



Yeonju Jung

Bachelor Project Documentation

Heal through Drawing

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Matriculation number: 12959816

Course of Study: Illustration

Wintersemester 2022/23

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20.01.2023

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Introduction

Firstly, I would love to discuss the relationship between my thesis and my project. I wrote “The Act of Drawing as Part of Therapy for Children.” as my bachelor thesis. I was interested in this topic due to my childhood experience; thanks to researching and studying about this topic, I could better understand my own experience. In my project, I artistically shared my experience.

I am a so-called third-culture kid from a multicultural family background. I went to china when I was three years old, but I was only taught to speak Korean till four years old. Suddenly I was put into Chinese kindergarten without knowing any Chinese. For 4 Years old, it wasn't easy. I was struggling a lot, according to my parents. I even stopped verbally communicating with other people for a few weeks. I also had anger issues at that time; I was biting people because nobody understood me, and I was angry. At this very moment, drawing came into my life. I was told to communicate with others through my drawing. It started with drawing what I needed or what I wanted to do. Throughout time, drawing became the most comfortable way to express myself. At the same time, I healed through expressing my feelings and communicating with other people. I started to talk again and began learning Chinese, but drawing is still “my way” to express myself. Thanks to drawing, I am not traumatized by this childhood experience; my only memory during kindergarten was drawing on my sketchbooks. This is also why I truly believe in the therapeutic effect of drawing and the power of art.

In this modern society, where we are required to be efficient, we consider verbal language as the way to communicate with each other. Through this art project, I want to remind my audience that there are various ways to express yourself and share with others. In this project, I visualized my childhood experience. Through this project, I wanted my audience to know how influential and therapeutic art is.

Plan 1

I did struggle a lot during the process of working on my project. My plan completely changed. The schedule down below is the original plan of my project.

Graphic Memoir of my childhood

- Story-telling

(How did drawing become my communication tool? How did I get mentally healed by drawing?)

- Character design

(A Character that is suitable for the story)

- Layout

(It should be clean and readable. Important scenes should be highlighted)

Schedule

Project

Get ready

- Write down the story
- Find some examples and study the author's way of storytelling.

Week7-8

- Work on the story
- Start designing the character
- Layout

Week9-10

- Start with the drawing
- Try various perspectives

Week11-15

- Drawing

Week16-17

- Go through the story
- Redraw some scenes
- Organize the pages

Week18

- Print out the final graphic memoir
- Submit

I planned to make a storybook with my childhood experience. I wanted to find the best drawing style and way to tell my story. I wanted to make my storybook a silent book because my drawings should be the only way to communicate with my audiences since I am talking about the power of visual art. For this reason, I needed to focus on my drawings. These kinds of thoughts stressed me out. I started to force myself to draw every day to get used to drawing so that I could find a suitable drawing style for my storybook, but I was not going anywhere. I was just lost.

At this point, I started communicating with my supervisor- Prof. Baltzer, about this issue. He told me to show all the drawings I did recently, and at the same time, we discussed different styles I could go for. After a few discussion sessions, I could not start working on my project. Prof. Hans told me I might need to start working on my project. Otherwise, I might not be able to finish my project on time. This made me even more stressed. This was around November, and I got sick around this time. I decided to take a break. I was physically and mentally unable to work on my project. After the short break, I had another discussion with Prof. Baltzer, and this time we came up with something unique.

I used to work as a makeup artist besides my study. I worked on many creative projects, and makeup was one of my most used artistic media. Makeup is more than just making someone look better; for me, it is an art form. I used faces or bodies as my paper and drew on them. Prof. Baltzer suggested that I turn my story into makeup looks. I was shocked because I thought that as an Illustration student, “traditional drawing” should be something I do with my bachelor project. Prof. Baltzer told me that I am an artist and should be free to express myself in any form, and makeup is also visual art. I have done creative makeup looks for almost six years but did not take it seriously. One of a sudden, my creativity was coming back. I started to have all this imagination in my mind. It was a dramatic experience. Since the pandemic, I have not had any creativity, but this was a huge turning point for me.

Plan 2

Right after that meeting with Prof. Hans Baltzer, I started to draw sketches for my makeup looks on my iPad to visualize my ideas. Besides that, I began to look for references, and I started to explore other artists' creative makeup looks.

As an Illustration student, I love traditional drawing. At the same time, I am also into all visual art. There is various way to create visual art. I first saw people doing creative makeup on social media; then, I got to know a few graphic artists who used makeup as their media to express themselves. I was surprised that makeup could be more than making someone look prettier. Thanks to these artists' inspiration, I realized there is more than just drawing on paper and all the traditional art forms. Art is about being creative; how you create your art can also be unique. For my bachelor project, I used makeup as my artistic way. By working on this project, I also need to photograph myself. I could have asked someone to take the pictures, but I wanted to photograph myself to show my works as I pictured them.

