

Visual Studies

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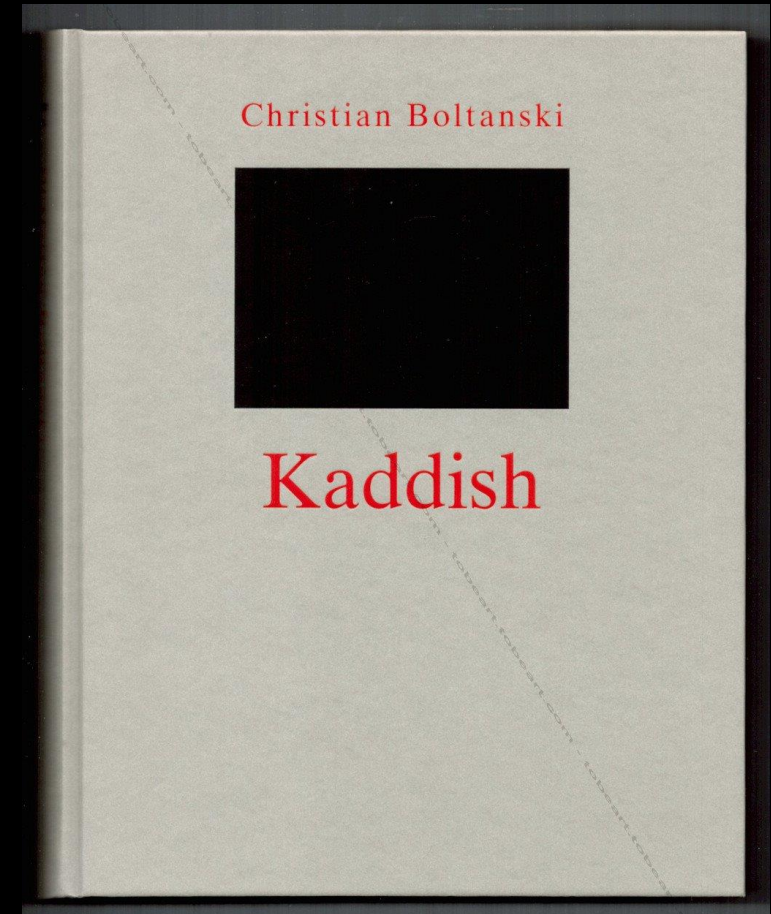
Christian Boltanski- Kaddish

Boltanski's work Kaddish is a photobook that contains images of people who lost their lives during the holocaust. Some of the main themes of the book are memory, materiality, locality and mortality.

The content of the book is images that are full bleed, some are blurry others aren't giving the sense of the blurred memories. The blurry images were blurred intentionally the photos are anonyms portraits, family snapshots, yearbook images and soldiers transforming a personal collective into a collective elegy.

The book takes an archive to portray the idea of memory. The book itself as a physical object everything feels intentional down to the full bleed pages, it forces you to look at these people as only a memory now.

The use of archival imagery really stood out to me. The idea of taking something old and creating a piece with such power really intrigued me.



A Hundred Thousand Billion Poems- Raymond Queneau

Queneau's work is a book that combines literature and book designs. The book has pieces of literature on small pieces of paper that stick out of the book, it was inspired by children's mix and match picture books.

I am really fond of this book, it shows how even something like a writing book can become art so long as it's portrayed in the right way. The book contains 14 horizontal strips, with one line of sonnet printed on each one.

Looking into this piece shows the artistry of creating a book this book has such precise measurements that even 1cm too much it could have thrown the whole book off.

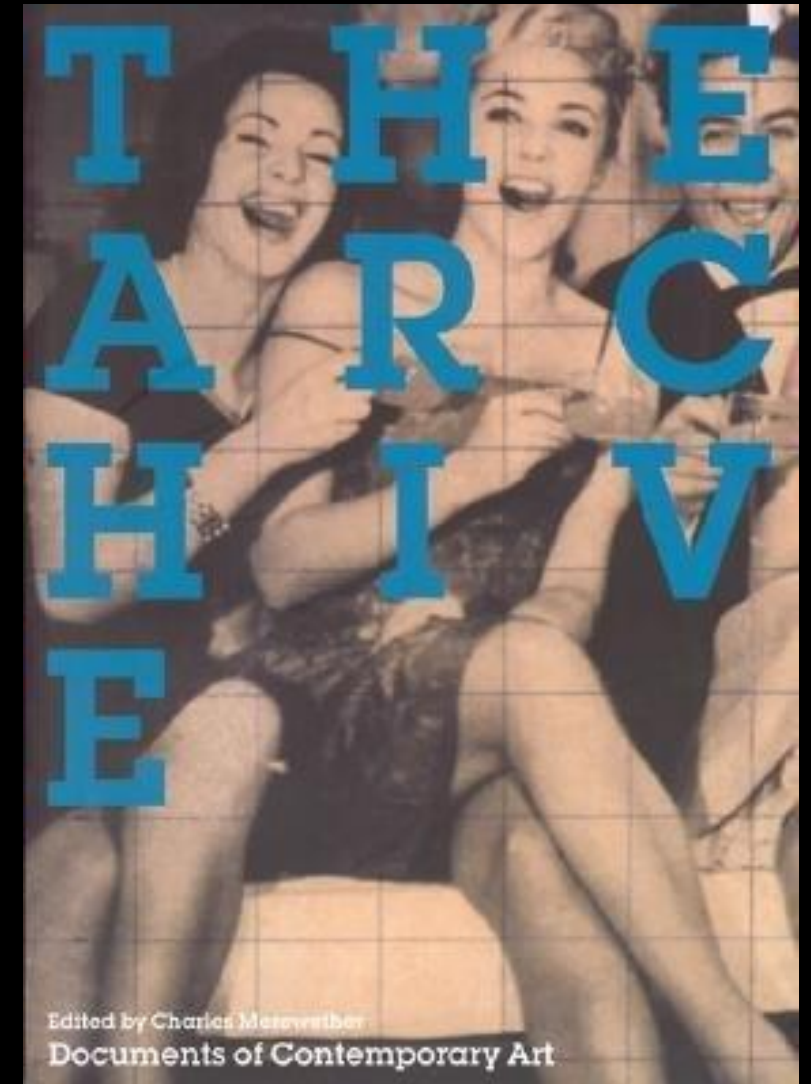


The Archive- Charles Merewether

Merewether's book explores how Whitechapel Gallery's archive has shifted from neutral site of record keeping to a medium in contemporary visual culture.

