



LAUMAPH701 - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Britney Pease - 298722



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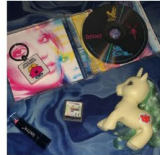
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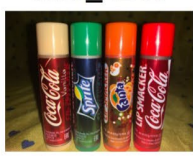
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TEST SHOTS

These photos are from the first idea I have for this project before going in a different direction with it. I took these using a lightbox that I purchased online to photograph the smaller items.

These photographs were all bought at a charity shop, making them ethical and sustainable, given they are second-hand items.

I found shooting these quite hard because I couldn't figure out a layout for the items and I didn't want them to be repetitive.

These photos I selected are the ones that I like and connect with childhood as they are objects from the 2000's era.

I took most of these on a patterned backdrop because I felt that the objects stood out. It seemed different to when I photographed them on coloured backdrops. I stopped using coloured backdrops after a while because I felt I wasn't getting enough out of my images.

I particularly like the blue swirled photo because I feel the contrast of the colours and the items chosen work well together.



I chose these photos for this first project idea because I feel these are relevant to the theme and have objects included that I, as a kid grew up with. I got these from the charity shops as most items in these photos have either been discontinued or unable to get in shops. The bonus of getting them in second-hand shops is that it is sustainable because they are not expensive, new.

DAVID BATES, PHOTOGRAPHY

THE KEY CONCEPTS

I researched Bate's work for this because I felt like it could contribute to what this project is about. I read his chapter on still life and how it branches out to different photographic areas such as advertising and product which is a practice that I like myself. I felt like Bate's work is like this project since it is a still-life project and can be seen as product photography.

I found his work to be an interesting read, even though I only read the chapters applied to the project, I found ways to apply his theories to mine, he says that "Still-life is one of the most neglected genres, not only in photography but also in the history of art" (Bate, p.137)

I included it as part of my research because even though it's a theoretical book, it's still relevant to this first project.



ZOE LEONARD

Leonard's work interested me when my supervisor told me about the book, and I had a look online and her images of everyday objects took an interest. She took photos of common everyday objects on coloured backdrops which in a way relates to my project because even though all her photos aren't childhood related, it still resonates with mine in the way its shot. 2-3 of my photos were shot on coloured backdrops, like Leonard's.

I researched into her work more by looking on <https://www.frieze.com/article/finding-right-darkness> where it states what her project is about, describing what her photos she took were like, and the items she used in the shoots.

NADIA LEE COHEN

I found her work interesting to view because of the way she structured her objects out on the coloured background. Her work consists of collecting various objects she picked up along the way and laid them out in way that mirrored a still-life shoot, this related to mine because I thought of this as a still-life project with the way I laid mine out.

I chose to research her as a photographer and her work because it seemed relevant to my project, and the type of objects she photographed were the type that were nostalgic, not necessarily to do with childhood but similar in the fact that these were fond objects that she found to be relevant to herself and others.

I included her in my research because the items she used such as cassettes, makeup, retro items. All these are from specific eras, and so this is what this project is as it features objects from the 2000's which is my era, when I was born.



COLOUR PALETTE

When researching what to do next, I decided to make the photos more fashionable by choosing patterned and materialised backdrops to use in my shoots. This worked out well as it made the items used stand out more on camera.

So I researched popular colours and patterns of the 2000's (my era) and tried to find similar backgrounds, I got these from charity shops or from material I already had to make it ethical instead of buying brand new because I knew this project could change direction, so I didn't want to spend loads of money on material.

These colours and materials that are pictured with the numbers in yellow I tried to use in my work as the backdrop. I used a range of different materials from dresses, scarves.

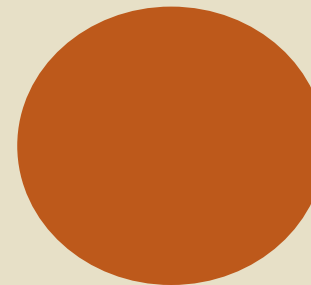
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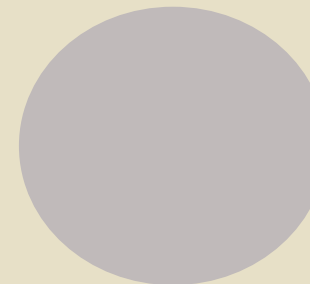
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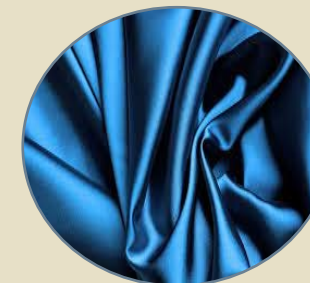
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BOOK MOCK-UP FOR FIRST PROJECT

I chose to create mock-ups for the first project to see what it would look like, and I like them because it gives me a clear idea of what could work with what in terms of layout and fonts. For the project, I chose these titles because I feel its relevant for this type of topic chosen.

