliau amrywiol a safbwyntiau unigryw ein cymuned ffotograffig ddeinamig yng Ngholeg Celf Abertawe, Y Drindod Dewi Sant.

Ryan Eynon-Moule

Head of Undergraduate Photography
Pennaeth Astudiaethau Ffotograffiaeth Israddedig

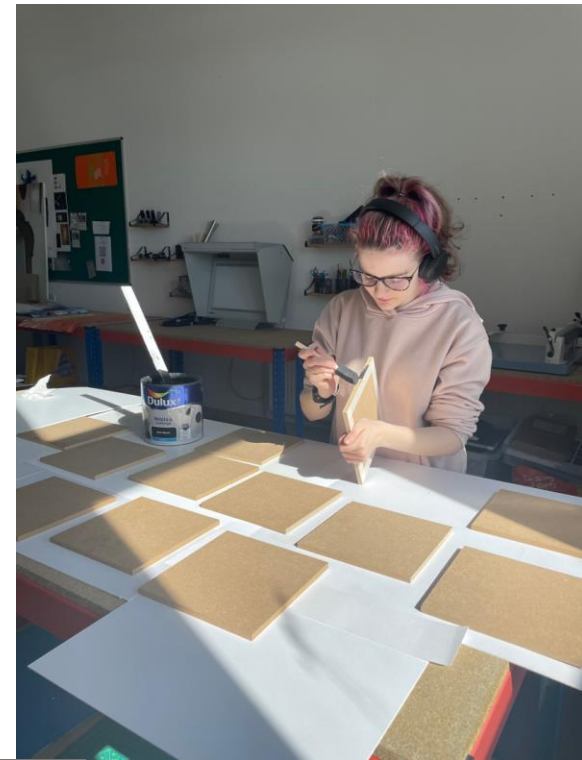


Development of exhibition

In order to mount the images on MDF it took a lot of work. I prepared the MDF first by getting it cut down to size and painting the edges black. I made sure to be prepared for mess ups and brought an extra 2 pieces just in case. This ended up being the best idea as I messed up multiple attempts which led me to have to use one of the spares.

Due to being the only one mounting on MDF, I didn't have a lot of confidence that it would go well as I had only done it once before. However, after a few attempts and some help from friends and technicians I managed to complete all 9 before the exhibition date.

I had to reprint 3 images due to different mistakes, these were: heating the image too long in the heat press, rough edge cutting and the heating wand being left on the image by accident without a protective sheet underneath. These mistakes allowed me to learn different techniques which then gave me the better results. For example, to stop getting rough edges when trimming them, you should cut them on glass instead of paper as it allows the knife to glide better giving a cleaner cut.



Final stages of the preparations

Before I could put my work up in my allocated space I first had to prep the space. This included taking down previous work, filling in holes from nails and screws, sanding and painting. I was allocated to help paint the studio space with Rebecca, Millie and Amelia.

By doing these preparations it made me realize how much actually goes into creating an exhibit. Painting the spaces was very fun and as a perfectionist I refused to move on till no spot was left unpainted.

The final stage of the preparations was cleaning, This meant mopping the floors to get rid of spilled paint, collecting all the sandpaper and scrap pieces into a pile so they would be easier to put away.

Fugitive Testimonies Final images

Illusionary Frames

Artist Statement:

Libby Turner

Illusionary Frames was created by Turner to discover the different perspectives that an image can have. They used a mixture of techniques to create an illusion type imagery which distorts the viewer's perspective. The atmosphere and viewer's own interpretations will change the story and view of the imagery making it unique to each individual.