The book shows an archive presented to you as a professional book. I like the front cover of the book the blue sticks out on the photo background.

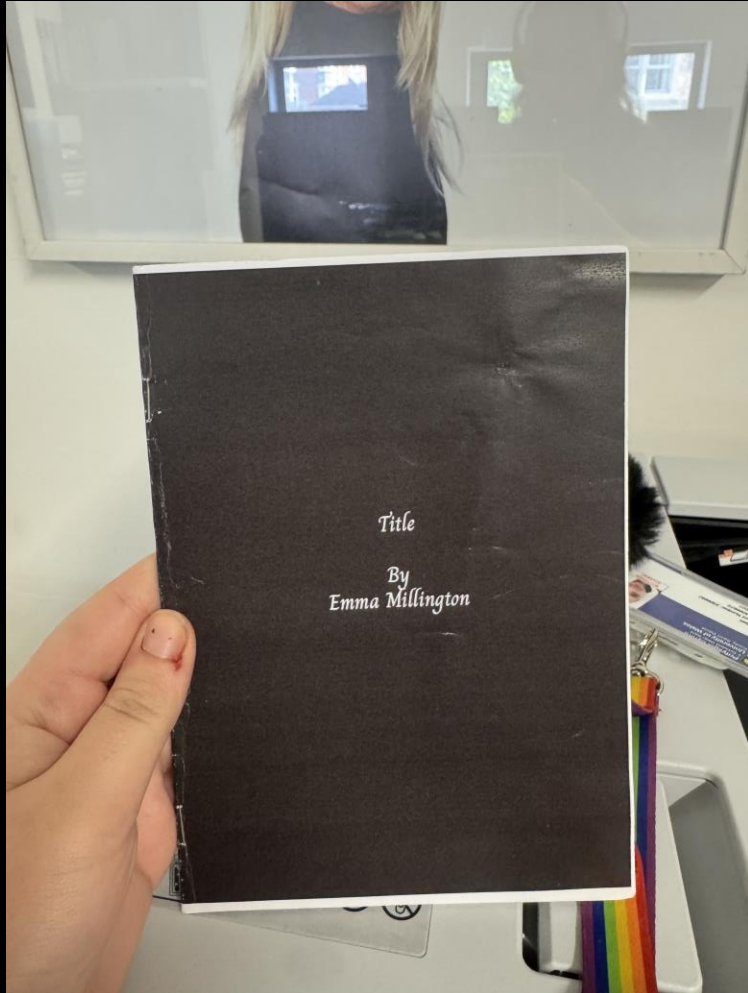
I find this book really interesting, the idea of pulling a collection together to create something has always intrigued me, the idea of the collection showing a shift in art and the archive throughout could be hard to create if not done properly. However, Merewether created this perfectly.



What is a photobook

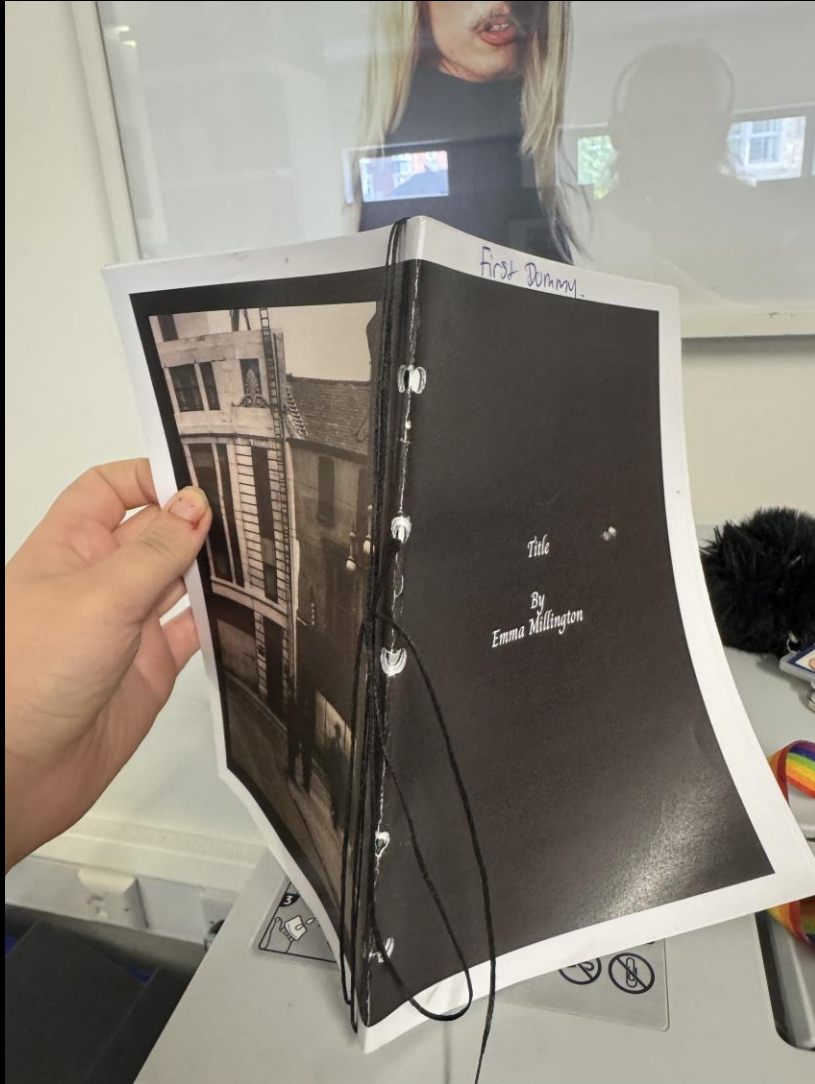
- A photobook is a series of primary images bound together to create a story, tell explore a theme while combining Visual creativity. Artists usually use photobooks as a way to create a pathway for the images taken. A photobook can create new contexts for the artwork created.