For the first mock-up, I chose to have the title down the page on a coloured background. I chose yellow so that the colours on the title pop out on the page.

The second one, I chose a pink background with white typography with the title down one side. I like this one because I feel it shows the 'nostalgic' approach to the project.

The last two mock-ups, I didn't really like as much as the first two, but I included it as part of a potential book title. The reason I don't like these is because its plain and a bit boring, and the title doesn't really scream what the project is all about.



POTENTIAL PROJECT TITLES

First project

A walk down memory lane (I like this one because it relates to childhood)

As time goes by... (I like this one because it says, 'growing up', seeing these objects you used to have in childhood)

Childhood wonders (this one I don't like but I included it anyway as part of a potential title)

Second project

A loved childhood (I like this one because the teddies resembles what the title says, an item you've had since childhood)

Child-like innocence (I like this title because this it has a meaning, innocent, loved, naïve. This is probably the title I will go with for the project).

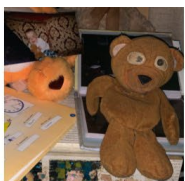
I then wanted my project to have a different meaning, so from a group crit, I got feedback that my images from my first project idea weren't showing the theme of nostalgia, so I decided to rethink the project and try a different approach but keep the childhood theme going.

This made me turn and think to my own childhood. I decided to focus more on the childhood items I had such as teddies, toys, various objects I had from when I was younger and photograph them with a bit of text underneath in a photo-album/scrapbook style book.

I liked the idea of this, and I spoke with my supervisor about this, and I look to continue this project further throughout my MA course, experimenting with different ideas throughout.

This is a personal project for me because these are my own childhood memories, so for me looking back and seeing what I used to play with when I was a child will bring back nostalgic memories.

This project is called Child-Like Innocence



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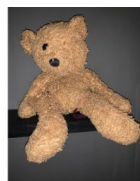
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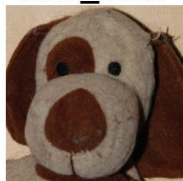
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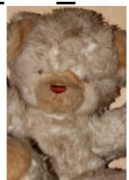
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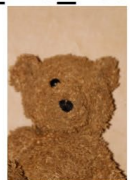
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TEST SHOTS

These shots are from the teddy bear series I recently started. I tried out the different lighting techniques and angles to see which would work best.

These photos are the test shots I did which didn't work out properly, Some of these are blurred which was due to using a new lens that I haven't used for a few months, I had to work out how to use it again which caused me to zoom in/out of the photos. This also caused the shots to be blurred, even though it can't be seen on this contact sheet.

Because of the weather, the lighting tended to come in and out quite quick, so I had to be fast to get the shots, however sometimes it didn't quite work out, so I included the ones that didn't make it in this contact sheet.



I included these photos that I shot because I liked the look of how they were shot. The photos with the orange border are my personal favourites and could potentially be included in this project.

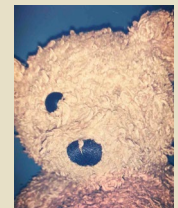
I shot these in my room on several surfaces to ensure I got the best shots. The backdrops worked for me because it allowed me to be creative in many ways. I had to be careful with the way I shot them, for example, with the second photo, several times, the light kept showing up in the eye, so I had to position him in a way where the light was kept out.

I like how the colours pop out in the ones highlighted because it shows the personal attachment I had with these toys and how long I have had them for. The photos highlighted I chose for my visual outcome portfolio.

I will experiment with colour film and see if that works better than digital. On the right-hand side is the potential look of it when it comes to shooting film for real throughout the MA course.



**EXAMPLE OF POTENTIAL
FILM SHOTS**



This book is included as part of my research for this project because it talks about nostalgia which is what this is based on, my own childhood items, toys etc.

Childhood toys and media have an important role to play in the “invention” of traditions (Hobsbawn and Ranger 1983) and the construction of “imagined communities” (Anderson 2006) that go to define nations and nationalism. (Wesseling, p.10)

I found this to be an interesting read because the chapters related to the theme of this project. It talks about how it brings in nostalgia, childhood together.



