An Artist Book and Installation  
*House of Photography*

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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Abstract

Using Eames House of Cards as inspiration, I created an artist book that incorporated my design and photography skills together in one artwork. My artist book, the *House of Photography*, demonstrates the two-dimensional qualities of photography (the individual images on each card) in a three-dimensional interactive design (the architectural structure that is formed when the cards are interlocked).

Since I have always been interested in voyeuristic photography (photographing people when they are not aware of the camera), I wanted to use this artist book as an opportunity to explore this aspect of photography even further. The *House of Photography* conceptually balances its voyeuristic subject with its architectural format. Architecture is usually seen as cold and static; however, using images of real people interacting within a space brings life and vibrance into the structure itself.

In the installation of the *House of Photography*, lights were placed at the base of the architectural structure. When the overhead lights were on, the architectural structure was seen within the daytime atmosphere of the space. Periodically, the overhead lights would dim and the structure's base lights would turn on to represent the nighttime atmosphere. Extra photographs were also placed at the base of the structure. People were allowed to add on to or take away photographs from the structure. By allowing people to manipulate the physical architecture of the work, they could create an artwork of their own using my photographs and original structure.

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I would also like to thank Professor Jacinda Russell for helping me find inspiration for the images used in the *House of Photography*. 
Behind the Scenes: *House of Photography*

My artist book, the *House of Photography*, was inspired by Eames House of Cards. In 1952, Charles and Ray Eames opened up Eames Office and began producing five different sets of the House of Cards. Consisting of a thirty-two card set, the House of Cards featured images of textiles, patterns, and everyday things, proving that inspiration can be found in the simplest of sources. Eames chose images that celebrated “familiar and nostalgic objects.” Each card in a set had six slots that allowed the cards to be interlocked and configured to form architectural structures of different shapes and sizes.

Using Eames House of Cards as inspiration, I wanted to create an artist book that incorporated my design and photography skills together in one artwork. My artist book, the *House of Photography*, demonstrates the two-dimensional qualities of photography in a three-dimensional interactive design. Since I have always been interested in voyeuristic photography (photographing people when they are not aware of the camera), I wanted to use this artist book as an opportunity to explore this aspect of photography even further. The *House of Photography* conceptually balances the subject of the piece—people interacting within a space—with the architectural format. Architecture is usually seen as cold and static; however, using images of real people interacting within a space brings life and vibrance into the structure itself.

With this artist book, I have had the opportunity to incorporate all of my photography skills I have acquired over the course of my college career. As a photographer, I wanted to photograph people interacting within a space. With this in mind, I went to downtown Indianapolis for a weekend and took over one hundred and fifty photos of individuals I took interest in. These images were digitally manipulated, enhanced, and then printed double-sided on an EPSON inkjet printer.

As a designer, this artist book allowed me to work with image-based design, layout design, format design, two-dimensional design, and three-dimensional design. I researched and tested the dimensions for the individual cards and the slots that would be used to interlock cards together. I also tested several different materials and mediums, the sturdiest and most visually aesthetic material for this artist book was inkjet prints on mat board. I researched package design and created a box made of acetate to hold all of these images. Since acetate is a transparent material, my photography became the design for the box.

The *House of Photography* broadened my design and photography skills by requiring me to combine them into one artwork. After creating this artist book, I have developed my knowledge and talents in design and photography even further. The culmination of the *House of Photography* was the creative cap to my undergraduate studies in visual communication and photography.
individual card format, 5” x 7”
inkjet print on cardstock/matboard
envelope format, scaled 60%
die cut on acetate
Bibliography