My First Task



- For this task I had to pick out a photobook and describe what the book was about, why I liked it, I also had to describe the layout ect. The photobook I chose was Chaos by Josef Koudelka. This photobook looks at the decay of landscapes. This book stood out to me for many reasons one being the size of the book and the cover. The cover was matt black with shiny writing over the matt black. The book size was A3 Landscape the book on the inside held images mainly black and white that were places on a white background in groups of either 2 or 3 which I though captured the viewer, there wasnt to many images to the point of it being overwhelming the images held a sort of silence whith in them.

My First Task



- This book made me think about how I would want my book to look. I liked the idea of the grouped images coming together, this really has stuck out to me. I also really liked the double page spreads through this book they took up a good amount of space while also leaving some space around the images for the white to still show, this never took away from the images. Koudelka allowed this book to speak for itself without the viewer being to overwhelmed by imagery. I would like to carry this through into my book, I feel as though this would be a great way to show my grief and how you can find silence in the moments that seem so harsh.

Study Trip



- For the study trip we went to Amsterdam. This trip was so informative not only for my book project but also for my exhibition. The art in Amsterdam was one of a kind. In the Foam Museum there is a hallway with cabinets of photobooks. These photobooks were binded together like I had never seen before some of the books actually used the binding to add to the image.
- The Foam Museum had some of the best immersive photography I have ever come across. One of the pieces that really made an impression on me was a piece called Atlanta Made Us Famous by Hajar Benjida. This piece was centred around strippers in Atlanta and how it is often hidden ecosystem. Her work explores the women as strippers but also as mothers, he showed the life they gained from stripping.

- The rooms themselves were so immersive. One room was lit red and had red walls, the floor was dancing floor, so it was shiny and replicated the stage of the strip clubs where these women perform. In another room where these women were portrayed as mothers and businesspeople the walls were blue, they were lit with white lights, and the images were places in silver frames.
- This immersed me in the piece I was seeing a double life these women were living just to give their children a fighting chance. If you notice in these images most the women are African American women while highlighting the injustice in the system of America that young African American women are having to take up these jobs to provide for their children as they don't have the same fighting chance in a system that has dammed them either because of their race or where they grew up, unfortunately we see this story play out multiple times with women in America specifically women of colour



My First Iteration

- My first iteration started by me pulling together all the material I had and shortening it down to a few pieces/items from my archive. The archive I have is huge, so this was a task in itself. Once I completed this choosing cards, letters, photos, items, photo albums. Once I chose what I wanted I scanned these items in and started playing around.
- While playing around I started to layer images on top of cards and letters, once I created my first collage, I knew this was going to be the theme throughout.



My Photo Book

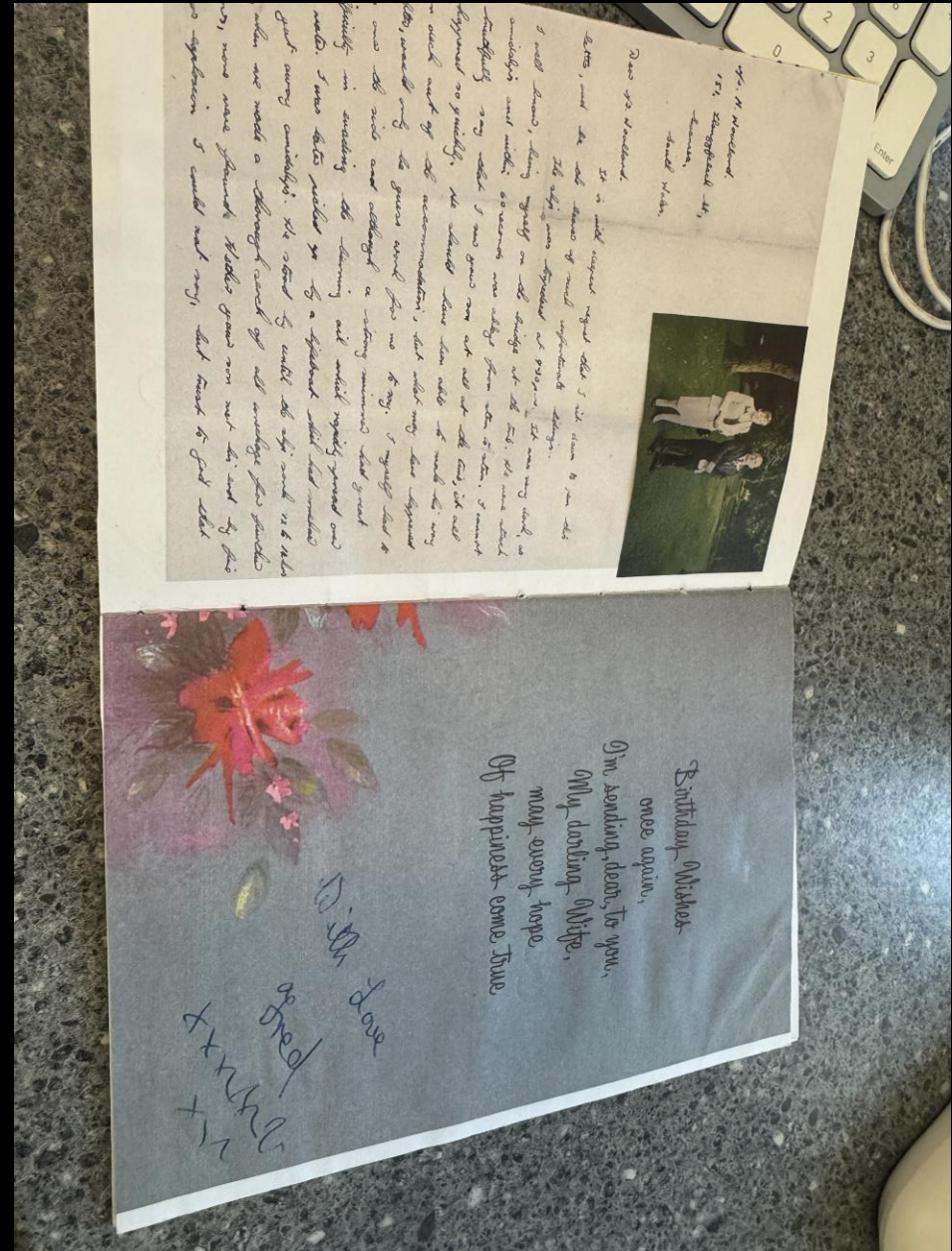
During the time of me researching into different photobooks and trying to think of a theme my Great Uncle Billy passed away. I knew I needed to put all my energy and time to create something in regard to as how I'm feeling. I lost my Bumper before I was born so my uncle Billy was my Bumper losing him left a massive hole in my heart and in my family.

