

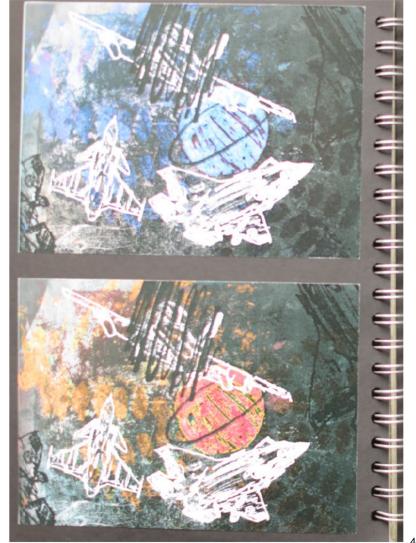
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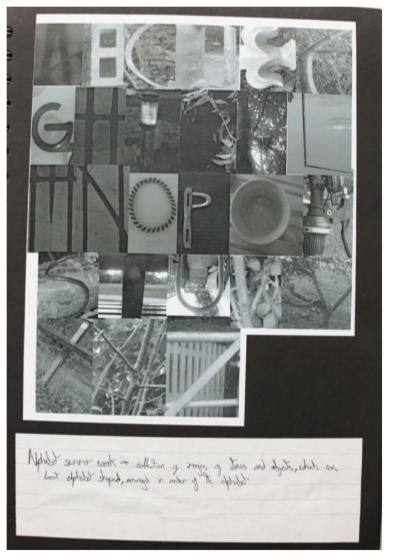
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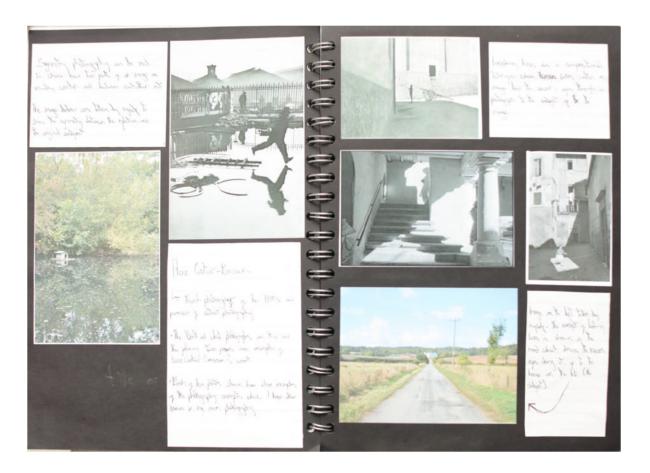
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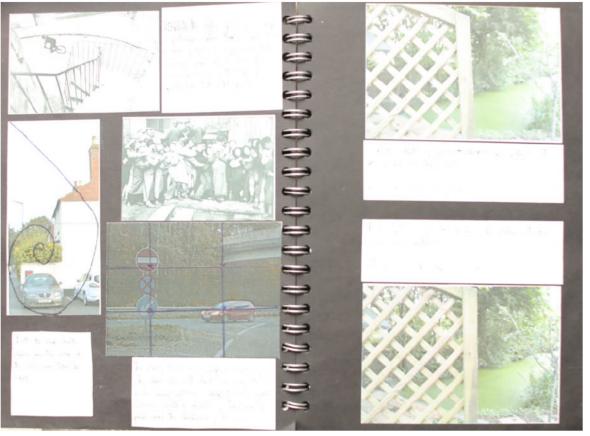
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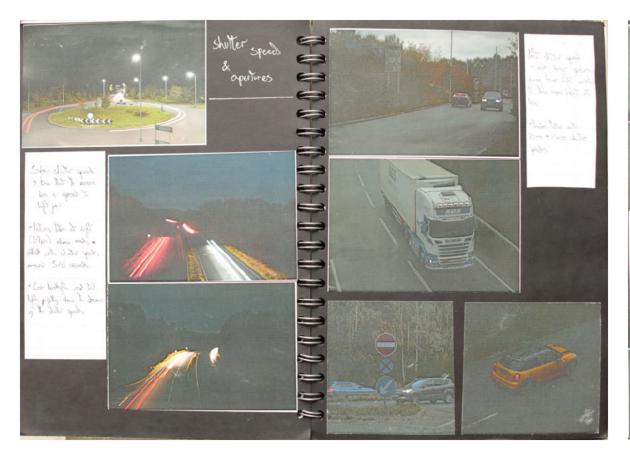


