

352MC Professional Photographic Practice Reflective Report:

Throughout the creation of my “Walked, Rewalked, Remembered” collection, I created a conceptual photographic piece that explored the process of recollection through the use of landscapes as memory triggers, resulting in the personal reconnection to an individual in the past (my Grandpa). Situating my project within contemporary photographic practices, throughout the development of this collection I have gained influence from a wide range of photographic practitioners regarding the creation of a personal project that incorporates an accessible and relatable underlying context (including the work of Ann Chwatsky, Mikael Levin, Peter Watkins, Sophie Calle, and Briony Campbell). Within this particular research I was able to gain an understanding surrounding the engagement of the viewer and, by investigating relatable overarching themes (memory and reconnection), as well as creating conceptual representations and responses to the landscapes and my memories, this has allowed me to target a broadened audience.

Taking this into account, throughout this project I have employed a developmental methodology and have taken on feedback, allowing me to gain wider opinions and critique, which provided me with the opportunity to alter an original idea that I had created. Throughout the evolution of my practice, I also conducted an extensive amount of research and experimentation where I gained influence and inspiration from a large number of resources which, along with the feedback I was receiving, allowed me to develop my professional independence by defining my own position. Focusing on the overarching themes and concept of my project, and adjusting it to relevant feedback and research influence, I have therefore been able to create both a self-defined and extended body of work appropriate for what I wanted to achieve in relation to it's context.

Although, as suggested above, this is a personal photographic piece, my intentions for the context of this project was to create a piece that visually represents the concept explored, whilst also providing the audience with the opportunity to gain knowledge surrounding the process of recollection (i.e. faded memories become clearer through the introduction to a memory trigger), thus encouraging a reflective response where they can consider their own memories (and memory triggers), and how to reconnect to their own lost loved ones. Bearing this in mind, when analyzing the success of my final triptych collection, due to the fact that it includes a wide range of features (including an object, photo, and text), this has resulted in the creation of a balanced exhibition piece which engages and immerses the viewer (as well as allowing them to empathize with this feeling of connection, by allowing them to connect to me through the memories that my work displays), whilst also providing them with enough information to gain a contextualized understanding behind both the projects concept and methodology, thus increasing their accessibility.

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Although I feel that I have been able to create a successful final piece that encapsulates the concept of my project, whilst also making it understandable

and accessible to the viewer, as with all projects, I showcased a number of personal strengths and weaknesses. Within the creation of this project, I have been able to incorporate and enhance a number of my strengths in order to help me to achieve my desired outcome, including my management and organization skills that allowed me to appropriately schedule developmental tasks. The use of my research skills also allowed me to improve upon my critical analysis (in terms of feedback, research and development), which, in turn, provided me with the opportunity to successfully pinpoint relevant information and inspiration. I also feel that my verbal and visual communication skills have improved, not only through the written research and analysis of my methodology, but also through the creative interpretation of my concept within photographic forms. However, I feel that throughout this project I have been continuously challenged by one of my weaknesses: the personal concept associated with my work. This meant that I found it relatively difficult to step away from my emotional attachment with the project, meaning that it was harder for me to accept constructive criticism and provide myself with self-critique. However, once I had identified this as a challenge, I then felt that I was able to actively tackle the situation by not only conducting relevant research that provided me with information on how to create a personal project that is accessible to the viewer, but also balancing the feedback I received with my own personal opinions to enhance my professional independence through the creation of a successful piece.

Finally, through the completion of this module, I feel like I have created a final project outcome that I can be proud of. I have been able to utilize and improve upon both my photographic and transferable skills in order to produce high quality photographic material that encompasses and contextualizes the personal concept of my project, enhancing the viewer's engagement, immersion and accessibility. I have been able to use a personal narrative to reference a relatable generalized process (memory and reconnection) and have provided my specified audience with the knowledge to contemplate their own personal memories and memory triggers.

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