

Rachel Howard
Mind, Body, Spirit Collage
Fall 2021
ART 2206 C Intro to Digital Media

Research

MIND: Who are you intellectually?

Ideas: Some defining characteristics I would like to be a central part of my work are a passion for learning, creativity, and inspiration. I am a bit of a scatterbrain, so I would like to incorporate an element of messiness/organized chaos.

Inspiration: similar to a cluttered bookshelf. The books can be a heavy handed symbol but maybe show them all out of order to focus on the chaos rather than the books themselves. There can also be small trinkets on the shelf of things that inspire me?

Neutral color palette, lots of browns and other earthy colors. My mind is a place of refuge, and I want the collage to feel like place of comfort.

Potential Photos: bookshelves, CD collections, vinyl record collections, post it notes, knicknacks, or anything else you would find on a bookshelf.

Composition: For a feeling of stability, I want to incorporate a lot of repeating horizontal elements. I would also like to use the Rule of Thirds, and place the intersection of different collections at those focal points.

1. Top Left:
2. Top Right:
3. Bottom Left:
4. Bottom Right:

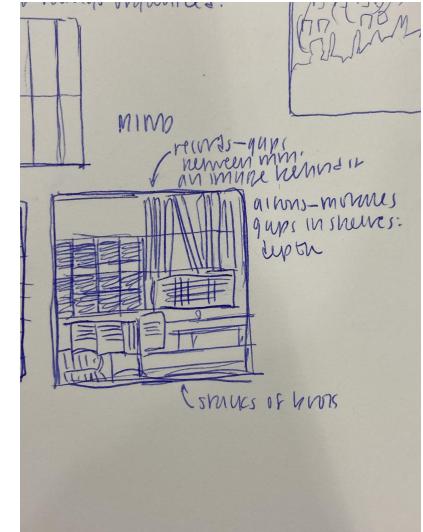




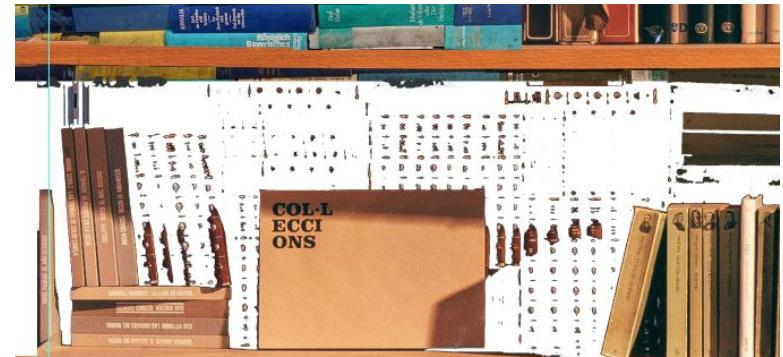
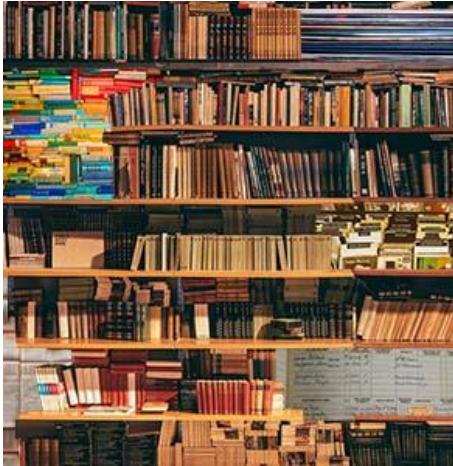
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Process

Once I arranged all my elements, I realized I wasn't satisfied with it. I felt like this collage was unexciting, and flat. It was hard to distinguish the different elements from one another.

To give the piece some contrast and depth, I decided to cut out some of the books and replace it with a starry night background. While using the magic wand tool to cut out some of the background books, it would sometimes cut out the books but leave the gold accents on the spine. I was originally going to erase it all, but I decided to keep it.

The idea was that some of the books were made out of the sky, and give the impression that the bookcase was still 'full'.



Research

SPIRIT: Who are you emotionally?

Ideas: Defining characteristics I would like to center this piece around would be Erratic, high intensity, stormy. I feel very overwhelmed by these emotions, and have trouble processing them.