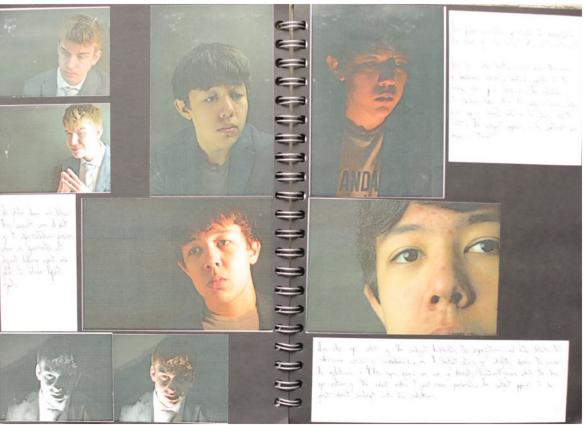




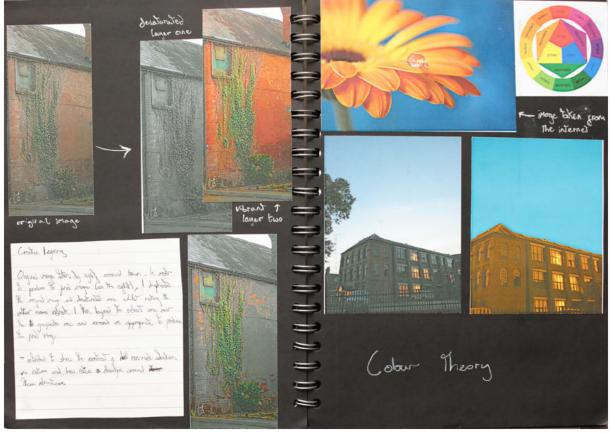




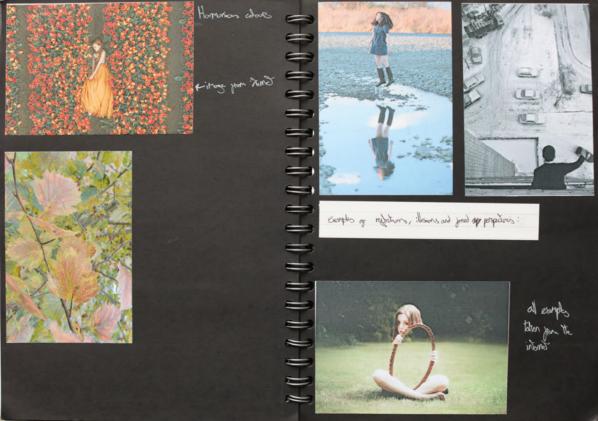


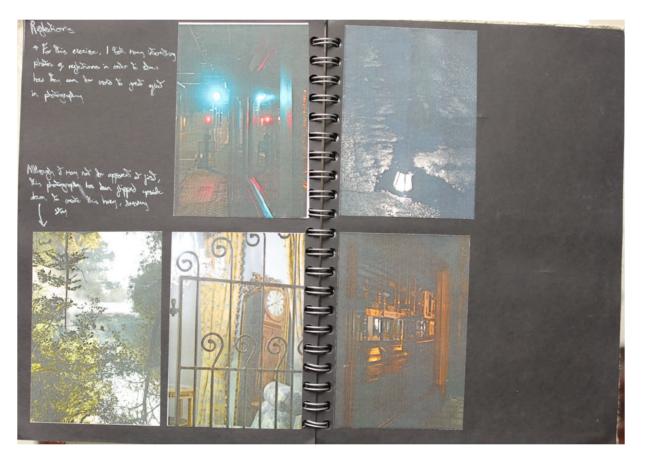


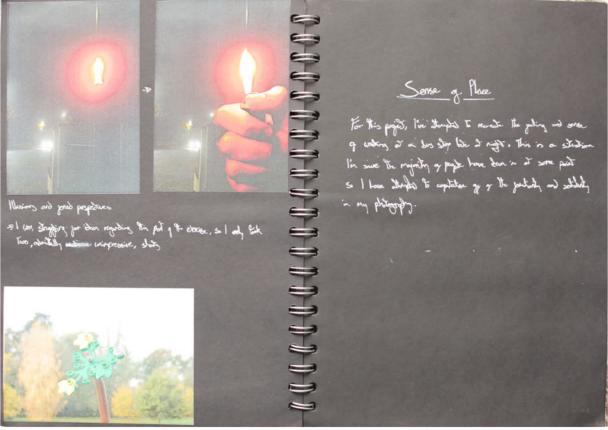




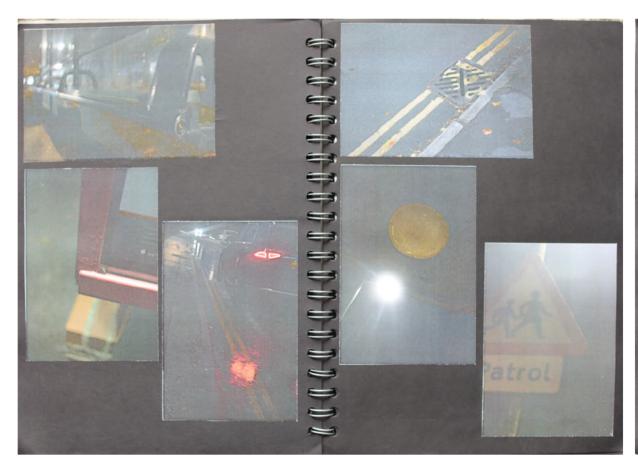


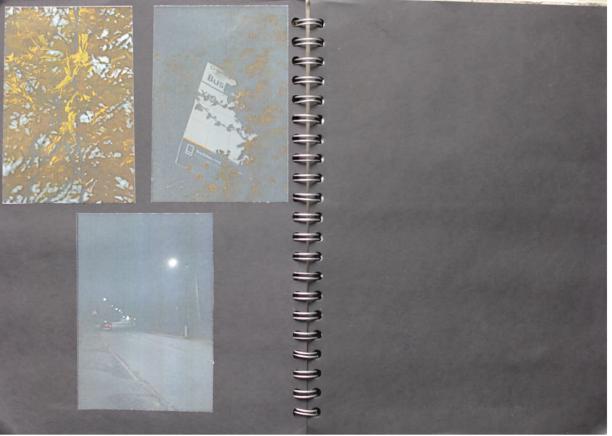


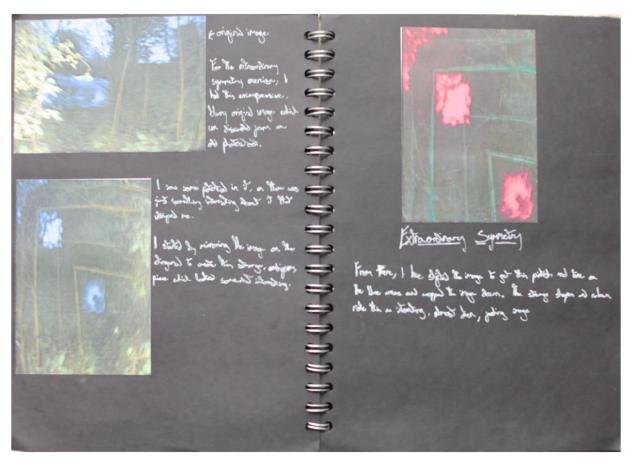


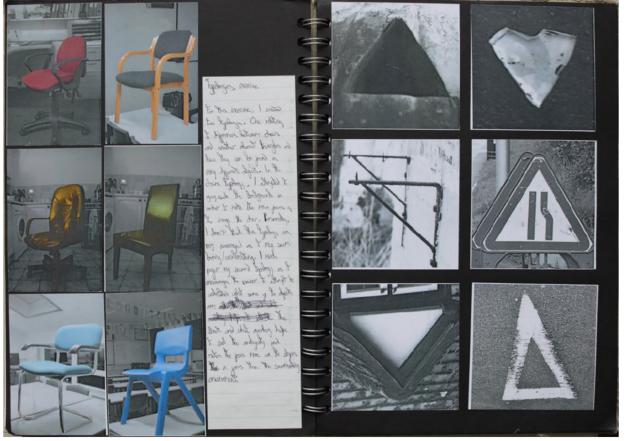


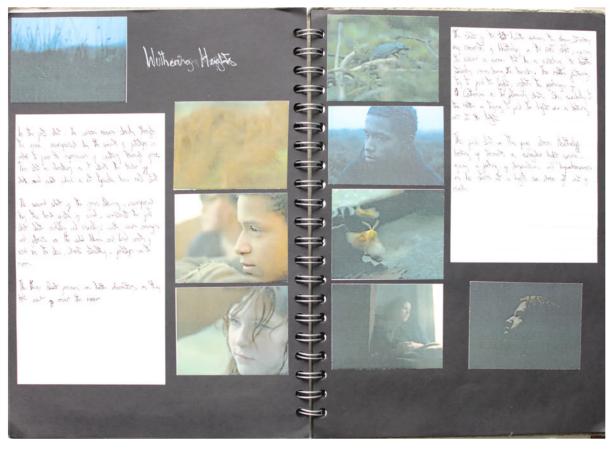
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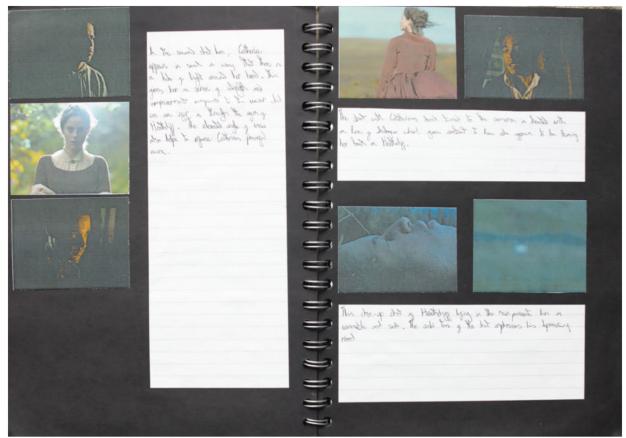




