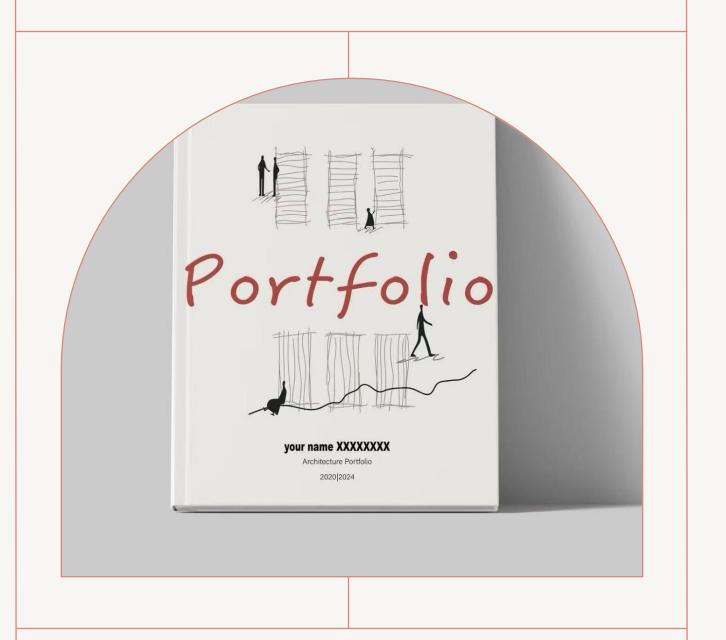
Portfolio

Cao Pengfei 24709





Snowy Companions

Medium: Digital Illustration

Description:

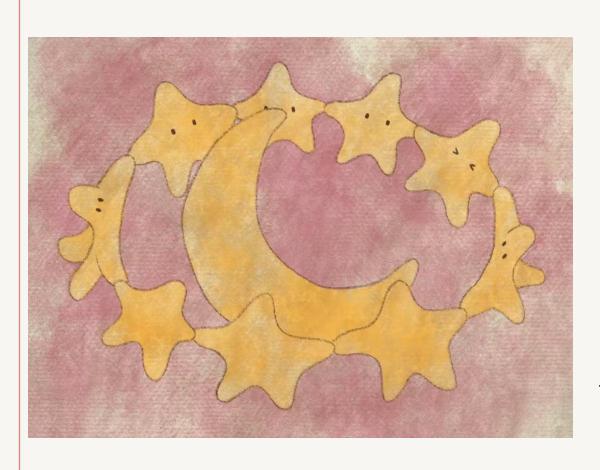
This piece features three snowmen standing hand in hand in a snowy landscape. Each snowman wears a hat or a scarf, and their simple yet expressive faces radiate warmth and friendship. Gentle snowfall and a soft color palette create a calm, childlike winter scene filled with tenderness.

Inspiration & Creative Process:

The inspiration came from my childhood memories of building snowmen during winter. I wanted to capture that sense of innocence and connection, portraying a quiet moment of togetherness. Through this piece, I aimed to turn nostalgic emotions into visual form, using simple lines and soft tones to evoke warmth and joy.



Dance of the Stars and Moon



Medium: Digital Illustration

Description:

This artwork depicts a crescent moon surrounded by a circle of lively, expressive stars. Each star shows a different facial expression—some smiling gently, others cheering—bringing the night sky to life. The dreamy pink-purple background contrasts softly with the yellow moon and stars, creating a whimsical and magical atmosphere.

Inspiration & Creative Process:

I was inspired by the dreamy feeling of gazing at the night sky. I' ve always imagined the stars and moon as living beings who quietly watch over dreamers at night. This piece is a visual exploration of that fantasy—my attempt to express a sense of gentle wonder and childlike imagination. Each star was given a unique face to reflect different emotions, making the night sky feel personal and full of life.