I attended many photography lectures throughout my study at the University of Europe for Applied Sciences. Most of the time, Prof. Matthias Leupold was the lecturer. At first, I started to have an interest in photography. Photography was a helpful skill. Throughout my study, I began to work as a Makeup artist on the side; this also changed my opinion on photography. I worked on various shooting and worked with many photographers and models. I liked some of their works as an audience, but I wasn't satisfied with all the pictures they gave me from a Makeup artist's point of view. Their pictures could not fully show how my makeup looks. That was when I realized the importance of photography. I attended photography lectures as much as possible to learn how to capture the moment I wanted. I learned to play with light and shadow, and at the same time, I also learned to create a makeup look for shooting. There are differences between daily makeup and shooting makeup. Therefore, photography also became my second favorite artistic way to express myself. Because of this, I am glad to combine photography and makeup in my bachelor project.

Process

As the first step, I wrote down my story. I tried to narrow down the story into eight to ten looks. I wrote down my storyline at the beginning of the project development process, so I just needed to make this story into several makeup looks. The first look is telling my

childhood before moving to China. I was inspired by Family Tree (2000) by Zhang Huan. The nine photographs are the documentation of a performance in which calligraphy was written on the artist's face, eventually entirely obscuring it with black ink. The version occurred in a park in New York City, where Zhang lived between 1998 and 2006, and involved three calligraphers working from morning to night. Zhang reflects on his personal and cultural histories and Chinese identity in this work. I also combined the calligraphy into my makeup looks.

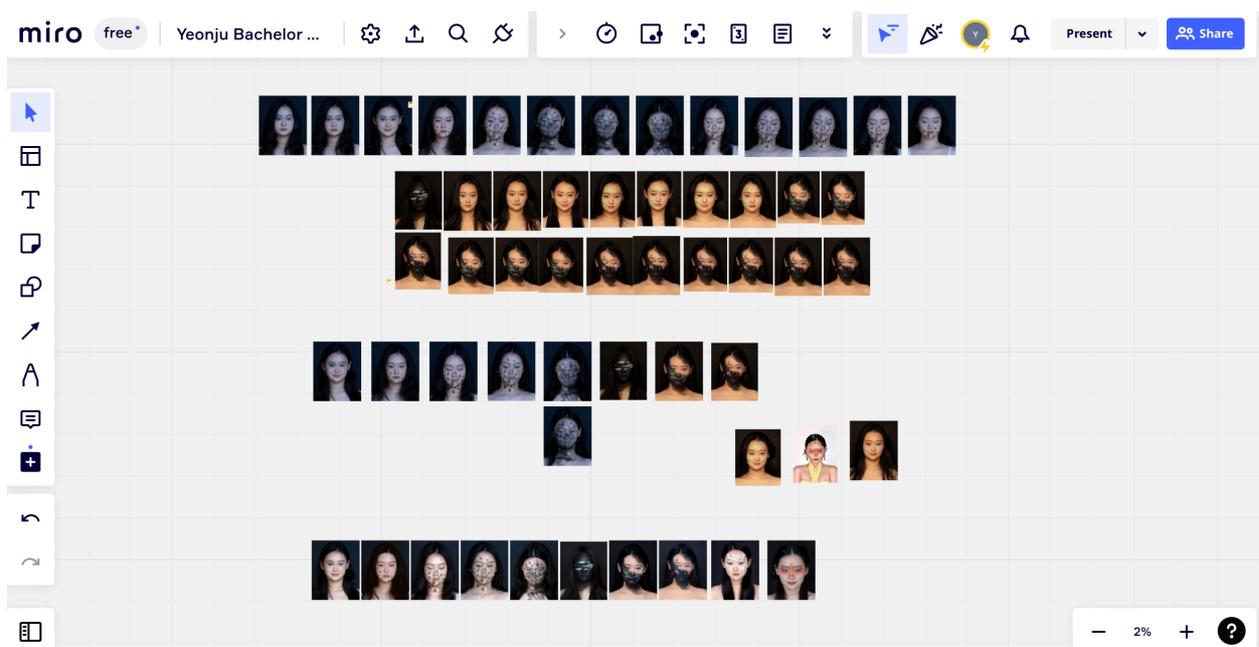
Through these looks, I could express my fear of this language, which I was forced to use that was unfamiliar to me. I was delighted with these looks, but at the same time, I did not want these looks to lead to a misunderstanding of my purpose. Some might think this work appears hostile to Chinese characters or culture. I made the following few makeup looks more positive. So my goal won't be misled. I think artists must consider this issue because most audiences should correctly understand the theme of a work of art; otherwise, I will consider it an unsuccessful artwork. In the sixth and seventh makeup looks, I wanted to tell the story of the younger me healing the inner me through communicating with others through drawing. I draw kid's drawings on my face to represent this. After that, I wanted to show that I was healed and started to open up to learn and blend into this new culture I was afraid of, so I drew black and pink(colorful) Chinese letters on my face. The last two looks represent my artistic expression, and art is my daily communication media. I also visualized the Chinese traditional festival symbols in the last look to reflect the Chinese side of me.