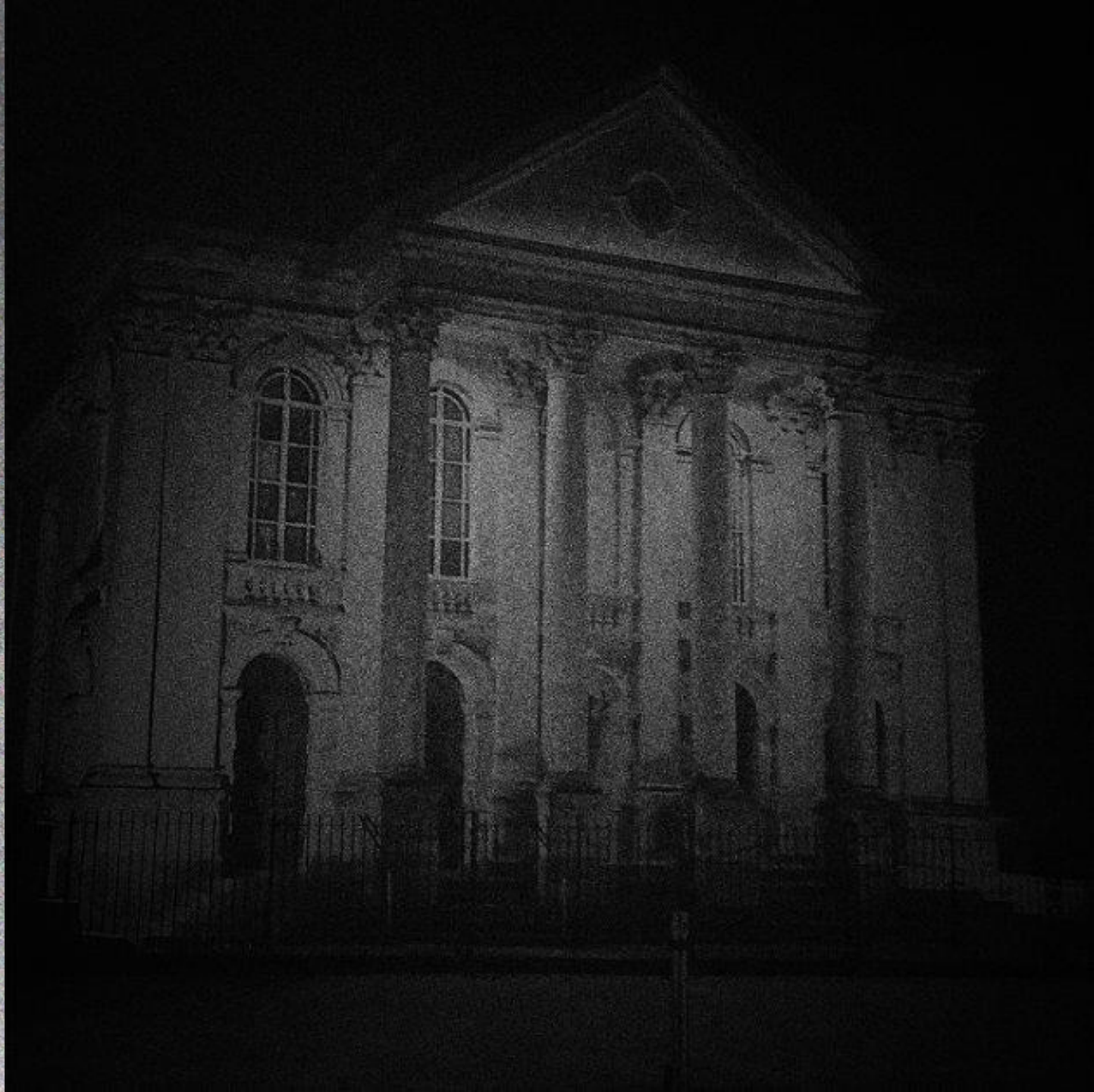
From her love of horror, Turner experimented with technical codes- such as lighting and editing- to help form a narrative. These cinematic elements are used within Turner's experiments to intrigue and engage the viewer as well as blur the line between reality and illusion.



Layout:

My exhibition work consisted of 9 images mounted onto 20X20cm MDF boards. I wanted to keep the images small so the audience had to move to each individual image to see them. This allows them to be viewed individually but also together as, as the viewer moves to the next image a narrative and story can be created linking the images together.

I separated the images into a sequence of 1,3,1,3,1 to show a beginning, middle and end to the piece and narrative that the images hold. There were three dark images which I placed as the solo images to make them stand out from the others.