After much consideration I decided, I was going to create my photobook around the theme of grief. Grief is a universal feeling everyone on this planet has felt it whether it be a family member or a pet everyone has had to go through this journey.

The first thing I did to create this photobook is look through my own personal family archive. I pulled out family photo albums, letters my uncle recovered from family when his siblings passed away, letters from the war when my aunties Uncle passed away on a navy ships and cards loads of cards.

- During this week I took my archive into class to show Joe and Ryan. I know my piece is going to be centred around grief however, I did not know what that would look like or how to contain these images and cards. I investigated Robert Franks-The Americans, looking into this book gave me the idea of how a professional book should look. When creating my first iteration I decided to scan as much material as I could in then playing around with these images and looking into what works.

- I created the collages I liked on photoshop allowing me to move images and see what really works. When on photoshop, I opened an image made the necessary crops and then layered another image on top. When I was happy with how the collage looked, I saved the image and moved on to the next recreating this for the next few images.
- I also found a card while looking through my archive, it was a card that read forget me not on the bottom with a flower embroidered on the card. I chose this as my cover I feel as though the title, the flower everything is was made for the front cover of my book It's perfect!



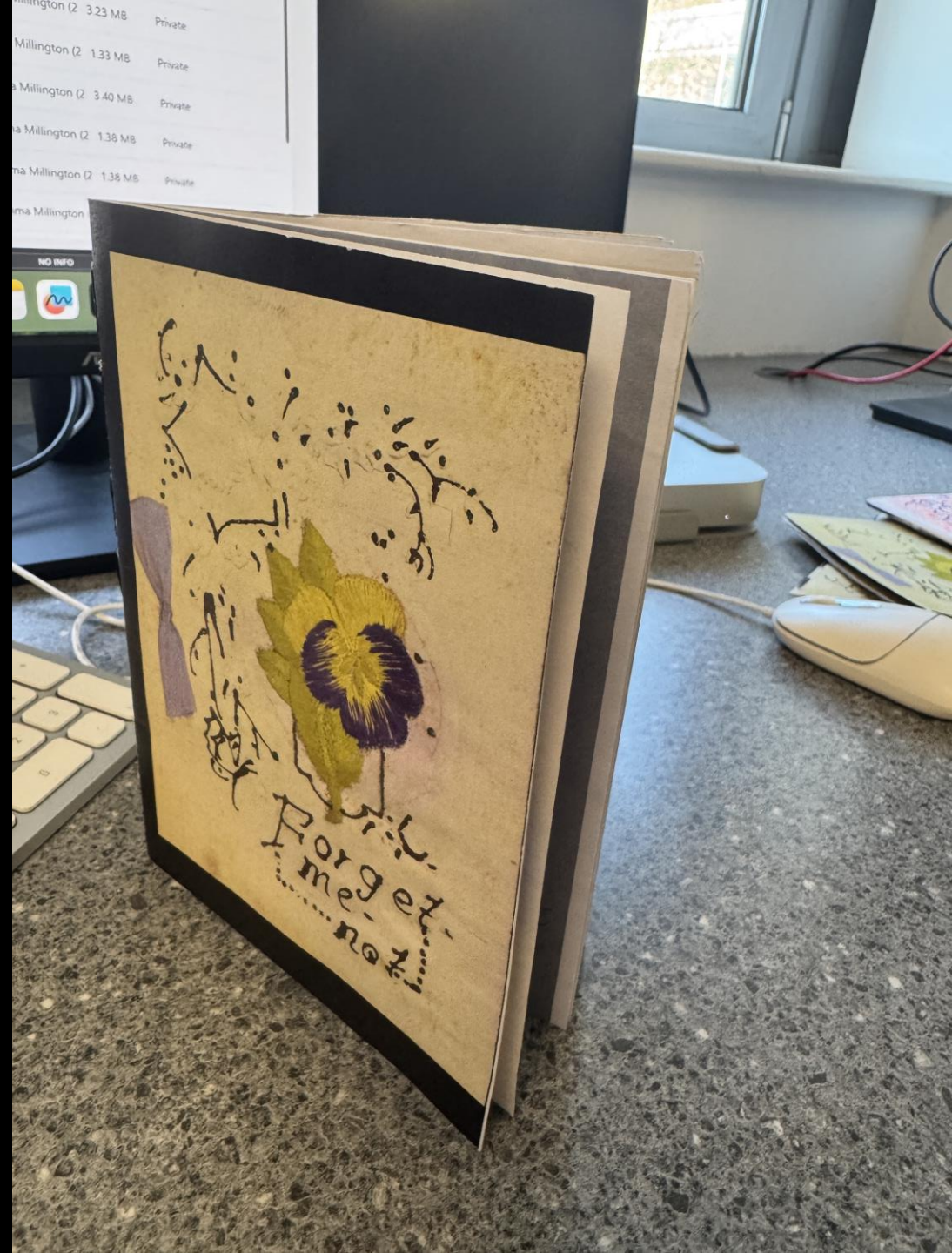
My First Iteration

Once I created collages, I was happy with I printed off my images by adding my images into photoshop and once the pages were printed, I glued them together to create the double-sided pages. After I finished printing and glueing, I then decided on how I was going to bind my book. I wanted to hand bind my books as I did not like the staples on my dummy book so decided to go ahead with hand binding especially with the theme as I felt the hand binding lends itself to the theme, the hard work. I felt as though it represents the mentally challenging work that goes into learning about grief and the time lost. I also made another book the same way.