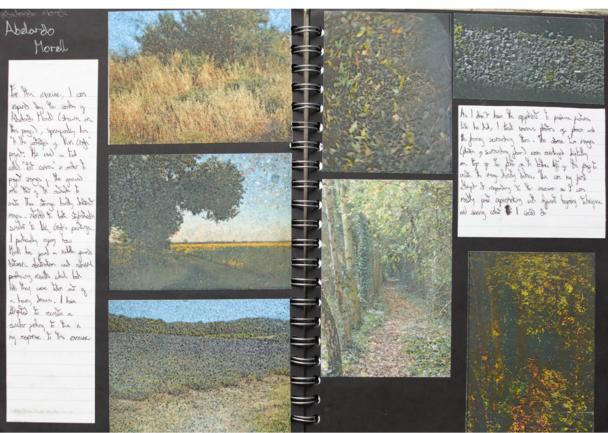


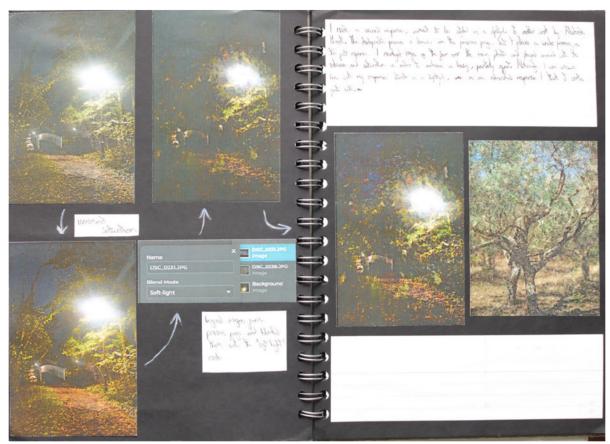
















## The Stratfo

## Alcester community offers it

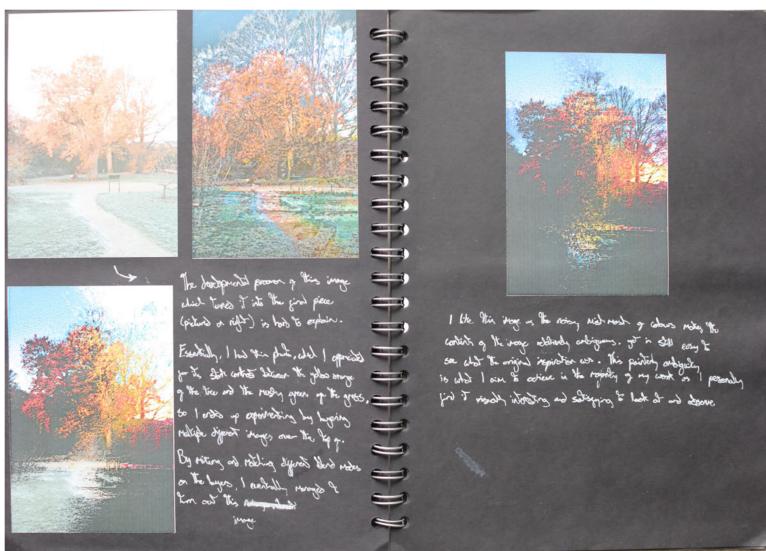
The landlord of the building is believed to be from Brimingham - the pub was leased by licensee and historymous Mandy Dewnes who ran the pub with parmer Andy Birws.

They were left des astat by the fire and the Alecca community is kern to a them back behind the b of the Three Tuna, who was named Shakespea Canun's pub of the year 2020. CID Sexus Juned, who peptessents Alcester Town Ward at Stratione District Council, said a way forward needs to be found to assex a "much-loyed pub which is part of the construents".

She told the Herald:
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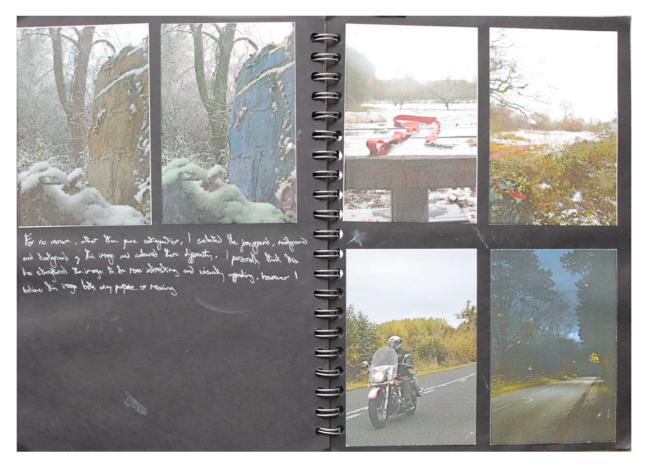
I begin both burst wags on top of colors (see store) as then avoid a recorder also where as I could not find a physical are construct the part topping it who are the deft responser deping one actions from now actions with door the part in order to water to probable.