EWIE
EVANSO

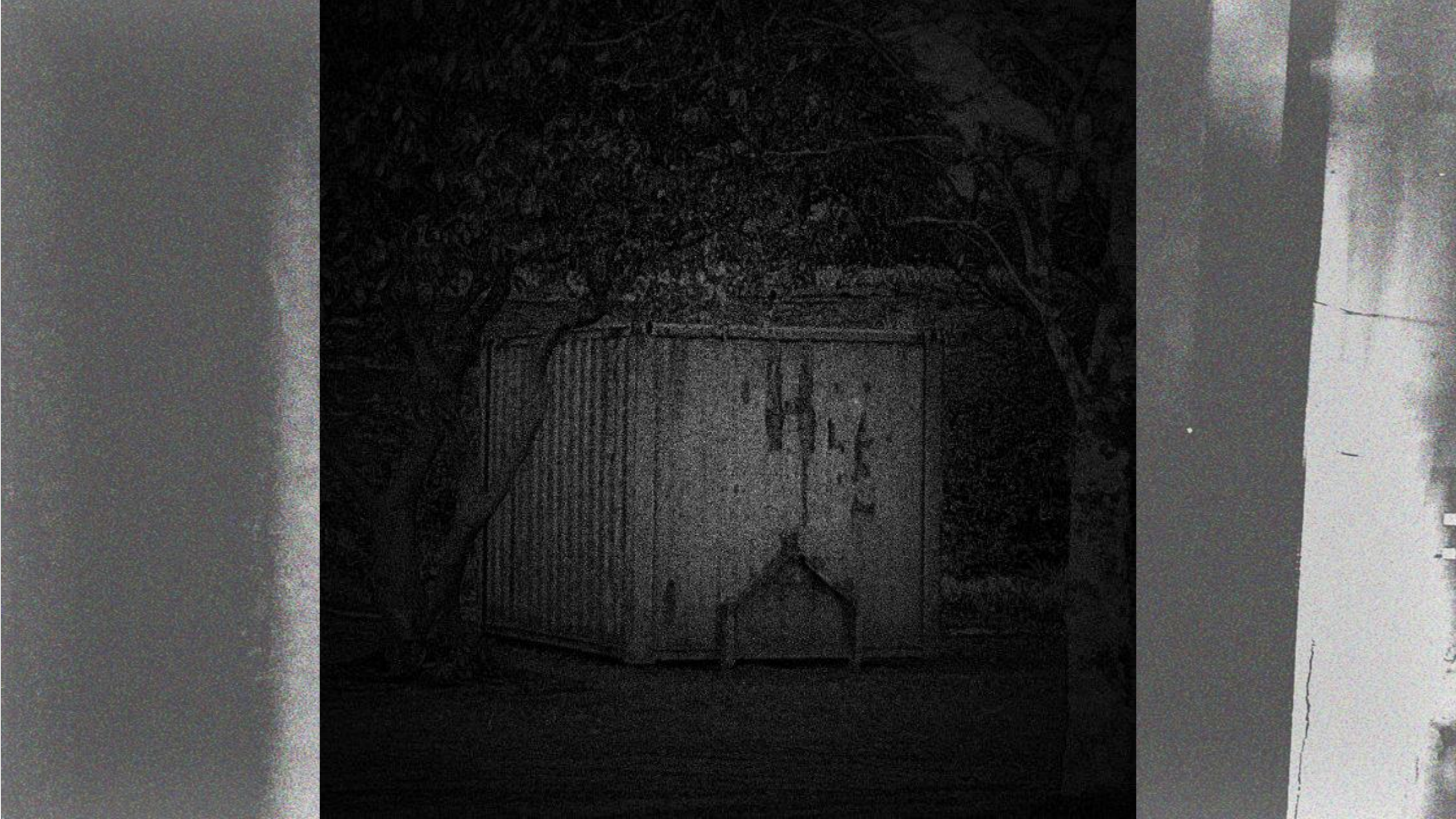
LILY











My experience of the Exhibit

Looking back at the exhibit that I did, I am very pleased with the outcome. I had many people intrigued on what some of the images were which was part of my aim within creating them. Having them presented in the way that they were was the best idea as it allowed people to walk to each image viewing them individually while also looking at them as a whole piece together. This allows them to create a narrative as they go through each photo.

I don't think there is anything I would want to change about the project as I believe it shows everything that I intended to do in the first place however next year I would like to experiment with other mediums in how to present them. This involves using vinyl instead of MDF mounting.