Thinking about this piece made me think about how this piece would play out as a book compared to an exhibition space. The exhibition space allows you to walk through a timeline created by the photographer you get the feeling of the life these women are living even if it is down to the material on the floor you have the idea of what these women interact with on a daily bases. I was wondering if you could still create this through the container of a book.

This made me think of my exhibition as well as my book would my book portray the same in an exhibition space. I believe that this work would not have portrayed the same to me as a book as seeing the piece in an exhibition setting.



- Overall, I feel as though my first two iteration of my book has gone well. I think I need to find out how to print back-to-back on photoshop as I feel the front cover of my book became very bulky and loose due to gluing it together. I feel as though my technical skills will be challenged this semester.
- I feel as though my binding could also do with some practice as it was a struggle working with the thread and actually binding was a struggle.

InDesign

I had a workshop centred around InDesign. InDesign is a piece of software that allows you to create booklets/books in a presentable way to print.

I learnt how to create a InDesign template as when creating a "booklet" you have to create pages using multiples of four.

One thing I also learnt was how to print on InDesign. When printing I have to check my printer settings make sure that the settings are on fit entire page and click print booklet and click double sided (short edge) I used this software to then create my second book.

My second Iteration

For my second iteration I wanted to get some of my own images. I decided to go to the funeral home and take some of my own pictures. I went up to the chapel of rest and decided to take a camera and document my process.

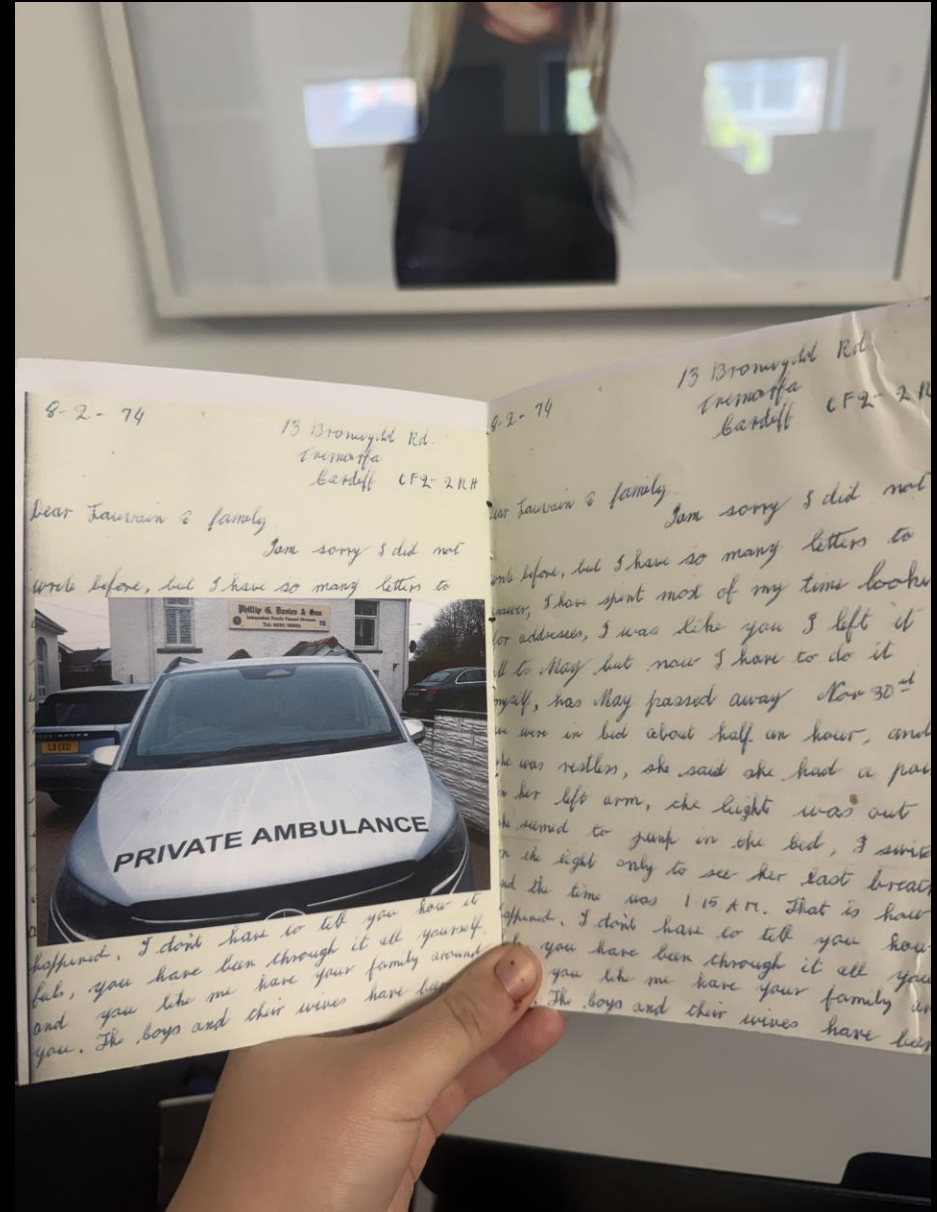
While I was there, I decided to create another chapter to my book. I decided chapters are my way forward, instead of creating new iteration of my book I'll work on my book chapter by chapter.



