I spent a year thinking about Snow White, but I designed and developed White as snow in a fraction of that time. Before my ideas popped out on screen, they tumbled around in my brain for what seemed like an eternity. Before I felt accomplished, I felt lost; before I had a breakthrough, I had a lot of failures.

We all grew up reading stories. If not reading, then listening; if not listening, then watching. Humans like a good narrative. Stories allow us to escape, to live other lives for a moment. We imagine who we might be in another world or who we might become in this one.

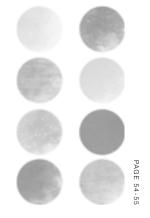
You would probably believe me if I said White as snow was inspired by my childhood. I could tell you about how I grew up reading fairy tales, lost in an imaginary world. About how by 4th grade I had read every book in my elementary school, and how the librarian began to bring me adult books from her personal collection. These things are true, but they were not at the front of my mind when I embarked upon this project. I chose Snow White only as a platform from which I could embark upon design experimentation.





Catalyst

THE PROCESS



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corporate websites and applications, I feared that my skills were all devoted to function and none to form. I was tired of using design as a way to pay rent; I wanted to find a focus that truly engaged me. I decided that the thesis year would be the ideal time to step out of my comfort zone and see what else was out there. This imagining, this placing of oneself in a story, is particularly easy with fairy tales. The recorded

White as snow was created as the culminating project of

the Master of Fine Art in Graphic Design at the Maryland

Institute College of Art. Rather than trying to create a

masterpiece during my thesis year, I began with a very

personal goal. I wanted to find a new way to design and

I decided to push myself to think through making, to

create unfiltered imagery through exploration, and to

free myself from the burden of analysis. I saw my peers

use this method to produce striking work, and I worried

that my practice suffered from a certain pragmatism

and predictability. With an academic background in

philosophy and much of my design career spent creating

expose myself to a yet-unknown part of the discipline.

telling of these stories are often plain, forcing us to fill in the details. Take Snow White: she