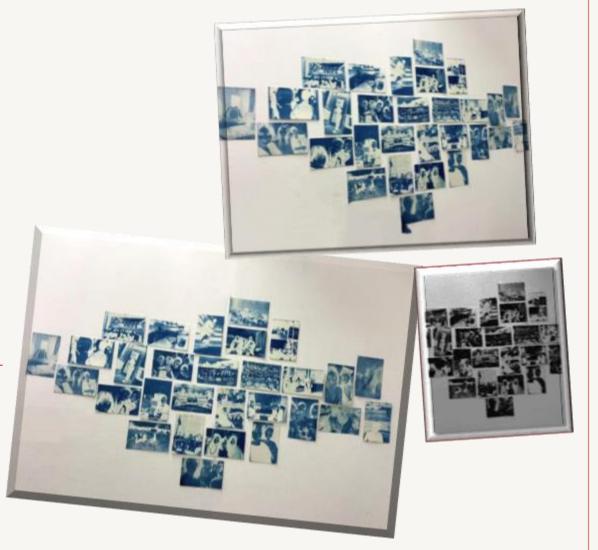
Echoes in Blue

Medium: Cyanotype Photography

Project Description

Echoes in Blue is a series of cyanotype photographs that capture personal memories of "first times" — those defining moments that shaped who I am today. These images reflect my emotions, growth, and reflections on the past, revealing how the fragments of memory contribute to the construction of the self. The signature blue tone of cyanotype adds a nostalgic, story-like atmosphere while deepening my journey of tracing and revisiting memory.

Each image is a visual echo of memory — some vivid, some blurred — representing the varying clarity of recollection over time. The photographs radiate outward from the center, gradually fading and softening in tone, symbolizing the natural erosion of memory. Yet, some images remain crisp and intact, like the emotional impressions that linger clearly in the heart.





In this work, I intentionally inverted and reversed the images to symbolize the influence of the past on the present. This inversion is not merely a visual effect, but a metaphor for how we reconstruct memories through our current perspective—always shaped by the emotions and understanding of the present self. As such, memory becomes subjective, fragmented, and sometimes distorted.

Time in this work is not linear. The past and present are interwoven and overlapping, constantly affecting each other. The use of inversion and fading reflects this non-linear perception of time. The work is not a faithful reproduction of memories, but a reinterpretation — reshaped through my current emotional lens.

The most vibrant images are placed in the center of the composition, representing unforgettable, emotionally intense moments. Toward the edges, the images become lighter and blurrier, symbolizing those memories that have faded or become difficult to recall. Still, even those faint memories remain deeply embedded in our identity, forming an inseparable part of who we are.

