Name: Ann Dineen

Student Number: 1903613

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Individual Practice

The starting point for my project was the short story by Margaret Attwood, Happy Endings (1983). It is essentially 6 stories in one, focusing on the two main characters John and Mary and creating different narratives on how they meet and what happens in their life. The only common thing in each version of their life is that they die. The interesting part is what happens along the way.

My idea from this was that we all have stories in us, we all make choices in our life that lead us down a certain path whatever that maybe. Traditionally our expectations may have been to meet the love of our lives, get married, settle down and have kids, version A in Margaret Attwood's, Happy Endings (1983) but life isn't that simple and its full of complexities and decisions to be made. Following a career, choosing to travel or just dropping out of life, along the way we experience so many ups and downs, heartbreak, illness, accidents, struggles with mental health, struggles with finances but all these things shape the person we are.

I likened it to moving into your very first home, you start with a blank canvas and over the years you start to fill it with things you like, things that say something about you, we often buy items that remind us of our favourite places such as paintings or ornaments, if we have hobbys quite often evidence of this will be around our home. I wanted to capture an essence of this in my images and particularly wanted to make them cinematic in style. I

loved the work of Gregory Crewdson in particular the series of images from Beneath The Roses (2003-2005) However my first 4 images focused on purely a documentary style of capturing a small business owner plying her trade from the garden shed. The other images were a snapshot of that person surrounded by artefacts that say something about them, enticing the viewer to look into the image and wonder what was going on.