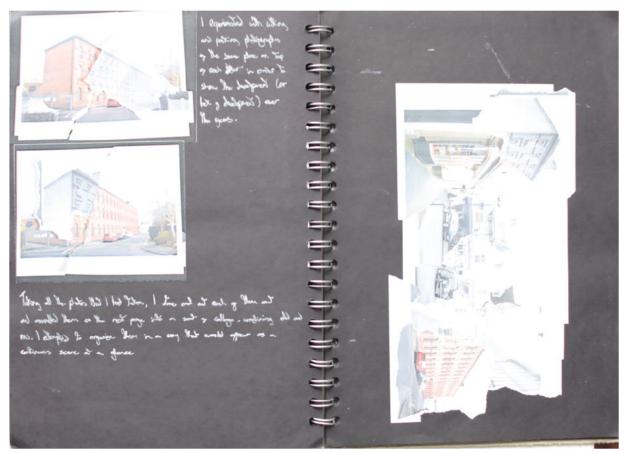


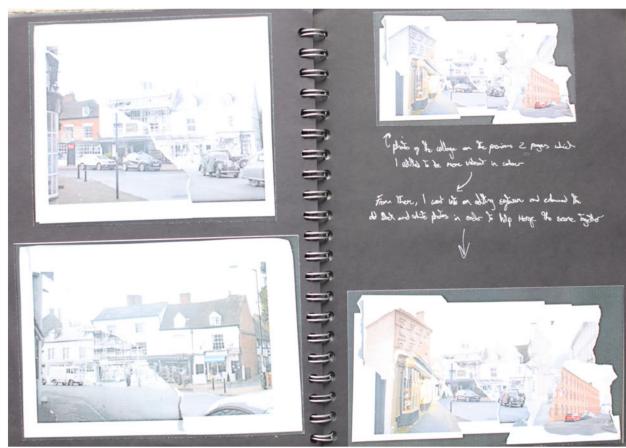
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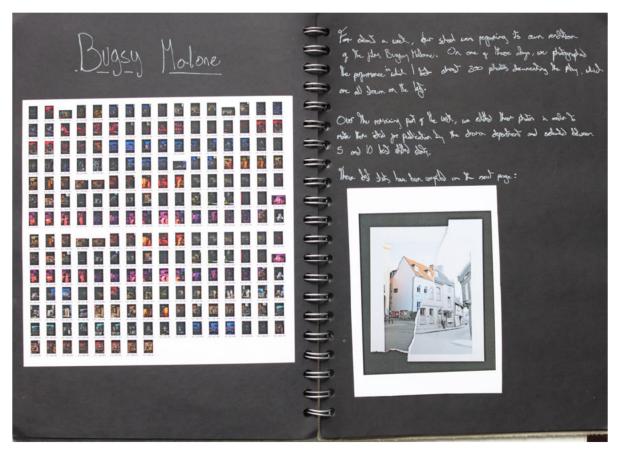
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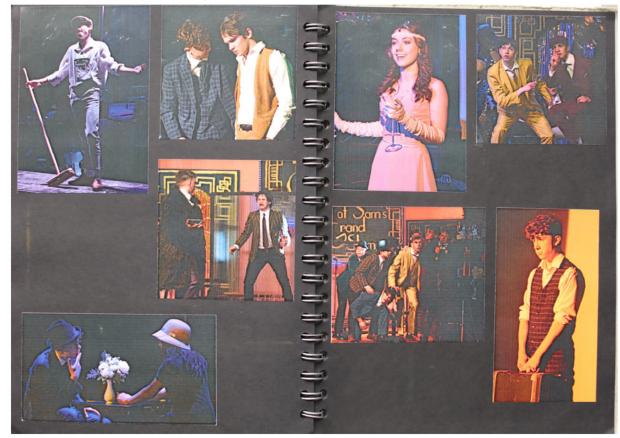






