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Thesis 1
30th September, 2020

Prototype Phase II

Context

I am researching the development and construction of identity and how social expectations and limitations alter the perception of ourselves, to ultimately underline the discomfort and dissatisfaction in our ceaseless journey towards discovering and unearthing the purpose behind our existence as individual human beings.

I am interested in exploring how portraiture captures the personality of its subject, focusing on their weaknesses and vulnerabilities that are exhorted by social pressures, constraints, and conjectures.

My ambition and motivation towards this exploration stem from personal struggles that at times dominate over my individuality, ultimately guiding me towards a void space in which I start questioning everything around and within me. I believe the search for identity is something that exists in parallel to the progression of our lives, and has the presiding power to subvert and destabilize the latter in inexplicable manners.

Intention

I aspire to develop a series of largely-printed photographs that depict the portraits of individuals whose background differ in terms of culture, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, and physicality.

The process I would undertake in the creation of this project initiates with a question that I would inquire the subjects of my portraits: "if you had to choose one word to describe the feeling you endure when your identity feels tampered by external forces such as societal constraints and expectations, what would it be?" I would later ask the participants to physically manifest and express this word by using their bodies, in particular their faces. They would then press this demonstration on a photo scanner that would capture their position and reproduce it digitally. I would then print these images on large canvases, and am currently considering whether I should alter them in any way through the use of other mediums such as paint or fabric.

Impact

I believe the juxtaposition between the bitterness of the subject matter, the illustrated expressions, and the participants' emotional engagement, and the softness and blurriness of the final photographic outcome, will highlight the easiness with which individuals hide the struggle towards their search for identity in a world that makes this difficult. I want my work to communicate to its observers that they might feel lonely but are not alone.

Inspirations



Personal Prototypes

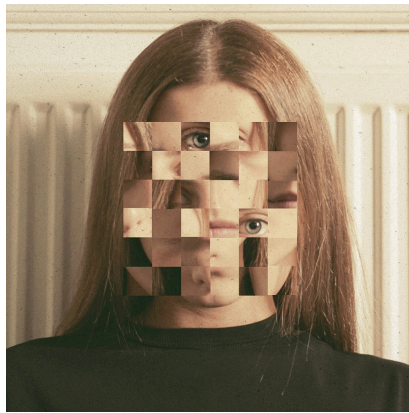
Working with scanner



Working with fabric



Working with digital



Working with paint

