Visual diary/ Research document

My random image

Words that come to mind

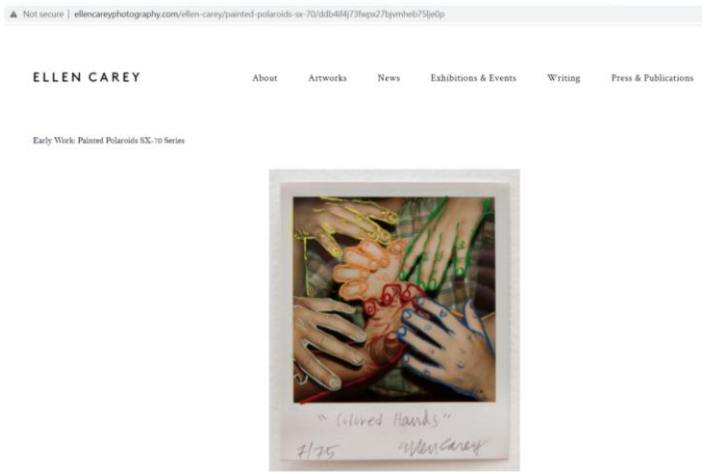
- Flower
- Petals
- Light colours
- Time
- Petals falling with time
- Time frozen in a moment
- The petals on the ground remind me of the rose from beauty and the beast
- Children leaving home
- One object leaving the main object
- Petals falling as a symbol of time passing by, similar to beauty and the beast
- Something dying but still beautiful
- Something spreading and growing/ changing

Further thoughts

- It takes a long time for petals to fall
- Something leaving the main thing and becomes a separate object that we see.
- Things changing and growing but still beautiful
- Life coming to an end but still beautiful
- Things changing and growing over a period of time

My research journey

- When I first saw the image I immediately thought that the images was taken on polaroid which reminded me of the *painted Polaroids SX-70 Series* by Ellen Carey (Carey, 1975-1976) and I would love to incorporate her style into my work. Polaroids tend to have a distinct colour pallet. I will experiment with painting/ drawing on polaroids. Instead of drawing on my polaroids I could use words and sentences to refer back to the original random image.



My research journey

- Following the main mise-on-scene of the image which is flowers, I was directed to through my Welsh Seminars to a piece of work called *Preserved 'Beauty'* by Anya Gallaccio (Gallaccio, 1991-2003). I was more intrigued by the name of the work which is similar to one of the first thoughts I had when seeing the original random image. The thought was about time and how it passes by.
- I would definitely like to use the idea of preserved time in my final images.

My research journey

- I have also researched *My Father's coat* by Robert Frank (Frank, 2000) and I was really fascinated by his style of documenting the coat that used to belong to his father. he used Polaroids to document and tell the story of the coat and I would really like to use Polaroids to tell a story.

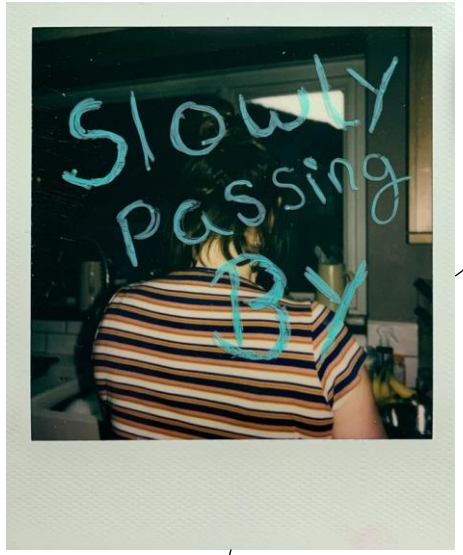
My research journey

- The idea of petals falling of petals falling over time reminded me of one of my favourite childhood films *Beauty and the Beast* (1991) as a rose was used to show how much time was left. I would like to use the idea of falling petals as a metaphor for time passing by. I will really like to incorporate the idea of time passing into my work.