Inspiration: I think a place of violence, like a war zone would be a good starting point for this piece. Perhaps I could add imagery that's related with children/toys to give the idea that I am young and don't know how to handle things.

Composition: For this pieces, I want to do a diagonal composition. Not only will it make the piece more dynamic and give it more energy, but I think giving the composition a 'tilt' will only add to the feeling I want to express.

I also wanted to saturate a lot of my images, or add possible motion blur to add to the feelings of chaos.

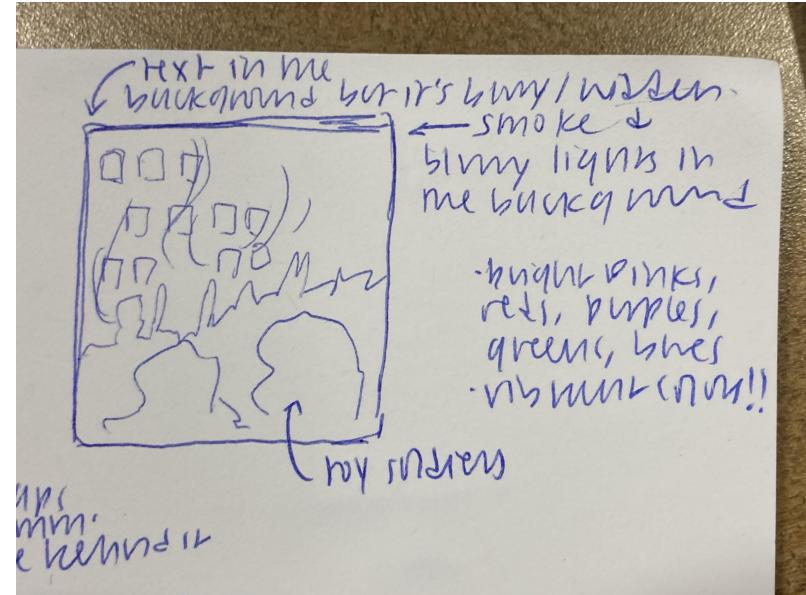




Image Credit from Left to Right: Sincerely Media, Joshua Fuller, Hasan Almasi and Jason Leung
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Process

When I started, I took the picture of all the bright colors and tried to cut it out, but was unsuccessful. It didn't look natural, so i instead looked for a picture of light that was more similar to an explosion.

I also originally intended to cut out the tiles from the picture 'you will be ok'. I wanted to incorporate them into the background to express the idea that I know things will get better, but the emotions are still happening. However when cutting them out, they contrasted too much with the background.

They were very bright and the tiles themselves didn't have much shadow to them. Additionally, once they had been cut out, they looked like awkward white squares. I was very frustrated and thought about scrapping that element entirely. But when i used the magic wand and accidentally deleted everything by the letter and the small number, I realized that it looked much better with the piece overall. It didn't stand out as much and the color worked well with the rest of the collage.

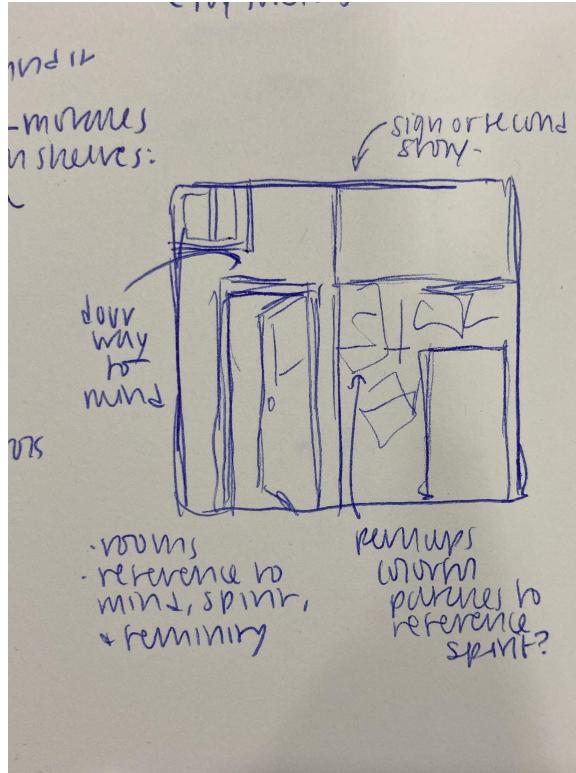


Research

Body: Who are you physically?