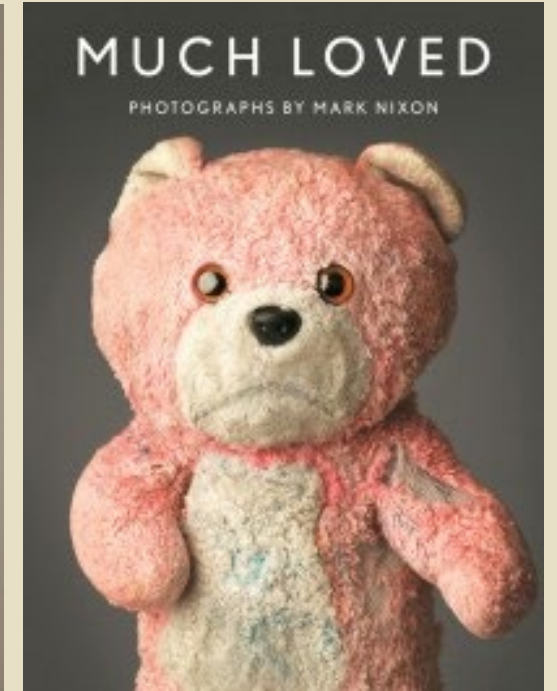
REINVENTING CHILDHOOD NOSTALGIA

MUCH LOVED

Much loved is a book created by photographer, Mark Nixon who created portraits of childhood teddies that people had when they were younger.

I included this in my research because I like the way he has photographed them and made the audience go on a journey, seeing childhood teddies looking worse for wear, and the way he shot them on a plain backdrop, making the teddies/toys stand out.

Teddies will be included in this project alongside other various childhood items that I had when I was a kid.

