

VISA 1P20 - Contemporary Studio Response & Presentation Assignment
Instructor: Amy Friend, Assistant Professor

This assignment has two components, the first component is a studio-based assignment and the second is a research assignment; both components will focus on the genre of portraiture in photography.

Initial steps

Choose an artist to focus on for this assignment. The artist must relate to the genre of photographic portraiture. You will be required to explain your choice and clearly present how your chosen artist interacts with the material encountered during our field experiences and workshop.

Consider the subject matter, conceptual approach and technical results employed by your chosen artist. Respond to their work and use it as a spring-board for your studio-based portrait project. You have substantial freedom in your studio outcome, however, be sure to build connections to the plethora of experiences and hands-on learning initiated during this course.

Create a series of photographs that clearly connect to the chosen artist's work. You will discuss your ideas with me in class as a part of the assignment progress "checkpoint". Each meeting will serve to guide your individual ideas and technical abilities. Your final submission will consist of 5 fully edited and printed photographs to be formally presented during critique.

Research Portion

Research your chosen artist and prepare a PowerPoint Presentation. This research must include source material from a minimum of 3 to 5 sources, including at least one scholarly journal, and one book. Online sources are acceptable for some reference material, but they must be from reputable sources. (See me if this is not clear.) As a reminder, the research should focus on the artist's work and how it relates to our field experience and creative practice during the tintype workshop.

Please include carefully crafted supporting statements alongside visual reference material in your presentation. To help with the structure of this assignment, imagine that you will have to teach the class what you know about this artist/photographer within the genre of portraiture. Include a proper bibliography within the PowerPoint as a final slide

Teaching Comments: In my experience, students outside of the Visual Arts discipline have spent limited time at museums and/or art galleries and generally have less knowledge related to the inner workings of these institutions. Based on my experience with non-majors, I aimed to build a pedagogical structure that incorporated creative practice with field experience and in-class creative assignments to provide a forum for active inquiry with less pressure of validating the outcome of the creative product. Their culminating presentation served a reflective role as they research while being required to recall their experience throughout the term.