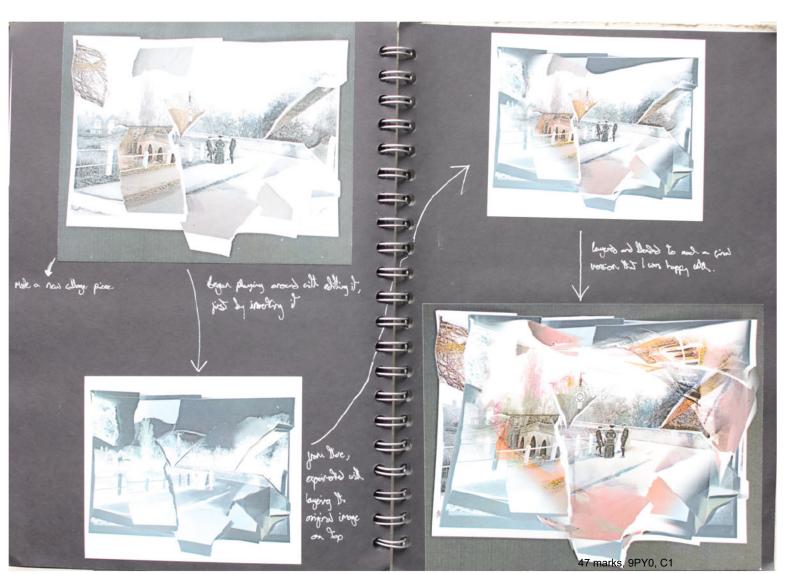


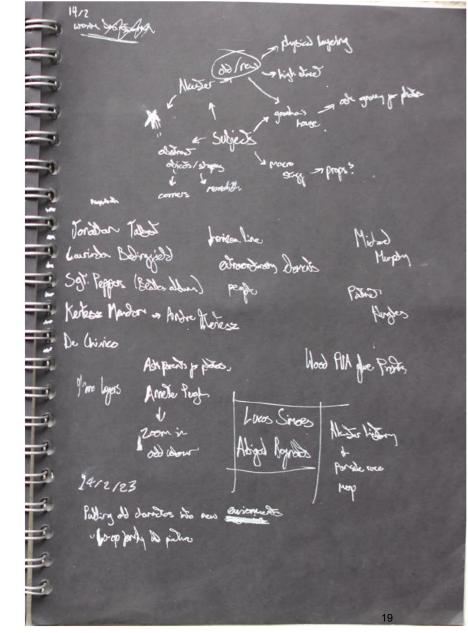




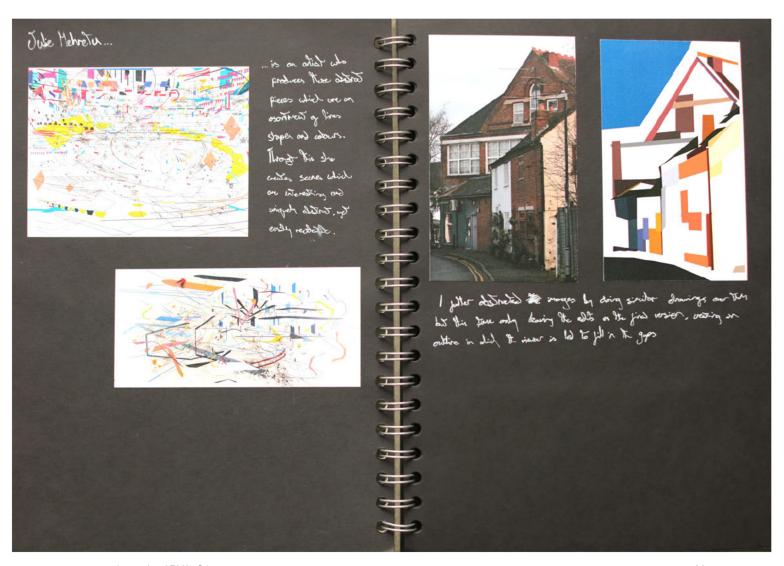


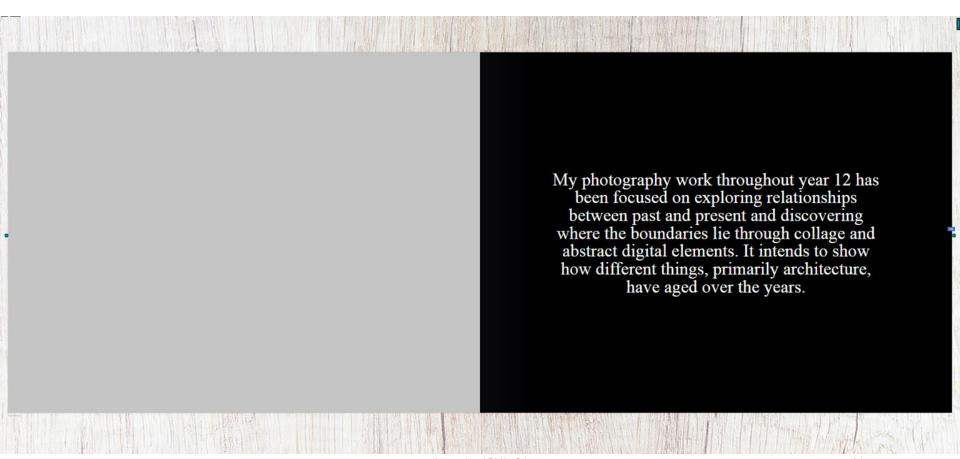


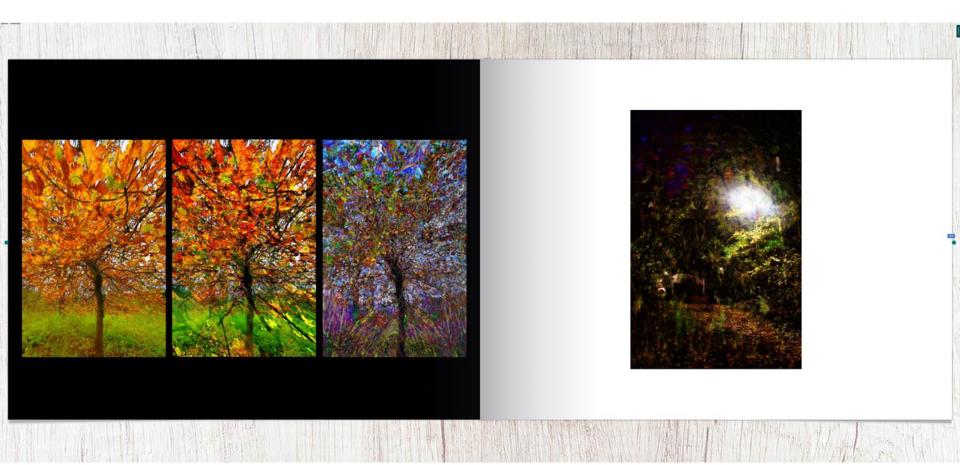














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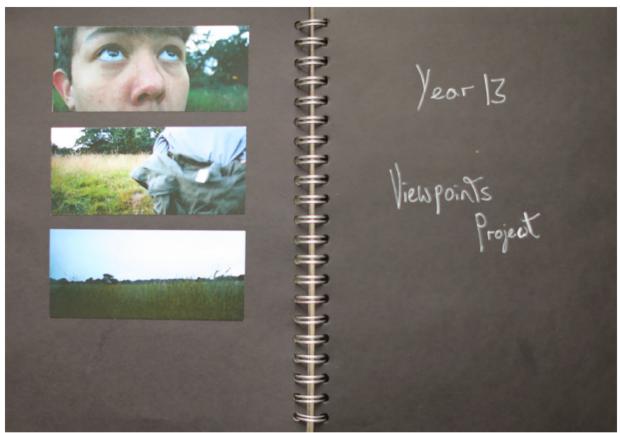