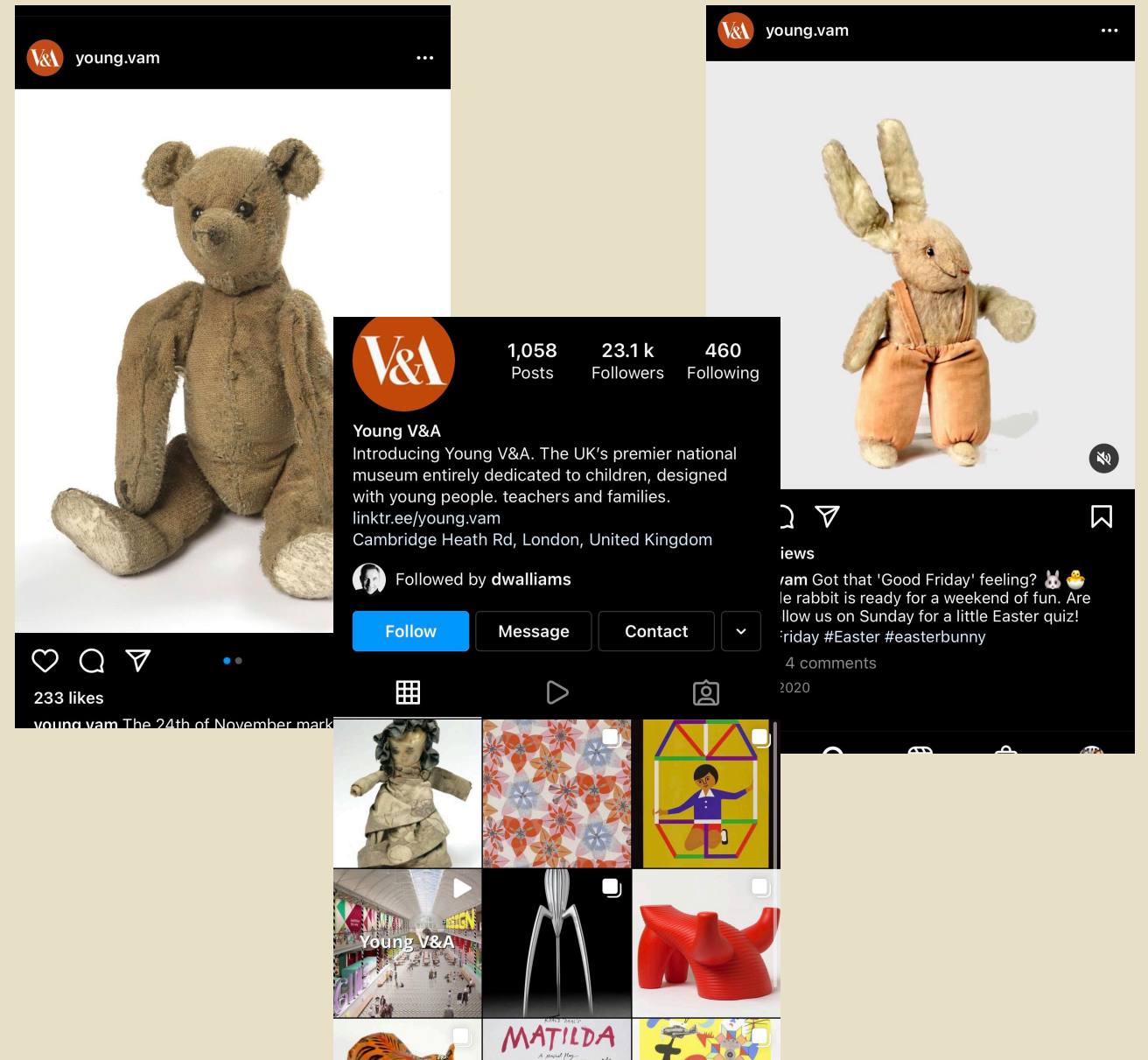


YOUNG VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

I found this Instagram account that is dedicated to childhood, specifically teddies. Even though this project focuses on childhood items such as teddies, toys etc in general, teddies will still be included in this project.

This is the young V&A (Victoria and Albert) museum completely for children, based in London.

I included this as part of my research because it relates to my project in many ways, as well as being a museum for various other items, I found a few images of teddies.



ILKLEY TOY MUSEUM

I researched local museums that focus on childhood, and I found this museum in Ilkley that does just that. This talks about the story of the childhood toys over the years and the 'journey back to childhood'.

I included this in my research as part of this project because it relates to this so well as it is all about toys, and with this being my own childhood project, it's a personal one for me, it tells a story.



Journey back to

Childhood

Discover the fascinating stories of toys through the ages and some of the children who played with them

[View our story](#)



