

Living in Memories

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Long-distance relationships in our contemporary lives are a far more common place thing than in generations past. Technological advancements allow for faster and easier communication, cheaper travel expenses make closing the gap more frequent (though not always frequent enough), and we think that these developments alone will make sustaining a relationship possible. But physical contact is never replaceable and it's the one thing that human connections need to survive. It's why we see so many long-distance relationships fail. From my own experience this past year and onward, I know how it feels to struggle with one. Every day brings another challenge and I've learned that the only way to make it work is to be patient and to devote every minute to remembering what that last moment of physical contact felt like.

Memory is the important element here. Living in a dream world is a horrible solution to the stress of separation, but when it provides a link to someone you long for, it quickly becomes part of your everyday life. Accompanying everything I do, see, or feel, is a constant flow of memories that create countless emotional reactions. I may feel intense anger one day, frustration or sadness the next, and over all of it a sense of incompleteness, like there's always something missing that cannot be replaced. It can be hard to control these emotional bursts, even harder to live with them, and very often I struggle to describe them. This challenge of description is the ultimate goal through this body of work. I want to use a visual language to record my daily emotional battles as well as the memories that accompany them and through the creation of this "journal" analyze and control the feelings I have. This project is more than just a descriptive collection of images, but a form of therapy for me in dealing with long-term separation.

Memory for me has always seemed like a disjointed and fragmented collection of movie stills. They never start at the beginning, and will jump back and forth to whatever individual feelings or image is connected to them. To capture this, I wanted to build my collection like a memory. The work is built of interconnected images and compositions that stretch over various matrixes. The collection of papers and boards are of differing sizes and fit together like tiles. This reinforces the fragmented nature of my concept and forces the viewer to separate the images even though they connect between compositions.