

Knot / Entrelace / Bloom

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My final works are an expression of human interconnection in current society. This idea is personally relevant to me as I have a strong passion for psychology, specifically why people behave the way they do. In my work I demonstrated how relationships can be portrayed through photographic works. Through exploring different techniques I demonstrated how photographic works can be manipulated to imply different themes, dynamics or relationships between the subjects. Many of my initial ideas were inspired by Maggie West's 2015 series Kiss. West used strong backlighting to create low key images which reveal minimal information about the subjects, therefore making her photographic series intriguing as the lack of information gives them a sense of mystery. West used a number of subjects and demonstrated intense intimacy between the two even though some had never met before, I explored a similar concept by demonstrating interconnection between subjects of loose connection. I implied stronger relationships between subjects, the abstract nature and minimal information given eliciting intrigue.

The works focus on a broad spectrum of intimacy by including all means of human connection, such as relationships between friends, family, self-identity and strangers. The abstract nature of the works demonstrate interconnection of society and can connect to all people. The abstract nature was inspired by the photographic works of Li Huh. Huh uses soft natural lines created by the human form, allowing a calming feeling when viewing her work. Huh explores abstracting the body, using repetition of the same body part within the image, something which inspired my final body of work. By abstracting the body I created busier images which physically demonstrate interconnection through the intertwining and 'confusing' appearance of abstracted bodies, hence representing all human connection.

The final body of works is open to interpretation from each viewer's imagination and personal experience which influences their interpretation. Each image allows the viewer to attach their own meaning in regard to how they view human connection. I want the audience to attach their own meaning as personally I relate and connect to other works more when I add my own meaning as it allows personal connection with the work. I created works which give room for the audience to attach their own meaning as this will allow viewers to create a stronger connection with the work. I intend for the viewer to see the works as a reflection of a disassembled body through the spatial placing of the images in the final presentation. I have chosen to display the works like this to reinforce the idea of never ending connection, as whilst the body is 'disassembled', it is still connected and all aspects of each individual image are completely connected, therefore is a visual representation of society and how people in this day and age are always connected.

The collage works display connection and the busyness of society, similar to Steve Joe's work. Both his and my work have busy frames, his more directly representing society whilst my works are an abstract take. When looking at these works, due to their abstract nature and lack of visual focal point the viewer is intentionally disorientated. By lacking one focal point the viewer is forced to inspect the image closer to obtain meaning from it as they have to look closely to see the detail and extract meaning.

When evaluating my work I believe I was successful, by expressing works which are interconnected and busy as a reflection of society. My final works use natural and soft lines of the human body to ensure they maintained expression of the fundamental human connection as they consist of only human forms. My concept changed significantly from the beginning from exploring intimacy, specifically in romantic relationships to exploring connection of all humans as this is more representative and relatable to more viewers, therefore can connect with a wider group of people.

My work can be connected with the works of other practitioners such as Li Huh, Lee Friedlander and Maggie West as the works were heavily inspired by them. Lee Friedlander inspired me to work with multiple focal points to create a busier frame, this meaning my works draw more intrigue to the smaller details of the frame. Maggie West and Rick Friedman inspired me to work with low key images using strong backlighting and colour to enhance the emotion of the works. Li Huh inspired me to work with more abstract photographic forms, this being reflected in the final works. My work can also be connected with the works of Steve Roe who embodies similar techniques to those used by artists of 1980's cyberpunk aesthetic. Artists of this aesthetic work mostly digitally, creating low key images with neon lighting used to create the form and defining lines. This inspired me to work with strong colours to define the forms in the work. These techniques fit into the current movement which includes more digital photographic editing and overall current movement with increasing technology as global societies further develop technology.

The works demonstrate human nature and current society's interconnection through the intertwining of human body parts and the busy collages created. I demonstrated this concept with abstracted bodies to express the concept in an abstract way which forces the audience to think more about the message expressed rather than it being clear, which would invite less imagination. Through my works I believe I have been able to communicate my own beliefs that society is interconnected and human interconnection is inescapable. I want the viewer to add their own meaning to form a connection with the works to the works, therefore the work may represent a feeling of being overwhelmed to some, whereas others may be intrigued or drawn to the business of the works, especially the digital collage works. By the works being abstract, especially the collage works, this allows each viewer to attach their own meaning to the work, therefore the works are inviting to each individual in a different way.

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