Ideas: I don't really see my physical body as important, it's only a vessel for my mind and soul. There is a sort of disconnect, because I feel more intune with my mind and soul than I do my body. Perhaps I should incorporate pieces of the mind and soul collage into the body one to express that idea? Maybe the object that I used to represent 'body' is isolated from the mind and soul, which are entangled with one another.

Inspiration: Perhaps I can focus on the tangibility of the body, incorporate death and decay into the work. Maybe I could do a series of images that represent the path of life? Like a series of rooms going from clean to decayed (although that might be harder to do on a square composition). However, a series of pictures would be boring, unless there was a way to cut them so they weren't a grid of pictures. Maybe I could cut them so they all sort of bleed into each other, and incorporate symbols of the mind and body into different rooms? To make it look like they are part of their environment.



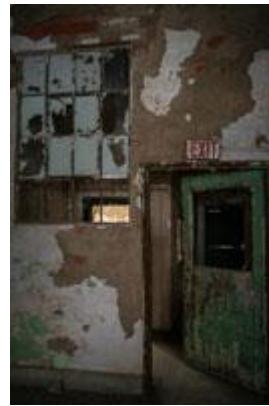


Image Credit from Left to Right: Valentina Conde, R.D Smith, and Anton Murygin
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Process

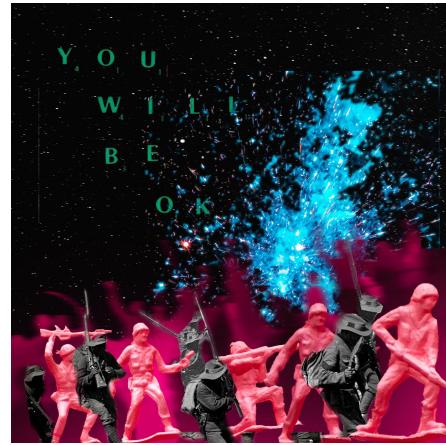
This was the hardest part to create an initial composition for, so I was rather happy by the first draft. However like the rest of my pieces, I felt like it wasn't perfect and needed changing. I liked the simplicity of the collage, however I felt like the picture of the statue was slightly out of place.

I liked the image because I think it added an element about femininity to my collage, but it didn't go well with the environment my first draft had created.

Instead I found a painting of a woman which fit the color scheme better. I also added a space background in the 'mind' room. I cut out the lamps and added it in the doorway.



Final Work and Artist Statement



In these three collages, I wanted to create three different atmospheres that reflect certain parts of my mind, body and spirit. My mind is a place of refuge, creativity, and exploration, so I wanted it to feel very calm and steady, employing a more horizontal composition. I included books, CDs, records, and other physical forms of media. For my body, I wanted to work around the idea that the body is the only one that is tangible. I looked for photos that were old and showed decay, incorporate an element of femininity, and reference the mind and spirit collages. I wanted the spirit collage to be chaotic and energetic, representing violent mood swings and overwhelming emotion. I used a diagonal composition and bright vibrant colors. Although it stands out from the other two collages because of the color scheme, I think the vibrant colors was crucial for communicating the idea.

Credits

Here are the people who created all the photos I used in this assignment. All photos are allowed for creative use, both commercial and non-commercial under the unsplash license.

Mind

Alfon Morales (book shelf), David Grandmougin (stack of vinyl), Ivana Cajina (night sky) Joel Filipe (galaxy), Mick Haupt (CDs) and, Robert Anasch (colorful stack of books).

Body

Anton Murygin (door, right), Europeana (painting), Ivana Cajina (night sky), L. Hayffield (library), and R.D Smith (door, right)

Spirit

British Library (historic soldiers), Hasan Almasi (crowd), Ivana Cajina (nigh sky), Jason Leung (pink toy soldiers), Philip Mytrop (blue explosion) and Sincerely Media (word tiles).