

Paper Memories



Judith Bach

About

Using my late parent's analogue snapshots *Paper Memories* explores abstract concepts; temporality, materiality, love, loss and longing.

Old photographs function as both an aide-memoire and memento mori, they are visual and tangible reminders of the past.

Personal collections and histories are subject to archival intervention, over time they acquire an alternative context. Photographs originally kept as mementoes of happier occasions connote something different following ageing or death which endows them with a poignant quality.

The projects included within this body of work although conceptually different all address the lives of family snapshots, their affect, what they become over time.

Working with archival imagery offers me limitless opportunities to reinterpret the past. Whilst snapshots are static objects their meaning constantly evolves, they are never anchored in time.

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Hireth.

The Cornish word hireth translates as an unbearable yearning to go back to a time and a place that no longer exists.

Mum and dad's photographs are typical snaps from a bygone era. The archival photographs used in this project were taken in 1945 in the areas surrounding the small seaside town of Marazion in Cornwall. It is where my dad originated from and that year he took my nineteen year old mum there for the very first time. I return on my own to the very same places once inhabited by my parents, devoid now of their presence.

It was important for me to return to the same locations as closely as possible to where my parent's original snapshots were taken. All the contemporary images were shot on a full frame DSLR between 2018 and 2020 of the empty spaces where once a long time ago mum and dad posed for the camera, when they were young, before they grew old.

The photo montages collapse and converge the time between my parent's past and my present. They are intended to convey a sense of time passing, loss, longing and the fleeting transience of life.



Wish you were here



Before she grew old



When the world was black and white



His eyes were the colour of the sea



Before she was grandma



When he was young



The sky was always blue



I wish time could stand still



I miss her stories



He's not there



Nothing changes but everything changes



He's gone



It will always remind me of her



Empty spaces remind me of you

Frozen (in time).

Whilst appearing to offer eternal life and freezing time photography also records the ageing process of loved ones; and of oneself.

Photographs are fragile objects, eventually they fade and are easily destroyed.

Ice preserves, similarly a photograph is taken to keep a memory alive.

Photographs frozen in ice, what remains ?

The damage caused by the ice mimics the progression of life, how over time it degrades.

A reminder too of the inevitable physical disappearance to which we are all destined.





GRACE

FLORENCE

MYRA

LICENT







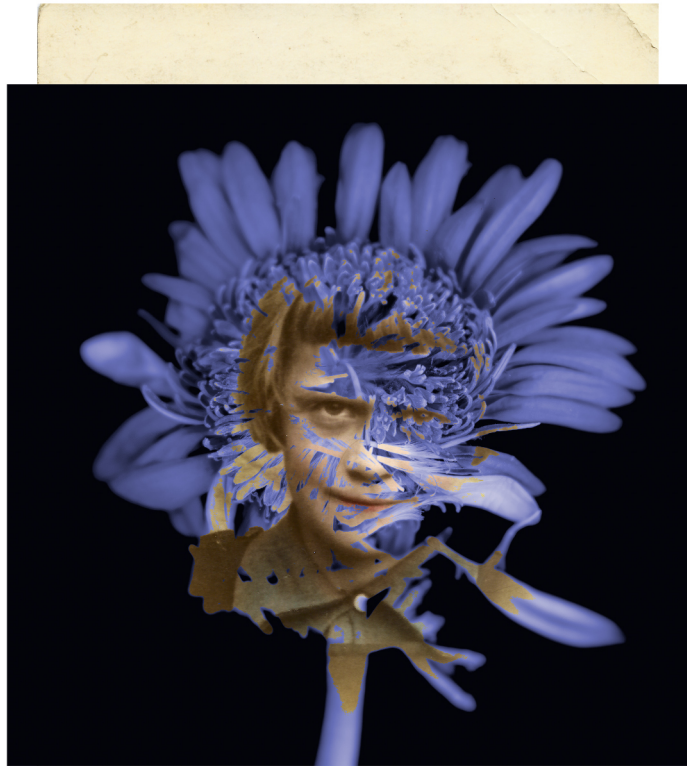






Amaranthine

Amaranth, an imaginary flower that never fades.



EVELYN
9 YEARS



Amaranthine, immortal.

Cuts that Bind

Fragmented and disjointed family portraits from my family album.

I scrutinise the faces in my family albums seeking familial resemblances.

