



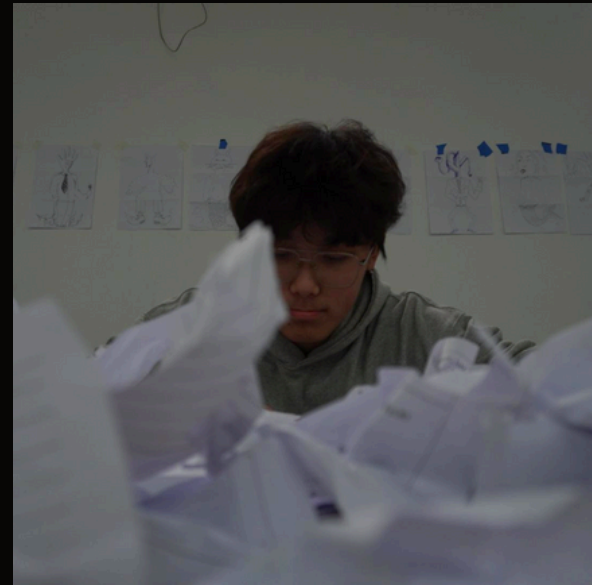
Art Portfolio

Photography & Fine Art
Designed By Sam Hou

My Digital Photography & Fine Art Projects



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Project. 1



A Chance at Redemption: A Story of Transformation

Through a friend's introduction, I met someone with a life story full of dramatic twists. A few years ago, he was trapped in gambling, hoping for a quick fortune but ended up losing everything and falling into deep debt. Under immense pressure, he nearly lost all hope.

At his lowest, a casino offered him a job as a dealer. After much hesitation, he accepted it, viewing it as a chance to repay his debts and rebuild his life. His professionalism soon made him a valued employee, and through hard work, he cleared his debts and learned important life lessons.

Determined to leave gambling behind, he pursued a degree and became a university lecturer. His experiences now serve as a powerful lesson for his students about the dangers of addiction and the value of second chances.

This project explores his journey from despair to redemption, highlighting the resilience and courage needed for transformation.



Chips symbolize both temptation and risk, the duality of winning and losing.



The two sides of a card, like a coin, determine one's fate.