After figuring out the looks that I wanted to do, I started to photograph. I booked the studio and started experimenting with makeup looks, the studio light, and the placement of the camera. In total, I did five shooting sessions for this project. Each shooting took me around four to six hours. It took that long because drawing on the face is time-consuming. The face is not a flat surface; drawing on the face needs a good understanding of the facial features.

At the same time, paint is more varied than makeup products. I used aqua liner as my paint to create clean lines on my face. Most face and body paint is oil-based; these products are suitable for painting the whole surface but not for drawing defined lines. Since it's a water-based product, the lines cracked during the shooting, so I needed to spray lots of setting spray and apply water on the surface of the lines I drew. I feel like aqua liner is similar to

gouache, and oil-based face and body paints are more similar to oil paint. Besides the makeup, I needed to set up the equipment for every shooting. I asked my friend to assist me at the first shooting, I set up everything, and she pressed the shutter for me. But during the subsequent four shooting sessions, I started to use the remote control function of the camera to take photographs all by myself.

The last step of this project must be editing the pictures and selecting the right photos. I used a miro board to put all the images I picked side by side to edit them into a series. After choosing the right picture for each scene, I started to edit the image. Since all the photos were close-up, I needed to photoshop some details. I also needed to work with the tone because they were photographed in different settings, so I needed to edit them. But I did not edit my pictures into the same tone; I wanted different tones to represent the different periods. After working on my project, I showed my miro board to some friends and asked them to give me feedback. I did not provide them with the background information about my childhood story. I wanted to know how they understood these photos without any background information. Most of them asked me about this series's concept after looking at my miro board. I told them my theme and told them my story. They told me that they had a better understanding of my work after knowing the story. This was when I realized I needed to explain the concept, so I wrote down the story of my childhood experience again to show my audience a better understanding.



After finishing the project, I talked to Prof. Matthias Leupold about my plan for the bachelor exhibition. I planned to make the photo series into an open loop with a tail. I got out of the cycle by healing through drawing, and this shape will be able to represent this process.

Summary

I wanted to do a science book in the first place, but now I needed a description of my series, so I should consider that I could have done better at this task. I should have expressed myself just through my visual art. I realized it is hard to achieve this goal, but I will not give up. I will keep working on artistic language to communicate with my audience only through my artwork.

I am still glad I worked on my bachelor project in my creative vocabulary. I struggled during the process, but now I have figured out my artistic style. I was first scared of freedom; I was used to finishing a task instead of creating my art freely. I did not know how to decide on my art. I just remembered that I liked art and drawing because people can not judge me with my drawings. There is no right or wrong for art. However, after almost two years of online lectures, I got used to finishing all the assignments according to the requirements instead of experimenting with various materials to express my ideas artistically. I was lost, but by talking to my supervisors and brainstorming about my project, I started to find my way out of that miserable state.

I did five shooting sessions because I was unsatisfied with some of my makeup looks. I had this vision about this photo series and needed to visualize it accordingly. I was not this passionate during my study; I got motivated because I am creating my art now. I wished I had more time to communicate with my classmates and professors about art and creating my art. I am happy with my study; I realized that while working on this project. I learned how to tell a story through my drawing, use computer programs to work on my work, and how photograph.

Declaration of Academic Integrity

I certify with my signature that I have written this thesis independently. I have not used any sources or resources other than those specified; in particular, no online sources not set. All parts taken literally or analogously from the sources used (whether text passages, pictorial representations, etc.) are individually identified as such.

This thesis still needs to be submitted to any other examination authority. It was neither in the same nor in a similar way as part of an examination in the previous course of study and has yet to be published. The version of the work submitted as a printed publication is identical in all parts to the version presented at the same time on an electronic storage medium.

20.01.2023,

Berlin

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