Artist Reflection

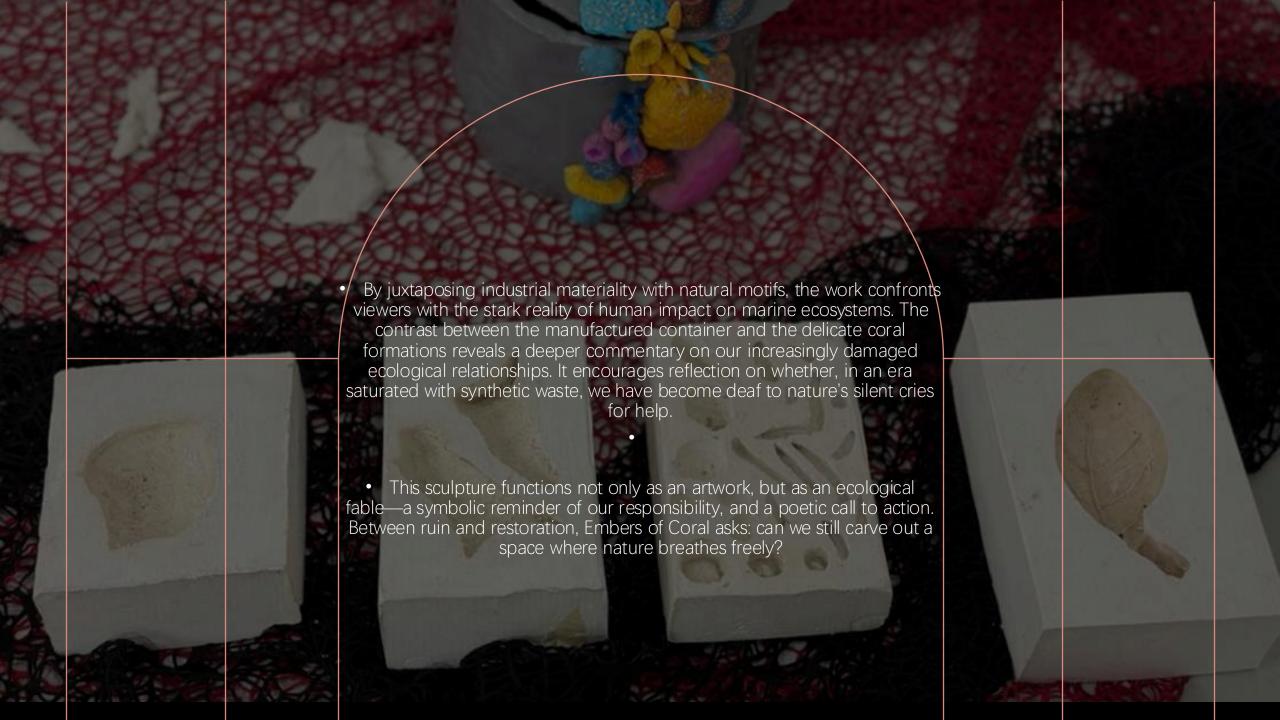
- Echoes in Blue is more than a collection of photographs it is a reflection on memory, time, and self-construction. Through the cyanotype process and the use of inverted, fading imagery, I explore how memory is not fixed, but ever-changing. The work invites the viewer to pause and reflect on their own memory landscape.
- I hope this piece evokes personal recollections in those who experience it those distant, once-vivid echoes that still whisper within.
- How do we reshape ourselves through the reflections of memory, and how do we move forward with them into the future?
- This is the question I hope to explore with my audience.

Embers of Coral: Echoes of Amidst Pollution

Embers of Coral: Echoes of Life Amidst Pollution is a clay sculpture installation that explores the fragile intersection between environmental destruction and the resilience of nature. This piece presents a visual narrative of conflict and coexistence—between the artificial and the organic, the industrial and the ecological.

At the center of the work is a hand-sculpted clay canister, from which symbolic plastic waste flows, evoking the silent yet pervasive spread of pollution in the modern world. Flanking the vessel are intricately crafted coral forms, sculpted from clay. These corals appear to struggle for survival, growing vulnerably within a hostile environment, embodying the tension between decay and persistence.







The House Adrift is a wood sculpture depicting a solitary house perched atop a towering cliff-like form. Hand-carved from a single block of wood, the piece presents a minimalist yet emotionally resonant vision—one of isolation, stillness, and the quiet tension between presence and distance.

The natural grain of the wood is intentionally preserved, allowing its organic texture and hand-carved traces to speak to the passage of time and the weight of memory. The small house, stark and unmoving, stands as both a shelter and a symbol—a place of emotional anchoring amid the void.

This is not merely a physical home, but a metaphorical one: a space of introspection, quiet resilience, and spiritual grounding.

Inspiration:

This piece draws inspiration from the concept of emotional isolation and the human need for sanctuary. In the constant noise and movement of contemporary life, we often yearn for a place that feels safe and still. The lone house in The House Adrift represents that deeply personal refuge—perhaps a memory from the past, or an imagined space we long to reach.

Wood, as a material, carries warmth, history, and life. Every cut, curve, and imperfection tells a story. Through this sculpture, I invite viewers to reflect on the universal desire for belonging, and to consider:

When everything around us shifts, can we still find the house within ourselves?