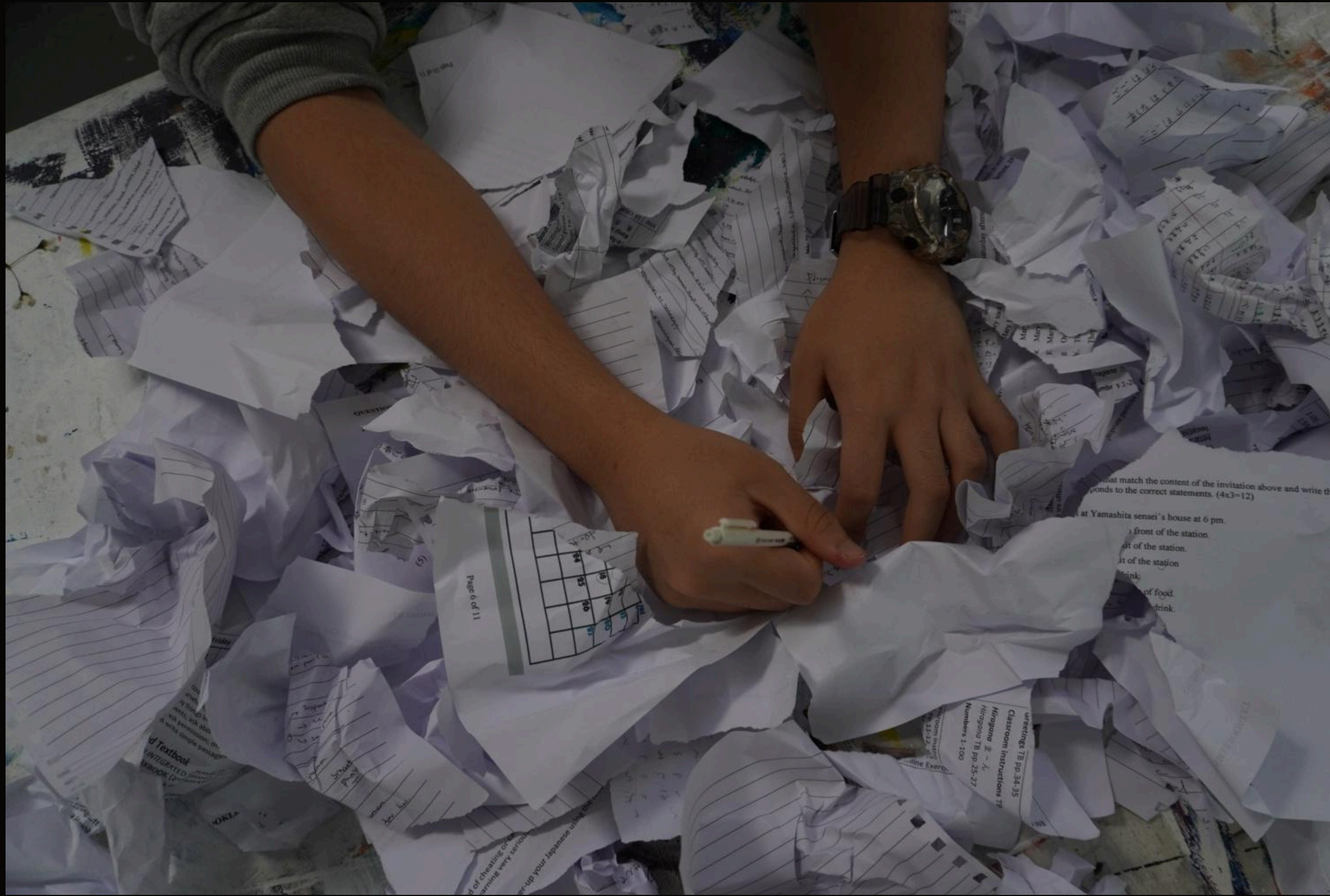
Expectations: Breaking Free from Academic Pressure

In this project I reflect both the overwhelming burden of traditional expectations and the desire to pursue personal interests.

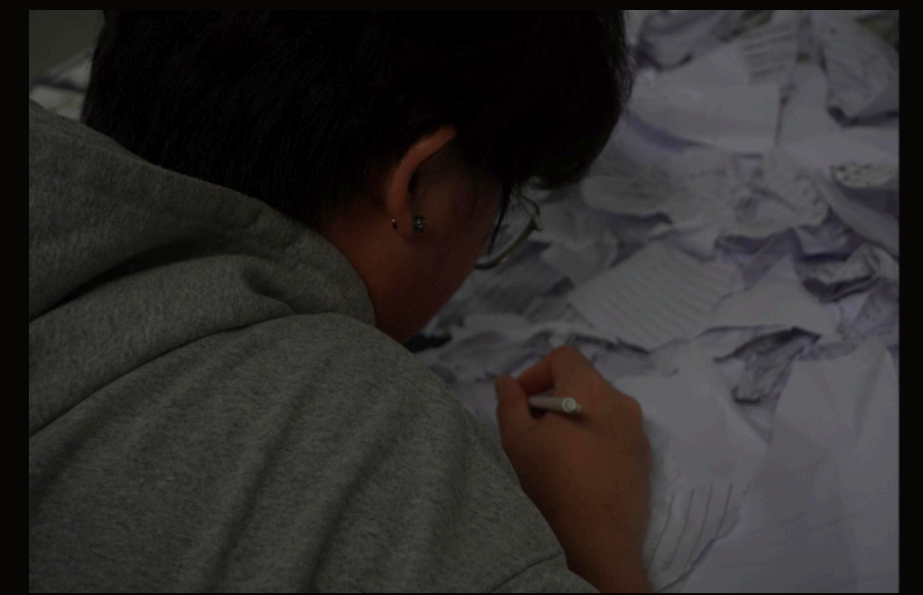
This project addresses the stereotypical pressures associated with studying in Asia. As someone who has experienced the education system and the weight of parental expectations for high grades “you are Asian not ‘Asian’, I often felt overwhelmed by these demands.