My Second Chapter

When I got to the chapel of rest it was raining, I decided to walk around the premises and take some images of the funeral cars, the privet ambulance and the exterior of the building. I then entered the chapel and decided to take some images in the building and the room.

This was extremely hard for me personally I did have second thoughts while I was in the room in the chapel of rest I felt as though I could not carry on with this theme. I emotinaly hit a wall and found it hard to continue with pictures during this chapter.



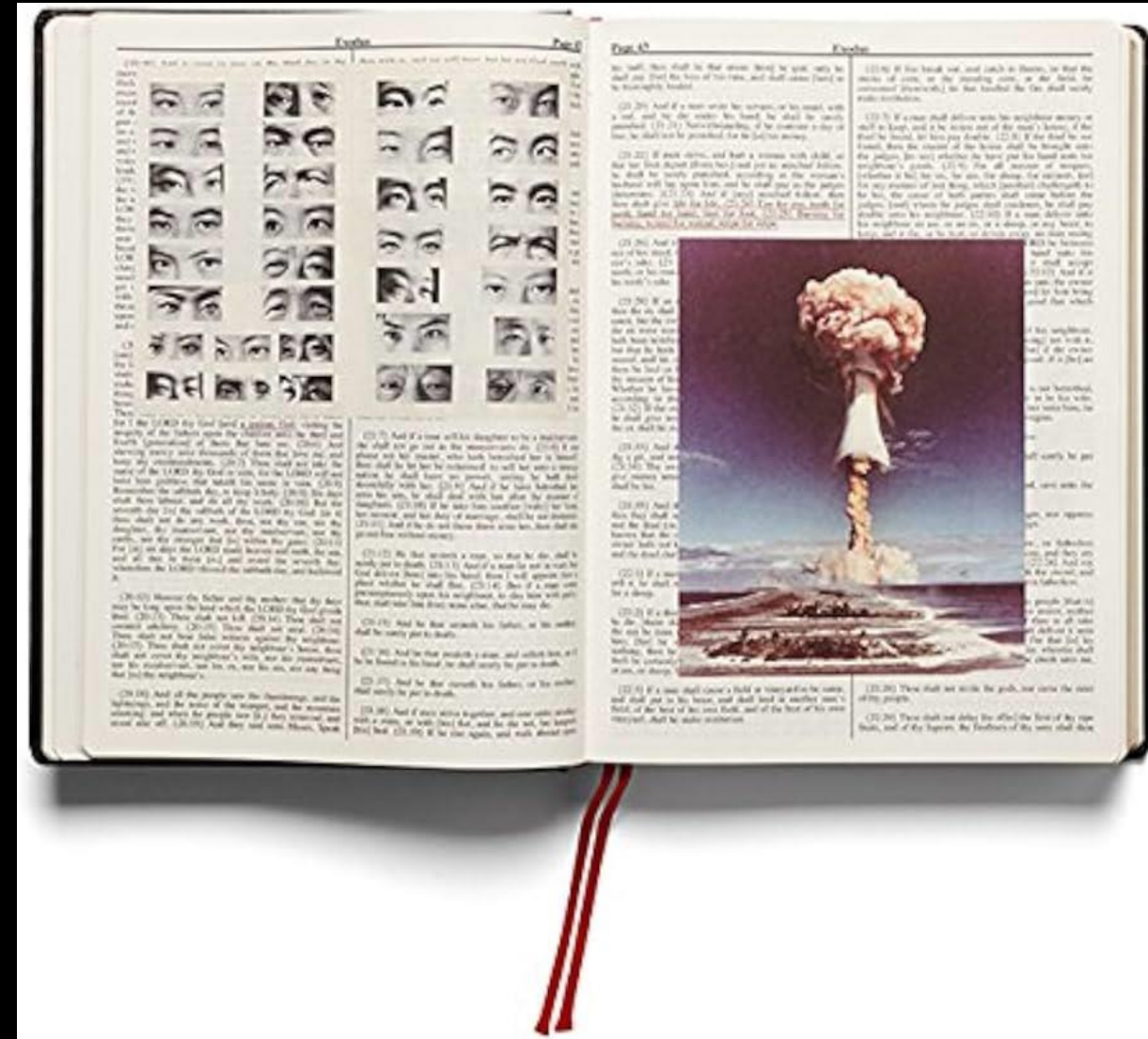
My Second Chapter



After the chapel of rest, I went through all the material I got and started layering like I did in my first chapter. However, I used InDesign for this book I found that the chapter look much more professional print wise. I felt as though this chapter captured the last step into my uncle's last journey. I didn't actually bind this book. I just cut and folded this chapter.

Holy Bible- Adam Boomborg

- Boomborgs work can be seen as a provocative book that contains contemporary images on each page. The work looks at the relationship between biblical violence and modern governments.
- The reason I find this book so interesting is the book mimics everything about a bible to the front cover, the feeling of the pages everything! As you flick through your forced to look at these really violent images, it portrays the meaning perfectly!



