Connected but not in Touch

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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March 2011

Expected Date of Graduation

May 2011
Abstract

Within the last decade, American society has changed drastically with the advent of new technological devices. Most specifically, the emergence of the cell phone, portable mp3 player, and laptop have made it possible to be connected to a person or a form of entertainment at any time. People are plugging into devices and tuning out of real world interactions. They are shifting away from staying in touch through personal interaction and favoring electronic means instead. Today’s society favors electronic mediums that take away from personal interaction instead of favoring traditional mediums that emphasize physical interaction. This technological state has led to mass production and a loss of personalization. Thus, I wanted to break away from the obsession of going digital and step back to the day of working with traditional media. Therefore, I crafted an artist book: a unique, original artifact, which involved physically interacting with materials to construct. I took my own photographs on film, processed the negatives, and printed the negatives using the liquid emulsion process that allowed me to use watercolor paper instead of already processed photo paper. This printing process then let me use watercolor over the images. After that, I bound the pages together to take on the structure of a book. The book is the only one of its kind and is designed to be picked up and flipped through in the same manner as traditional media. The contents analyze through imagery how the shift to preferring technological devices affects how people are hearing, speaking, seeing, and touching.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Sam Minor for advising me through this project. His direction and assistance were greatly appreciated in addition to the past three years of his guidance.

I would like to thank Jacinda Russell for her advice in deciding what materials to use and how to print the photographs. Her encouragement in the past three years is greatly appreciated as well.