I explored the harmful effects of traditional parenting, particularly the oppressive style some parents impose, and how it can negatively impact their children.

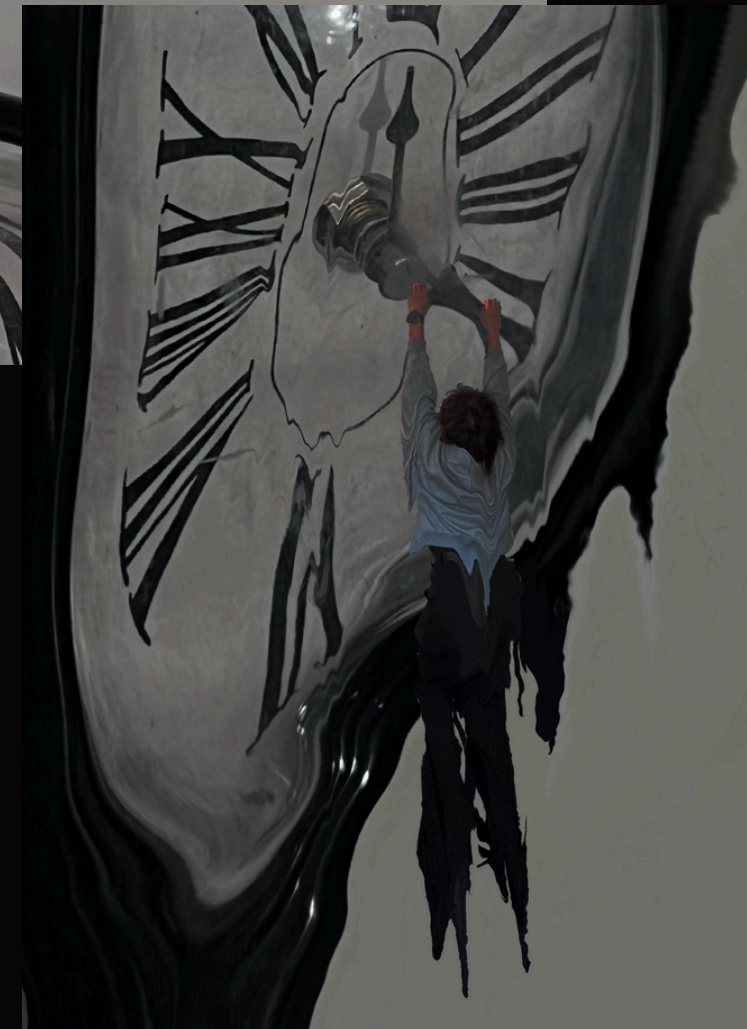
In my view, the Chinese education system places excessive pressure on students. Having studied in China myself, I believe this pressure can diminish one’s passion and turn students into mere puppets of academic achievement. It feels meaningless to constantly learn things that may have no practical use in the future. Instead, it would be far more valuable to focus on areas of personal interest.



Endless assignments that never can be finished.







There's never enough time to study.



The pressure of exams feels like a crown made of thorns.