My third chapter

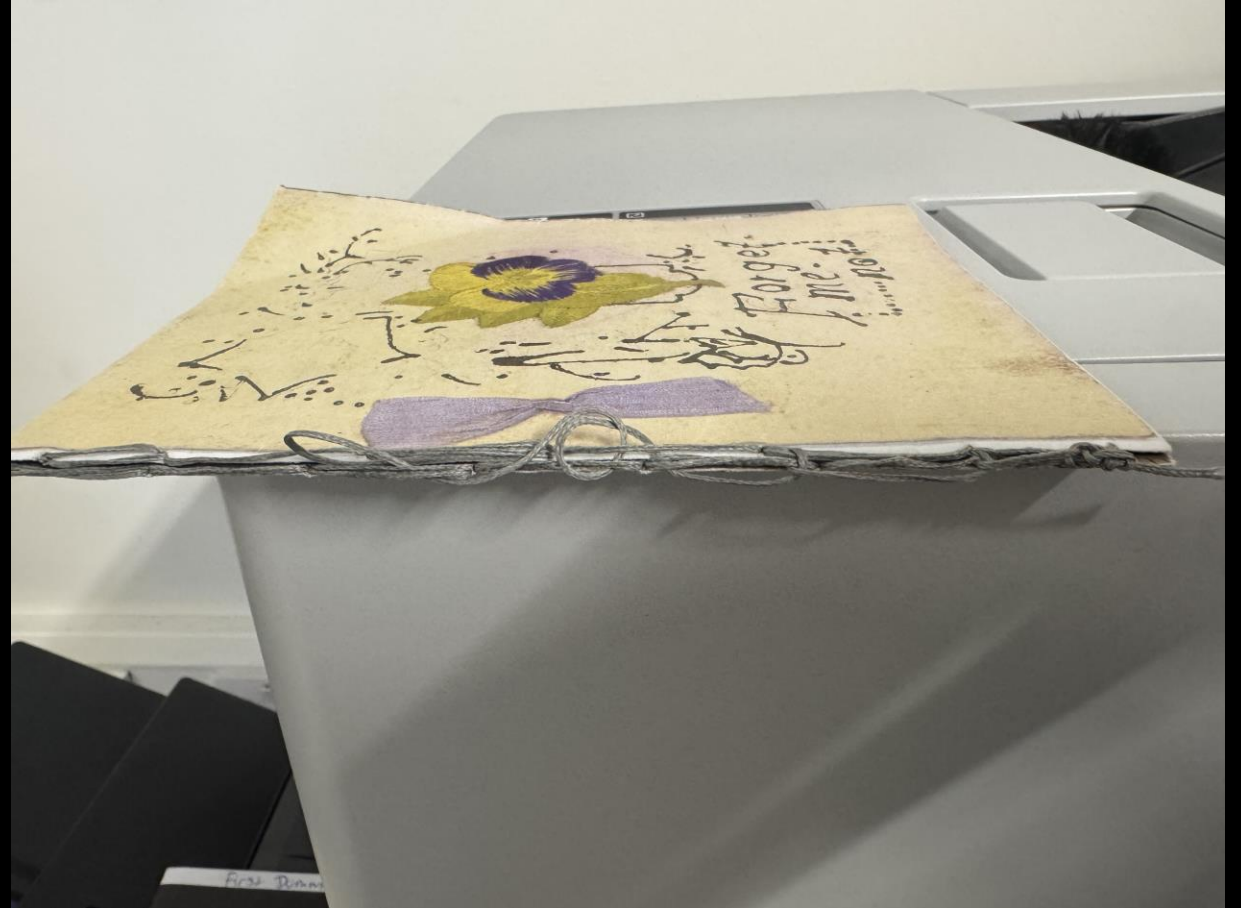
- For my third and final chapter I wanted to have no trace of my uncle the idea of the after effect of grief. I decided I'm going to shoot images of his house while we still had access. The house was empty memories are the only thing that remained in the house the cupboards were empty everything was gone. I wanted to document the absence in the home they lived in for 60 years the feeling of loss I want to be prominent throughout this chapter. I also started experimenting with the idea of things you could pull up or open and I liked this idea as the way the viewer interacted with my book was very important to me.



My Third chapter

- After the shoot I edited the images like I did in earlier iterations layering and creating sequences of three. I then printed off my images from InDesign and hand bound my book.

This chapter you can really feel the sense of loss the objects that they interacted with gone just empty rooms remain nothing of them. I also wanted to test underlining text used in the letters I used as a "background"



My Exhibition

- For my exhibition I decided to use the scanned in images of my family photo album to represent each chapter of my book. I also displayed the front cover of my book as well to symbolise the structure of my book.
- I then took the original pieces I used from my archive and displayed them on the wall. The first chapter my uncle is young then he gradually gets older throughout the piece until finally there are no pictures of him left just his house and letters.
- I struggled to convey the meaning the same way I did in the book however I am extremely happy with how my exhibition turned out.

SONDER

Sonder evokes the realisation that every individual life is as complex and detailed as our own, shaped by unique experiences and perspectives.

This exhibition marks an important stage for the development of our second-year BA Photography and Fine Art students at Swansea College of Art, UWTSD, showcasing a cohort of emerging artists.

Sonder brings together work created through a year of exploration, experimentation, and reflective practice, with each body of work suggesting an evolving creative identity shaped by personal interests, lived experience and engagement with society and the wider world.

Mae ystyr Sonder yw sylweddoli bod bywyd pob unigolyn yn un mor gymhleth a manwl â'n bywyd ni ein hunain, wedi'i siapio gan brofiadau a safbwyntiau unigryw.