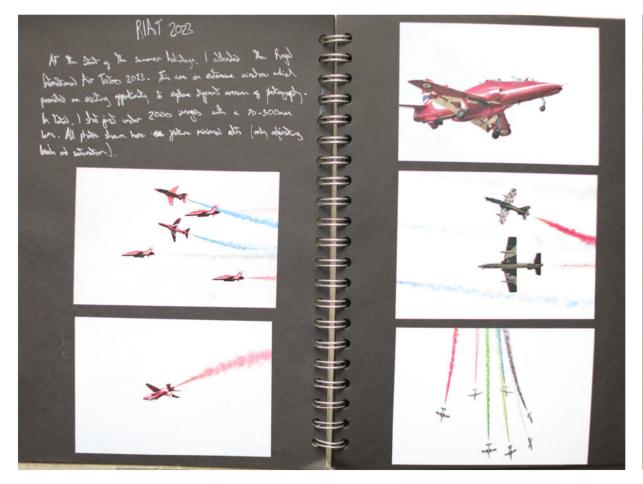








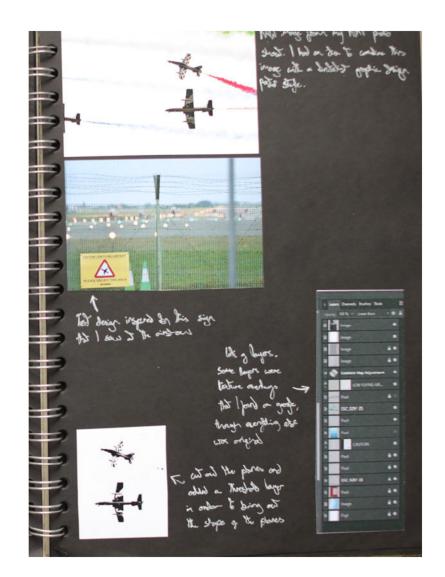


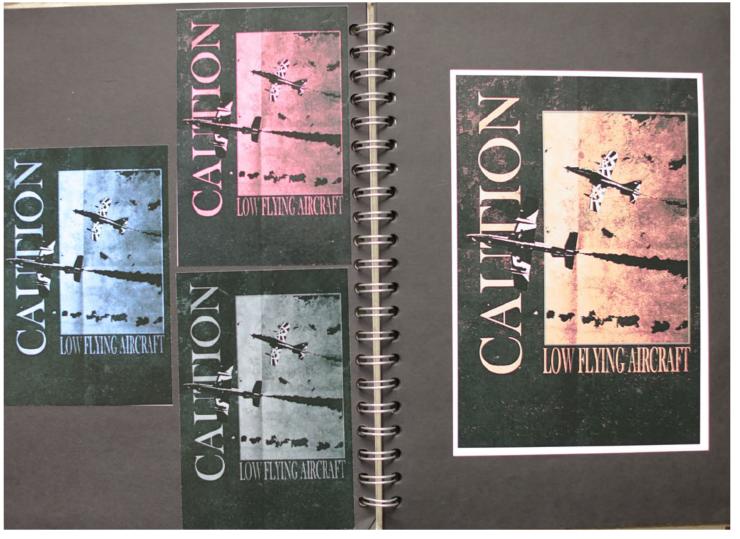


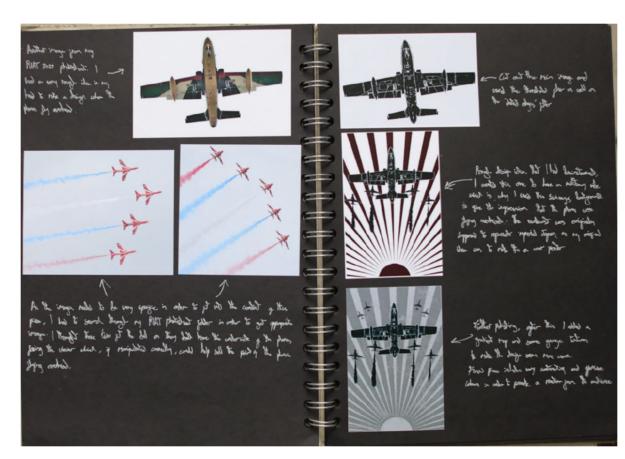




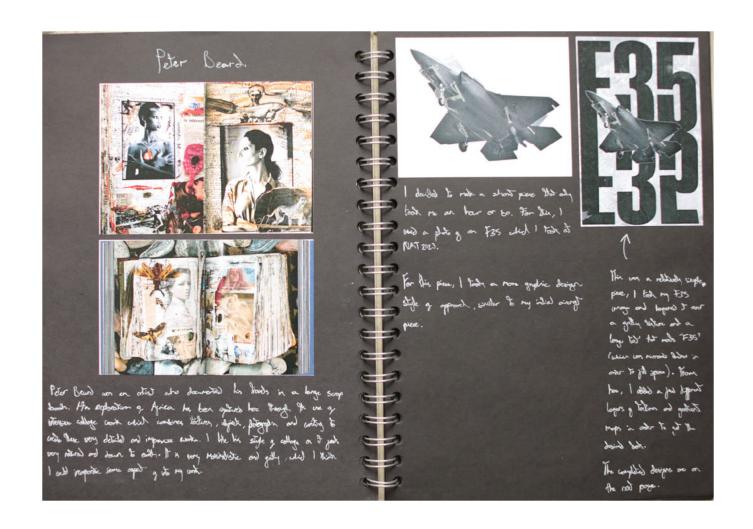




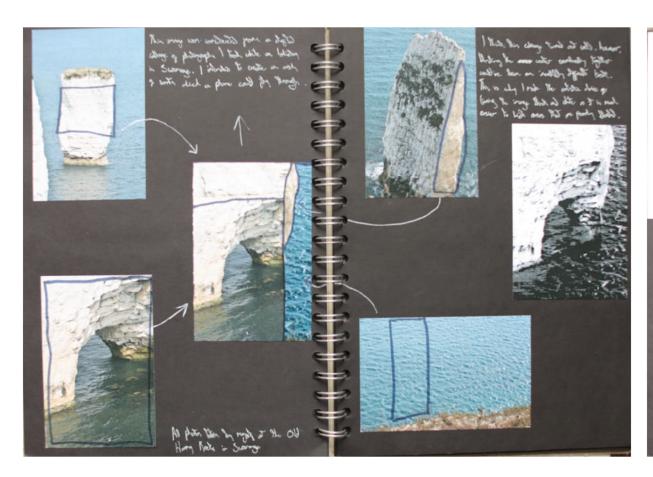


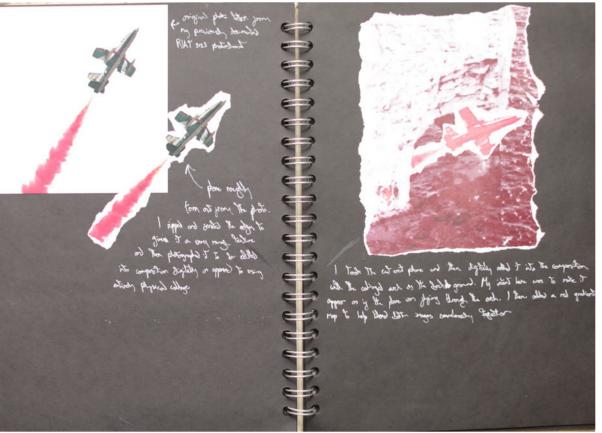




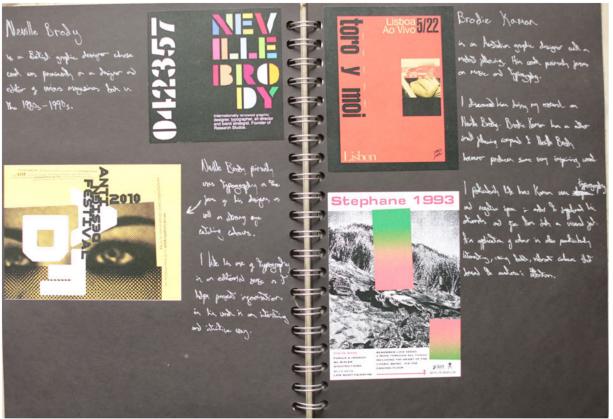




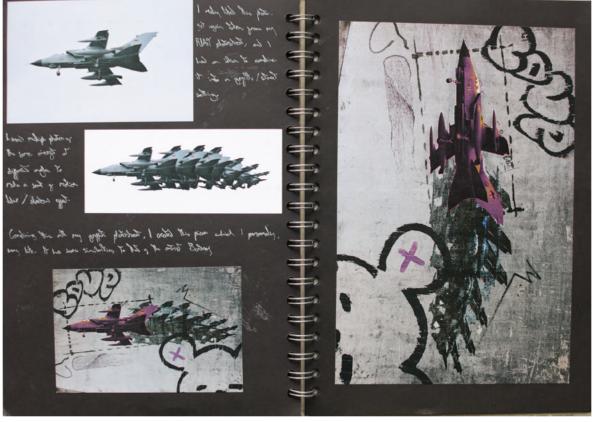


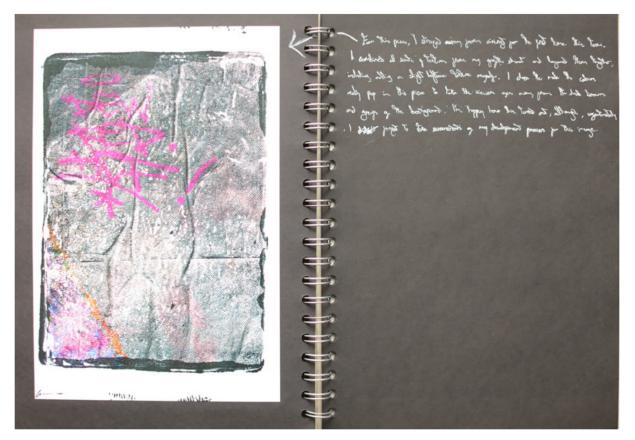


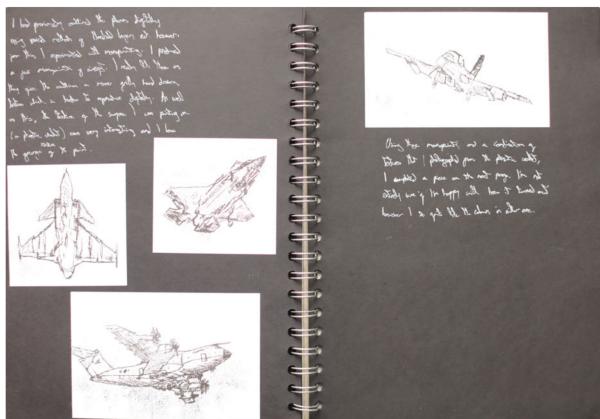


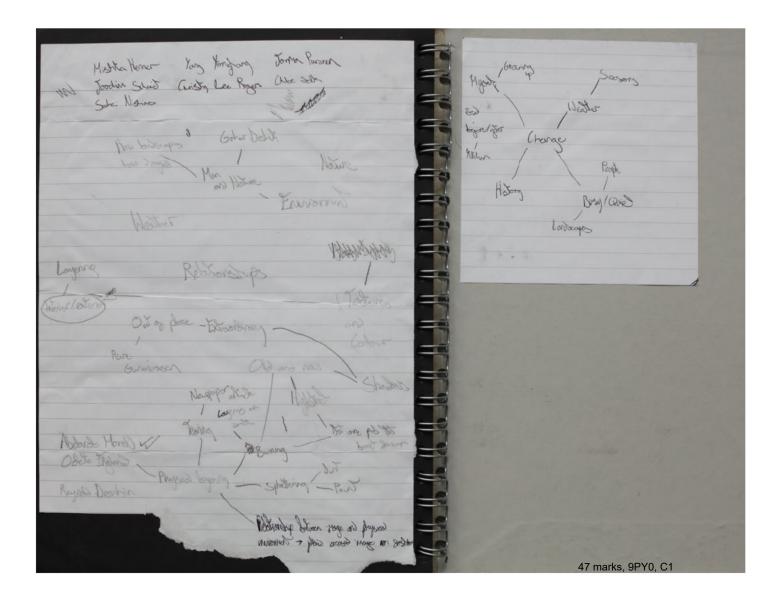










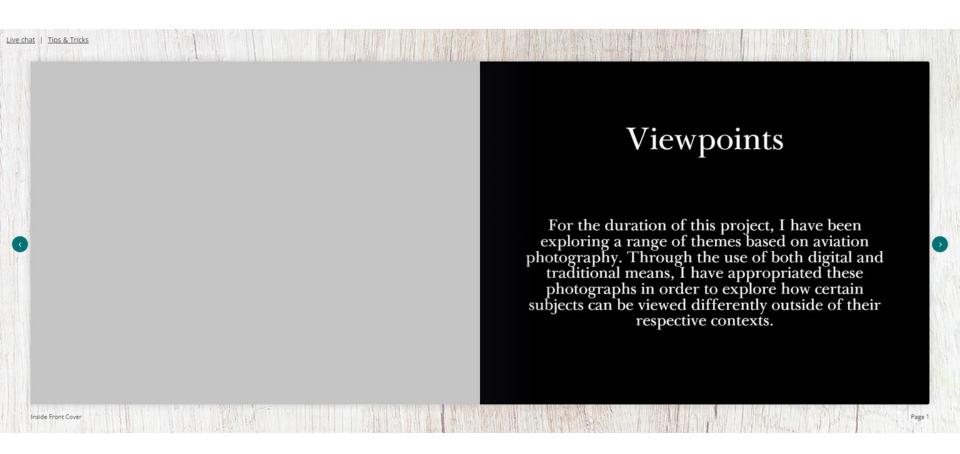




for the duration of this project, I have been exploring a range of themes based on available photography. Through the use of both digital and traditional means, I have appropriated these photographs in order to explore have certain subjects can be viewed differently outside of their respective contexts.









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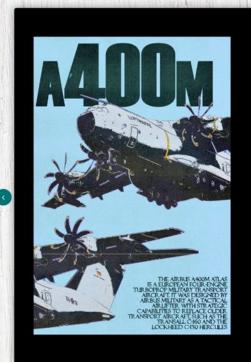


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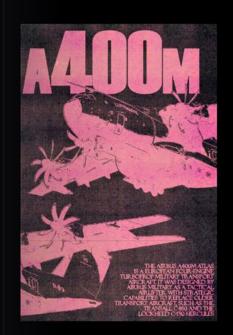


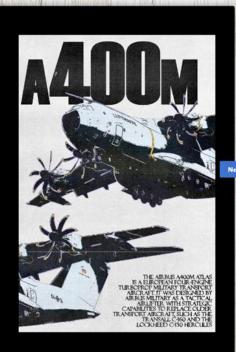


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# Component One – Personal Study

## Clash and Burn

The collaged juxtapositions of Robert Rauschenberg and John Baldessari



Estate 1967 - Robert Rauschenberg

#### Introduction

The study will examine specific pieces by these two artists, considering ways in which they appropriate motifs and combine them to generate new meanings. The creative intentions of both will be considered, along with features of style and approach and the cultural contexts in which their works were produced.

Robert Rauschenberg was an American artist who emerged during the early 1950s. His early work hinted at the beginnings of themes that would characterise his future artworks. One of these principles was blurring the lines between different artistic mediums. He frequently combined photography, painting and sculpture to develop his own unique style. During his early career, he was influenced by the Abstract Expressionist movement which was characterised by impulsive brushwork. Towards the 1960s, his style fell more in line with the likes of the pop art movement; appropriating references and materials from popular culture into his work.

John Baldessari was also an American artist, first emerging as a prominent figure within the Conceptual Art Movement in the 1960s. Similarly to Rauschenberg, Baldessari took a mixed media approach to his artwork, incorporating photography, paintwork and text into his work. His work is often characterised by his use of solid colours and abstract shapes that, by obscuring details, leave much to the viewer's imagination.



Centennial Certificate MMA 1969 - Robert Rauschenberg