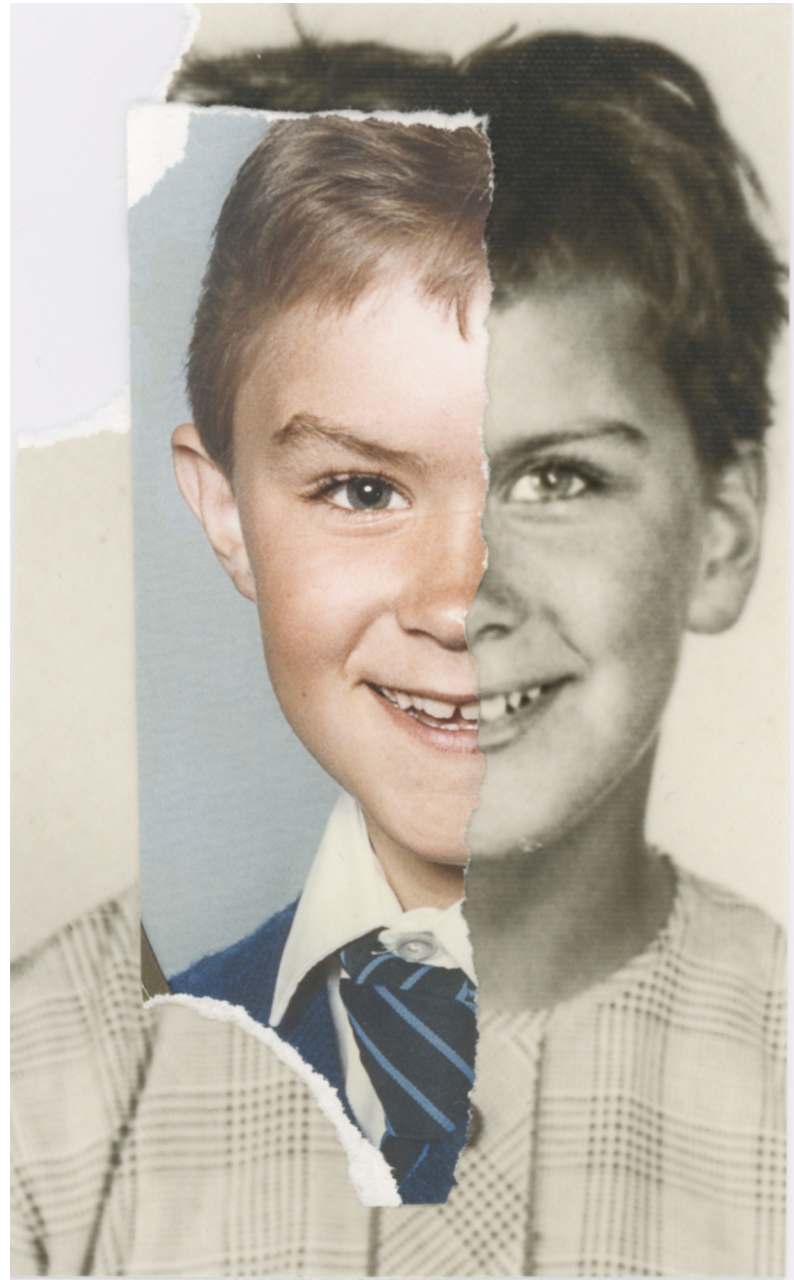
We all grow older and I notice the changes time brings.

I see my mother both young and old, a son who resembles my dad.

Where does one individual start and the other end ?









Photography CV.

Education.

2021 (in progress): BA Photography (Hons) Open College of the Arts, Barnsley, UK.

2007: Digital Photography: Creating and Sharing Better Images. The Open University, UK.

Publications / Online.

2021 (April): *His eyes were the colour of the sea* Photograd Gallery [online].

2020: *Paper memories: The materiality of analogue snapshots and their enduring affect.* Extended essay for degree.

2019: *The Wave* Lens Culture Emerging Talents Awards 2019 Gallery [online].

2013: *The Gunwalloe Ghost* featured in The Big Issue in the North (1-7th April issue).

2010: *How's it look !* featured in the Open College of the Arts 2010-2011 OCA Guide.

2010: *Strong* featured in an Open College of the Arts advertisement campaign, Black and White Photography Magazine (January issue).

2010: *How's it look !* and *Strong* featured in the Open College of the Arts Showcase Magazine (Issue No. 5).

Social Media Shares.

26/05/21: Photo Trouvée [online]

Untitled

https://www.instagram.com/p/CPV3Lx7BrGd/?utm_medium=share_sheet

17/04/21: Photograd Instagram account [online].

His eyes were the colour of the sea.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CNxAXIWHI4r/>

1/09/20: Edinburgh Collage Collective [online].

Me with my youngest grandson, Late 1950's & 2019.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CCQPhRlh11A/>

5/07/20: Photo Trouvée [online].

Mum, late 1940's.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CEmmWhjBqLW/>

3/09/19: Save Family Photos [online].

Mum & Joan, Sept 1939.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B18X4u3A7-l/>

2018: The Open College of the Arts Facebook share [online].

Forget me not.