Project. 3

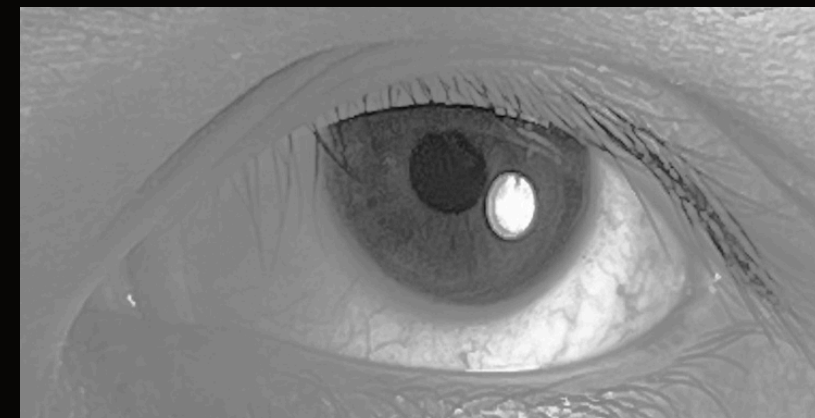
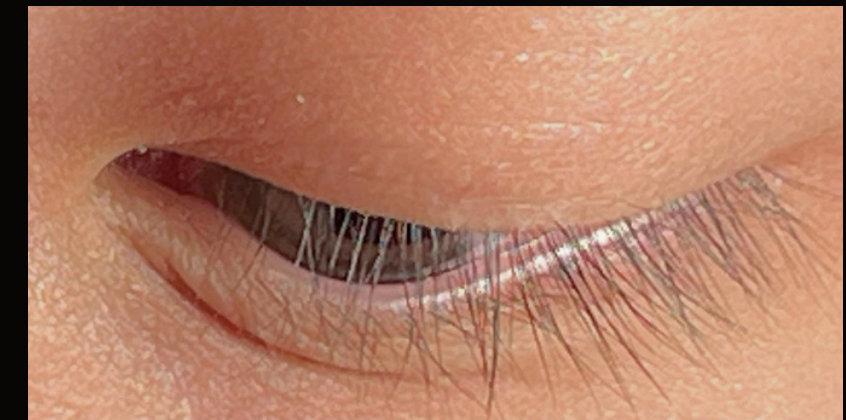
Under the Gaze: Navigating Appearance Anxiety

This reflects the constant pressure I feel about weight and appearance while emphasising the idea of being watched or judged by societal standards.



In this project, I explore my anxiety surrounding weight and appearance, shaped by the aesthetic standards promoted on social media, where being skinny and tall is idealised. My focus is on the guilt I associate with eating—no matter if it's a regular meal like lunch or dinner, I feel a deep sense of guilt when trying to lose weight. To represent this, I depict an ever-present gaze watching me as I eat, symbolising the constant pressure I feel.

This project reflects society's obsession with weight, aesthetics, and appearance anxiety. While everyone pays varying degrees of attention to how they look, beauty is subjective. Attractive features aren't always a blessing, and so-called "ordinary" appearances aren't necessarily average. My goal is to emphasise that we should cultivate our own sense of aesthetics and shape the best version of ourselves without letting societal standards dictate how we feel.



Appearance anxiety, constantly
under the gaze.





Project. 4

Lonely Collective

digital photography
2024

These works are about my feelings and experiences of growing up in the city: the centre of city life is full of people, and the seemingly lively and orderly pace of life is such that in reality, everyone will not even think of looking at other people more than once. People have become numb and apathetic in modern life. Every lively and bustling place reveals coldness.

I use tripod selfies to shoot in all parts of the city: underground stations, intersections, the middle of the road, city centre office buildings, and so on. I even stood on some of the more dangerous lanes, and even then, no one would notice me a bit more. People come and go, but it makes me feel even more lonely. Modern fast-paced life makes it more and more impossible for us to stop and think. Are we living just to live?



Through my stillness contrasted with the camera's long exposure effect, I highlight the powerlessness and loneliness that come with the fast pace of modern city life.



Project. 5



Although China's modern industrial development has made great achievements and basically pushed China into the door of modern society, this process is not the result of the continuous accumulation of modern factors in China, but is a choice of necessity under the impact of Western capitalism, and therefore it has presented at the very beginning a monstrous characteristic which is contrary to the general law of modern industrial development.

In the 1980s, Factory 401 was one of the busiest factories in Shuangliu, with more than 20,000 employees along with their families throughout the factory. The factory area was well equipped with public facilities such as schools, hospitals, cinemas, stadiums, lighted stadiums, grain stations, guest houses, bathhouses, vegetable markets, post offices and other public facilities.

The 1990s were a period of great economic and social change in China. This period was also accompanied by enormous costs and difficulties, the most prominent of which was the massive wave of layoffs. This was accompanied by the dissolution of factories. However, many of the buildings here still exist, but are showing signs of age. Some of the fragile wooden windows are rotting, weeds are growing into the interiors, which are no longer cared for, and the splendour of the past has gone with it. The 20,000 people who were once there were brought together by China's development and disbanded by the process of development. It got me thinking about the price of the progress of our civilisation, is it the incessant attempts of generation after generation?





Thank You for Reviewing My Portfolio