This piece, constructed as a lithograph, is divided into a grid of squares. It is composed of prints of different artworks, coloured either distinctly blue or red. The blue artworks seem to be Renaissance era pieces while the red artworks appear to be much older; with one notably featuring the tomb of a pharaoh. Despite the disparate origins of the individual artworks, Rauschenberg unifies them with a yellow stroke which lines the borders of each contrasting piece, holding them together. Rauschenberg maintains a sense of order and clarity within the piece with a clear structure and grid upon which the images are placed.

Yet amongst this, he still provides ample chaos, with deliberate stains and smudges blurring the boundaries between each individual element and blending them together into one coherent piece. Rauschenberg's use of a very limited colour palette simplifies the image and allows each artwork to fuse together, bridging the gap between their cultural and historical differences.

Through appropriating these artworks into this context, Rauschenberg completely removes them from their respective contexts and places them into this display. In the middle of all of this, Rauschenberg leaves a message regarding the intentions of the piece where he writes briefly about the importance of the conservation of art history. After doing more research, it appears that this piece was specifically made in celebration of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York's 100th anniversary.



Overlap Series: Palms (with Cityscape) and Climbers 2000 - John Baldessari

Similar to Rauschenberg's piece, this piece by Baldessari is elegant and methodical in format. It features an uneven split of the page into three sections and deliberate juxtapositions of disparate elements.

Three palm trees loom over the climbers; their trunks protruding up the image, taking on different forms as they pass through each layer and dominate the composition. Almost like a grid, the palm trees balance the image by sectioning it off. The palm trees evoke a sense of leisure or tranquillity associated with tropical environments, which contrasts against the chaos of the cityscape and the struggle between the climbers. The strategic placement of the palm trees create a sense of balance and order amongst the chaos. This stark juxtaposition between the natural serenity of the palm trees and the urban hustle and bustle sets the stage for the unfolding narrative.

Central to the composition and narrative are the climbers in the foreground. Baldessari's use of bright, flat colours further highlights the contrast between the climbers and their surroundings, drawing attention to their struggle amidst the vibrant backdrop of the palm trees and cityscape.

By taking each of these images out of context and appropriating them, Baldessari creates his own narrative that goes further than the individual elements of the composition. He manipulates the viewer's sense of scale and depth, heightening the tension between the climbers.



Retroactive II 1963 - Robert Rauschenberg

The context of this piece is very important when discussing it. This piece centres around the legacy of John F. Kennedy who was assassinated on November 23 1963. It was made after the assassination. This was a silkscreen print featuring principles seen in other Rauschenberg works, being a mix of prints, paintwork and found material.