York Castle Museum



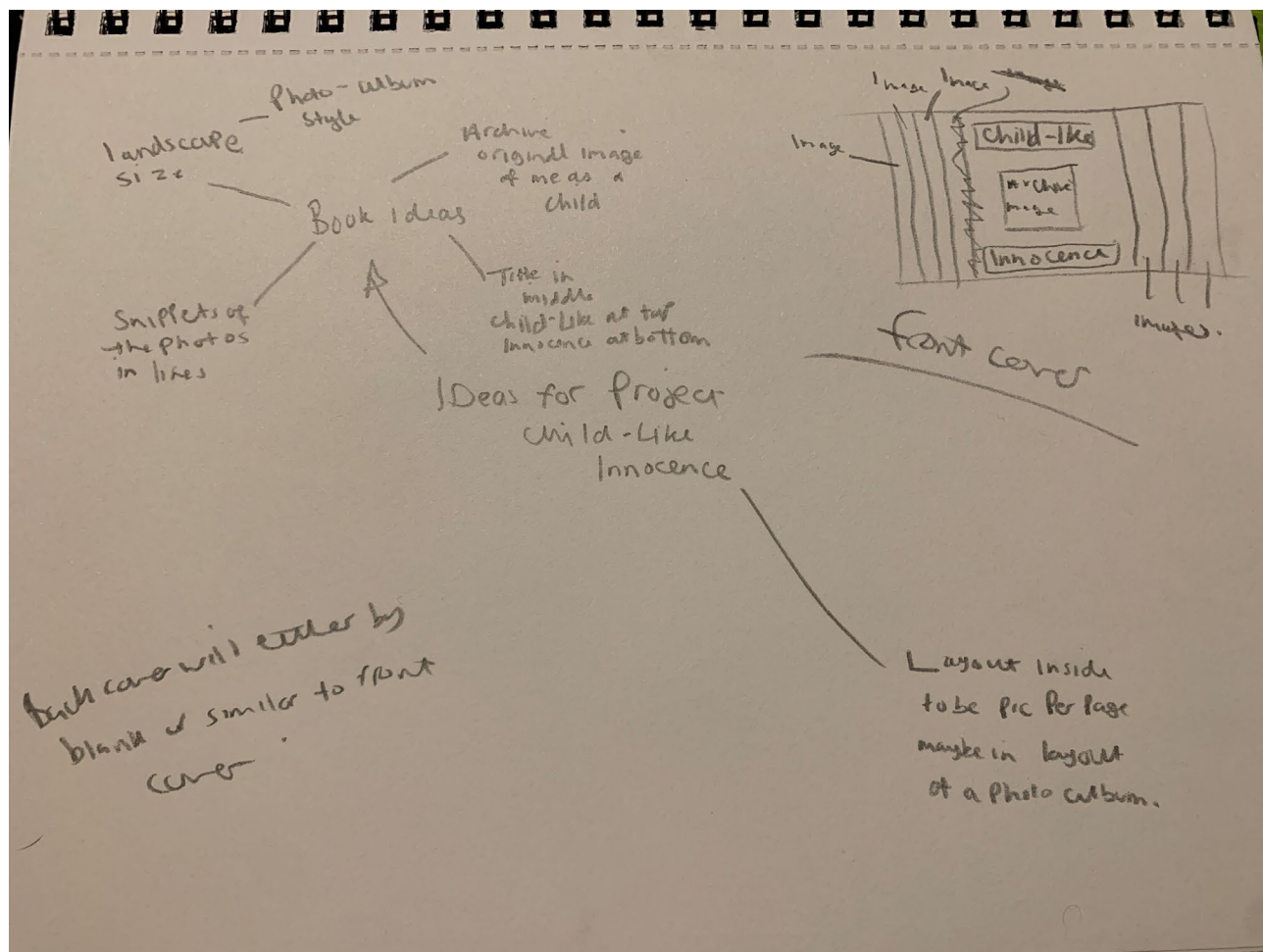
TOY STORIES

Take a trip back to childhood and rediscover some of your favourite toys in our popular exhibition.

YORK CASTLE MUSEUM

I researched local museums that focus on childhood, and I found this museum in Ilkley that does just that. This talks about the story of the childhood toys over the years and the 'journey back to childhood'.

I included this in my research as part of this project because it relates to this so well as it is all about toys, and with this being my own childhood project, it's a personal one for me, it tells a story.



I decided to draw a mind-map of the potential ideas for this project to see where I could go with it throughout the MA.

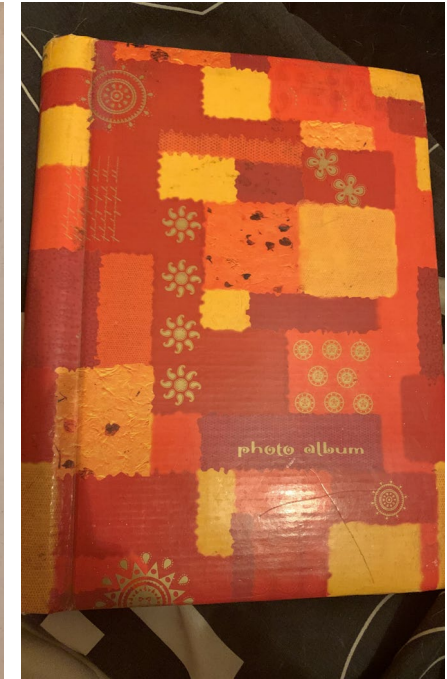
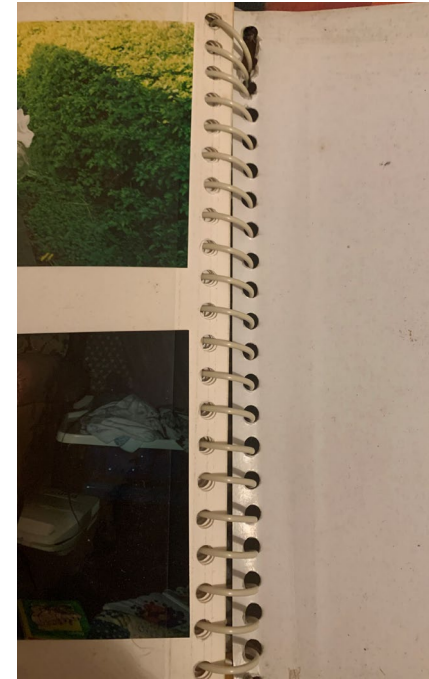
I added some book ideas which I could do which includes landscape, a photo-album style book, bringing it full circle back to my own childhood album.

In the right-hand corner, I sketched out a drawing of the front cover which includes 3 snippets of some of the photos which is going to be inside on either side, with the title at top and bottom, e.g., Child-Like at the top and Innocence at the bottom with an archival image of myself as a baby/child in the middle to add that personal touch.