My ideas

- For the context of the images I would like them to be of moments that are simple but meaningful, like a mother hugging a daughter, to be a symbol of beautiful things that we will forget with time as an example of the beautiful petals falling from the flowers. Similar to Ellen Carey's work (Carey, 1975-1976) I would like to write on the bottom of the polaroid with sentences that will refer back to the original random image. If I was to use a picture of a mother hugging her child I could write on top with 'petals will fall from the flower with time' or something similar symbolising that the child would one day grow up and leave the comfort of their mother or the child moving on and leaving the mother alone and it will also symbolise that time will pass by and things will change like a petals falling of a flower is the flower changing with time and soon will be forgotten but will always be beautiful. This also connects to the title of the work by Anya Gallaccio *preserved 'beauty'* (Gallaccio, 1991-2003)To me the image symbolises time passing by and something leaving its original source and becoming a separate object a child leaving home with time and this is what I want to achieve with my images.

Experimenting with my ideas



No connection between the photos

Writing is taking up too much space

Not telling a story/ not connected to the original random image

Favourite photo

Final idea

- I will use 6 or more Polaroids in a line telling the story of a mother and child over time and the child eventually moving on and leaving home and leaving the mother behind. I will use the idea of the petals falling from the flower as a metaphor for children leaving and moving on from their parents over a period of time as it takes time for the petals to fall. Also I will write on the bottom of the Polaroids with sentences that refer back to the random image and help to understand the timeline of the child leaving the mother/ petal falling from the flower.

Final Piece

The Petal starts
to Grow

The Petal will Fall
with Time

The Petal Preparing
to Fall

Moments
before the Petal
Falls

AFTER the Petal
Falls

Eventually the
Flower will die

Evaluation

For this project I wanted to use the original random image in a less literal way than I did in the other projects. I used the falling petals as a metaphor for time passing and things changing and/or growing. With this in mind I decided to tell a story of a mother and child growing together and the child eventually leaving the mother, which can be interpreted as the child growing and becoming their own or the child leaving the mother behind. The main influence for this piece of work was *My Father's Coat* (Frank, 2000) and Ellen Carey's *Painted Polaroids SX-70 Series* (Carey, 1975-1976) as well as some influence from *Beauty and the Beast* (1991) of using a flower to display time passing. The idea of writing and drawing on Polaroids really fascinated me, and I wanted to incorporate it into my work and that is why I wanted to write sentences that that refer back to the original random image, but also tell the story of mother and child. I used bright colours for the sentences to reference to the bright, vibrant colours of the original image, and the last Polaroid has less bright colours as flowers darken and fade with time. I used an old image of my mother and me as a baby which I then uploaded to my phone and printed with the Polaroid app and printer. I then used my Polaroid camera for the rest of the images. You can see that the child has grown older in the photographs and I used my two sisters (who look really similar) to do this. All the photographs are consistent to show that they are a group of images that work together, but still differ from each other. I really enjoyed this project as I have not done a project like this before, and I have felt that it has helped to develop many of my skills. If given the chance to do this project again, I would work more on the sentences on the Polaroids to help the story to flow better. Apart from that I am really happy with how this project has turned out.

Bibliography

- *Beauty and the Beast* (1991) Directed by Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise [Film] Available at: https://www.disneyplus.com (Accessed: 23 April 2021).
- Carey, E (1975- 1976) *Painted Polaroids SX-70 Series* [Collection of Polaroids]. Available at: http://www.ellencareyphotography.com/ellen-carey/painted-polaroids-sx-70/ubpkw74pqck50noa18xk4gwal87egy (Accessed: 23 April 2021).
- Carey, E (Date Unknown) *Ellen Carey* [Website]. Available at: http://www.ellencareyphotography.com/ (Accessed: 23 April 2021).
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- Frank, R (2000) *My Father's Coat* [Polaroids].
- Ruscha, E. Frank, R. Reed, L. Jobey, L. Mark, M,E. Haworth-Booth, M. (2004) *Six reflections on the photography of Robert Frank, Tate* [website post]. Available at: https://www.tate.org.uk/tate-etc/issue-2-autumn-2004/six-reflections-on-photography-robert-frank (Accessed: 29 April 2021).