The page is split into a grid of two halves, separated between warm and cold tones.

JFK's complexion is highlighted by warm tones and directly contrasting him is an image of an astronaut, presumably a reference to the ongoing space race and the cold war. This layout creates a split down the middle of the composition, isolating JFK from his actions in office. The JFK portrait is sloppily painted over, separating his hand from the rest of his portrait. By doing so, Rauschenberg singles out his right hand, showcasing the authoritative gesture which Kennedy was known for doing during his many speeches. By highlighting this specific aspect of Kennedy's persona, Rauschenberg emphasises the power and authority associated with the late president's leadership. The negative space around his hand provides room for the viewer to breathe, counter balancing the overload of information that controls the rest of the image.

Through the use of mixed media, Rauschenberg creates a summary of the era, showcasing the events that characterised JFK's time in office as a sort of memorial to the late president. This piece holds profound significance as a commentary on Kennedy's legacy and the turbulent era in which he governed. Furthermore, it marks a pivotal moment in Rauschenberg's career as it was one of his first pieces that used materials from popular media, leading some to identify him with the pop art movement and artists such as Andy Warhol.



Marilyn Monroe 1967 - Andy Warhol

This piece by Andy Warhol is part of a series of prints of the famous actress Marilyn Monroe. Warhol created these pieces following the death of Monroe in 1962. The piece depicts the same images of Monroe repeated in an orderly grid.

Each image has a different hue and colour palette, but for the most part, are identical copies. These images are almost haunting in how they depict a deceased Hollywood legend as just another eccentric consumerist icon, with bright vibrant colours intent to catch the viewers attention. This print shows Monroe as a timeless icon of Hollywood, immortalising her at the peak of her success. Simultaneously celebrating and critiquing the celebrity, yet hinting at more beyond the Hollywood facade. The systematic and purposeful layout of the artwork perpetuates the idea of celebrities as manufactured commodities, arranged for consumption by the masses. Each repetition of her image serves as a reminder of the relentiess cycle of fame and pressure to conform to societal expectations of beauty and perfection. They hint at more than just the face value and invite the viewer to think about what goes on behind the scenes when the cameras are off.

Warhol tackies these ideas of consumerism, fame and popular culture throughout the majority of his work, leading him to be labelled as a pioneer of the pop art movement. In parallel to Warhol, Rauschenberg's works explore the relationships between influential figures (such as John F. Kennedy in Retroactive II) and their appearance within the public eye. However, Rauschenberg primarily focuses on the broader issues within society: implementing found objects and mixed media into his works to illustrate discourse and add context.

I Will Not Make Anymore Boring Art 1971 - John Baldessari

I will not make any more boung art.

This piece was created in 1971, when Baldessari became disillusioned with the state of contemporary art at the time. Born out of a sense of frustration, this piece represents Baldessari's attempt to challenge the meaning of artistic expression.

The piece is simplistic; the line "I WIII Not Make Anymore Boring Art." is deliberately sloppily repeated down the page. The piece is almost comedic, contradicting itself at face value and being boring.. It walks the line between artistic expression and madness. The more the viewer reads the messages, the more distant the words become as their meaning slips away and they just become strokes of ink on a page. The act of repetition, whilst initially serving as a form of protest, dissolves into a cry for help, furthering the underlying tone of hopelessness.

Although this piece does not directly tie to pop art or Rauschenberg, it similarly challenges the status quo, offering a more nuanced take on contemporary art.

Font 1987 - John Baldessari



This piece by Baldessari depicts two scenes on top of one another, constructing a thin narrative. In the first slide, a man can be seen writing something, his face covered by a green circle.

Every single person is discreet; their identities hidden behind a veil of paint. Anything and everything that could give the slightest context to these images are erased or censored.

In the image below, two parties, one censored in white and the other in black are presenting some sort of artwork. The stark contrast of black and white suggests a binary opposition, hinting at underlying tensions between the two groups. The three coloured rectangles are all primary colours, suggesting that they are somehow linked, perhaps deeper than it first appears.

Baldessari's methodical abstraction leaves nothing behind. This is a common theme throughout his work; hiding any form of identification or contextual clues from the audience, often behind an impenetrable wall of solid colour and forcing the viewer to create a narrative of their own.

His intentions are polar opposite to that of Rauschenberg; who portrays his narrative through more literal means, intentionally directing the viewer to his desired conclusion whereas Baldessari leaves much to the viewer's imagination.



Estate 1967 - Robert Rauschenberg

This piece by Rauschenberg is another classic example of the Rauschenberg formula. He uses a range of techniques to achieve this style; layering prints and photographs and painting over them in order to blend them into one coherent piece. "Estate" consists of a mixture of print work, photographs and harsh brush strokes to create a complex and interesting composition.

The bright, scruffy reds and yellows of the painting engulf the composition in a fire, promoting a sense of opposition and struggle. The washed out colours of the buildings project helplessness as they are swallowed whole by the fiery brush

strokes. The centre-most building teeters on the brink of collapse; its offset angle conveying a sense of instability. Similarly, the State of Liberty, a symbol of democracy and freedom, appears to be similarly vulnerable; projecting the fragility of societal structures in the face of opposition. Its destabilised presence suggests the erosion of fundamental values and principles.

Despite the chaos, there is still some order and integrity beneath the image, with the page split in half down the middle between the bold reds and cold grey tones. The centre building links both sides together, toppling from the flames.

Throughout this piece, Rauschenberg tackles concepts of decay, erosion and anarchy. It is a very chaotic composition, with many layers and intricate imagery, intent to elicit a more visceral response from viewers. This is in contrast to Baldessari, who mostly takes a more minimalistic approach in his works.

#### Conclusion

From Rauschenberg's early works to Andy Warhol's bold imagery and Baldessari's conceptual explorations of text and image, we have observed how these artists employ collage as a means of constructing new narratives and challenging established ideas.

Both Baldessari and Rauschenberg share a common thread in their exploration of mixed media and the manipulation of found imagery, yet they diverge in their conceptual approaches and thematic concerns.

Baldessari focuses on the deconstruction of narrative and the subversion of traditional artistic conventions. His use of text and image juxtapositions challenges viewers to question the nature of representation and communication at a deeper level.

Rauschenberg's dynamic compositions incorporate mixed media and bold brushwork to evoke emotional responses.

In spite of these differences, both artists challenge societal norms and push the boundaries of what it means to be an artist with their unconventional methods.

#### Postscript

Robert Rauschenberg has very much influenced my work. His use of mixed materials and media inspired me to further explore how I could layer and manipulate images to add deeper meaning. I particularly enjoy his approach to using rich grunge textures; incorporating found materials such as newspapers and scraps of fabric. These weathered materials create depth and a sense of upheaval and revolution. My work differs from Rauschenberg in terms of context. His work promotes and explores societal and political issues, whereas my work does not necessarily link to a bigger picture. The similarities between our works primarily lie in the methods and textures used to achieve our respective styles. Baldessari's minimalist approach also relates to my work and the way he abstracts and decomposes his compositions really interests me.

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