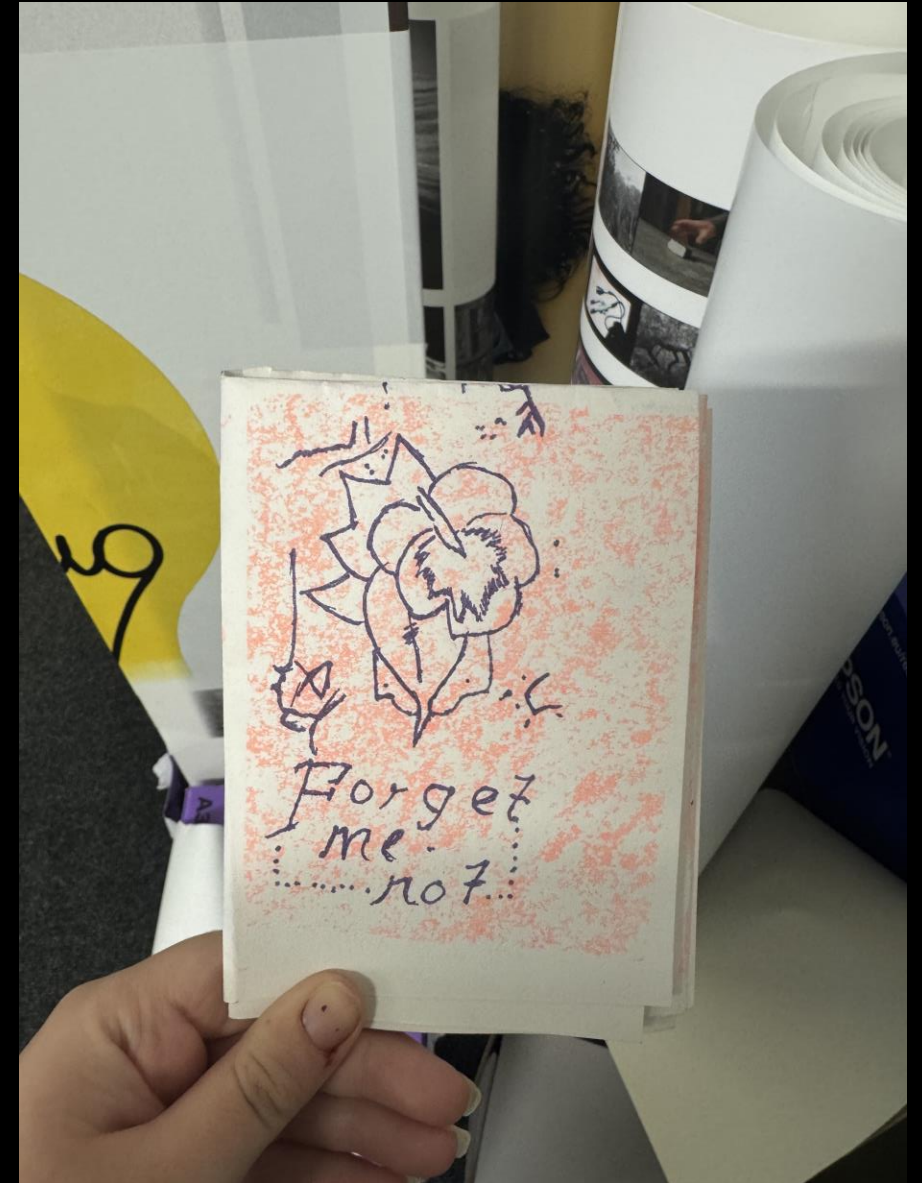
Mae'r arddangosfa hon yn nodi cam pwysig yn natblygiad ein myfyrwyr BA Ffotograffiaeth a Chelf Gain yn eu hail flywddyn yn Brifysgol Celf Abertawe, UWTSD, gan arddangos grŵp o artstiad sy'n dod i'r amlwg.

Mae Sonder yn dwyn ynghyd waith a grewyd trwy flywddyn o archwilio, arbrofi ac ymarfer myfyriol, gyda phob corff o waith yn adlewyrchu hunaniaeth greadigol sy'n datblygu wedi'i siapio gan ddiddordebau personol, profiad byw ac ymgysylltiad â chymdeithas a'r byd eang.



Resin Workshop

- During the resin workshop I created a zine with different patterns and drawings. I started off by drawing the flower on the front cover of my book on my zine. I then started to create other designs. I found this workshop extremely fun!
- Working with resin has always been fun to me. I have always enjoyed things like screen printing, so this workshop was so interesting to me and I enjoyed.



My Final Iteration

- For my final iteration I decided to work mainly on my binding skills. I decided to try and bind my chapters together. While binding I found the thread I was using was slippery and really bulky, I decided for my final iteration I needed to use a smaller thread.
- The binding for this book was not the best the thread was extremely slippery so every time I turned a page the thread would loosen so I knew I needed to change the thread when binding for my last book.
- I also started testing paper types at this stage. I printed my front cover on shiny and matte card. I felt the matte cover was better as the shiny paper made the flower look really flat, so I decided to use matte paper

My Final Book

- For my final book I saved all my booklets as a PDF from InDesign, I then printed off using the matte card for the front and back cover, I used shiny paper for the rest of the rest of the book.
- I then cut my paper and started binding. I created holes that were 1cm apart to allow for a safer bind, I then started binding each book individually. Once each chapter was binded I then started binding each chapter together by sewing into the holes I created merging each chapter together. Once I finished this process I then went in with fabric glue to glue the flip up pieces, I used fabric glue as I felt it was the best glue to ensure the paper does not burn/melt and keeps the flip ups on the paper.

My Final Book

- Once I had finished my book, I noticed some measurements issues for my final chapter. I feel as though next time I will bind my book then cut the paper.
- However, I am so happy with my book and how this project pushed me creatively. I feel that my book was up to standard and took the viewer on a journey with me through my grief and through my family's grief . Overall, I am really happy with my book and the final outcome.