BOOK INSPIRATION AND WHERE I FOUND MY CHILDHOOD ITEMS

I found my childhood items in the attic which the outside of it is pictured here. I then found my childhood photo album and saw how it looks retro and so I thought I could take a similar approach but make it more in the present, updating its look. I added a mock-up of a potential front cover that replicates this one which is seen on slide 20.

I found out that the photo album is spiral bound which is a potential option for my own book. I plan to follow a similar route of creating a photo album because this project is about my own childhood.



BOOK MOCK-UPS/FONTS FOR THIS PROJECT

CHILD-LIKE INNOCENCE

Child-Like Innocence

Child-Like Innocence

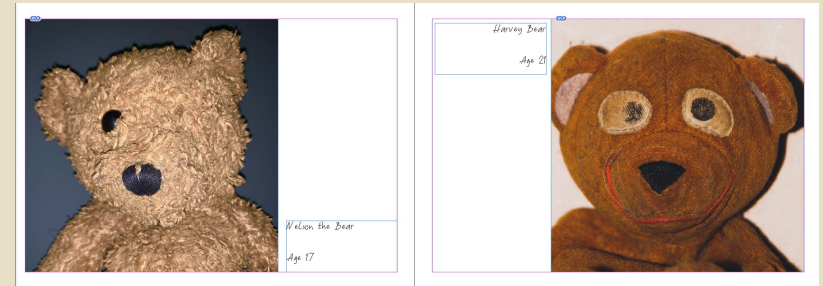
CHILD-LIKE INNOCENCE

CHILD-LIKE INNOCENCE

I decided as it was a childhood project to find a 'childlike' font which is what it is called. I made a mock-up of a potential front cover. The bottom one is my favourite because it shows snippets of what is going to be inside; some photos displayed on the front aren't the final shots, I put them on there to show what it could potentially look like. I then added the title in standard black with an archive image of myself as a child to make it personal. This image could be changed or edited throughout the course.

These are a couple of fonts I picked out for the title, I highlighted the second one because I felt it looks 'childlike' and therefore I chose this one as my personal favourite. I feel like this one works well on the cover.

Child-Like Innocence

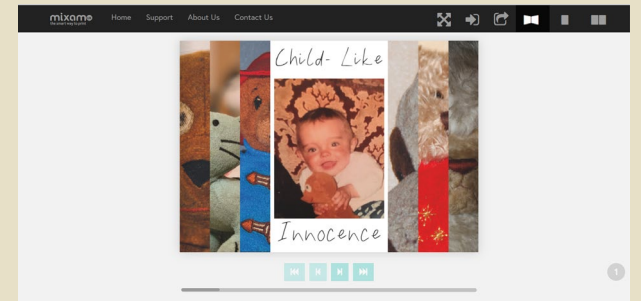


POTENTIAL BOOK WEBSITES/IDEAS

I researched some potential websites where I could get a book made for the project. I went onto Mixam, a site known for making books and inserted a pdf of the front cover to see what it would like.

I also looked on second-hand sites such as eBay to see what I could find in terms of the actual product for the photos to be displayed in - I found two different books, so a photo-album and a scrapbook, both were low in cost.

I searched online for potential layouts for inside and found these two which were ideal, I particularly like the second one (highlighted) because it shows the archival images similar to what my own childhood album looks like but in the form of what looks like a scrapbook.



EVALUATION

I first started with the idea of a childhood itemised project which after much consideration and a group crit, I rethought my idea and decided to go down the route of my own childhood and my own teddies, toys etc and decided to photograph them instead. During the group crit, I got feedback saying my previous images from my first project didn't really connect with the theme of nostalgia. This project moved on when it became more about random childhood objects rather than specific ones. I was able to conduct some research for this project, but most were photographers whose practice were in everyday objects. For this, I carefully planned out the layout so the objects would stand out, however after a while, I started to realise that that each photo was repetitive.

For the second project that I am currently doing, I was able to do some research and branch out by looking at museums that related to the topic, something that I wasn't able to do with the first project. For this project, I'm going to try out colour film as well as use my DSLR to see if I can achieve the look I want. I have been interested in looking back at childhood and even though this project will have its challenges, I am hopeful that by the end of the MA course, I will produce a book, whether that be digital or hand-made that I will be proud of and that I can look back at when I'm older.

Overall, I think that the second project is the best one to go for as it explores my own childhood, and it is a personal one for me because its about reminiscing, looking back as an adult at what I used to play with when I was a kid, and the fact that I have kept these items means that I have a sentimental attachment. This project I am going to continue with throughout the course of my MA.

Bate, D. (2009) *Photography: the key concepts*. London: Routledge.

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