

Advance Play and Design Folio 1

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Week 1: Play and Self

Folio Object: <https://youtu.be/SJ7GhnB4DvM>

Context:

I was excited to see this subject because I consider myself a person who knows myself pretty well. I like to make works by observing my change of emotions. Most of the time is unhappy, especially when it comes to intimate relationship, because people always think about a lot of possibilities and the most voice in their head may be "what if she /he ...". At this time, most of these suspicions will be bad and will bring more distress to ourself. Many of my previous works were made with these negative emotions in mind.

But since this year, I have become more and more in love with life and myself. I have begun to pay attention to my mood swings and find the source. I have learned to enjoy my positive emotions and cherish them. Of course, negative emotions continue appears, but I may have found a good way to "make peace with myself" and lead myself out of my unhappiness. I converted my unhappy energy into "I went to the gym today and pulled another 10 pounds", "The matcha latte at Starbucks has become stronger taste better than before", "The weather is getting warmer and I can go buy more pretty dresses." and so on. The daily life is actually the same as before, but what has changed is my attitude and perspective of observing the surrounding. In the process of feeling my emotions, I slowly learned to accept that I am an imperfect and ordinary person.

It's a challenge to our true selves, because we all wear masks that we think reflect reality. But what the real world looks like is defined in everyone's mind. I want to express the concept of "from my point of view, I am willing to accept the current beautiful world" through the theme of this time.

Method:

I will use a mask to act as the "mask of reality" I mentioned, and the mirror reflects the content of the world in my eyes to my satisfaction. I will select a few scenes that impressed me deeply and shoot them. I hope that the audience can feel warm and more beautiful to the world.

The final presentation will take the form of a short film. I will use premiere to make this short film. I will stand at the intersection of the street where people come and go to represent life itself, whether it is happy, busy or disappointed. At the same time, my head would be covered with a mask to show what I thought was a beautiful moment of life.

Response:

I used to be a sad person, until I was convinced by a concept. And that's the core of what I want to explore in my short video. "We all walk around with a mask that we think is a mirror that reflects the world and we have a completed vision of who we are. We think we are better looking, we think we are taller, skinnier, smarter, and all these kinds of things. And we try to hold this mask up in the world and we move above it".

What this concept expresses is that you are not so perfect in reality, but even the imperfect you, the society, the people around you, and even the world, they all accept it. Why can't you accept it yourself. When I was making this short film, I was thinking, I had such a bad understanding of myself before, but my friends also thought that I was a very easy person to get along with, and my parents never said anything negative about me at any time, and my colleagues also think I am a serious person who is good at helping others. What makes me feel inferior? It's myself. I realized more clearly that it was me who didn't accept my imperfection.

When I made the video, I was thinking about whether I needed to make the part of me standing on the street black and white to signify the past me or negative emotions. But I ended up using brighter, warmer colors. I want my audience to love themselves more in the process of understanding the changes of me, even if they are in deep adversity right now.

Reflection:

Standing in the street for a long time, even the sun was going down. I saw people coming and going, and there are people who talked to me. I saw people of different ages at different stages of life. Old people were walking their dogs, young couples with children, salespeople gave me discount experience cards, etc. I saw some people walking forward anxiously, some people running by laughing, and some people strolling tiredly. I felt like I was an object watching people passing by on the side of the street. I enjoyed the process of watching other people, each person is having different experience during that time periods, which leads to different emotions that each person is in. It made me think about how happy or sad I have been.

When photographing the moments that make me happy, I don't even think I should be so happy while doing my homework. Starbucks' new Sakura Matcha-flavored latte is really delicious, and it made me feel the warm of the spring. The sun shines on the balcony of my place is comfort, which makes me relax. My cat runs around the house every day, to watch her running in the slow motion mode, it turns out that she looks soooo cute when she runs. During the shooting, I even had a better feeling than before.

When I edited the video, I saw people and the back of myself on the road, and I had new thought in my head. I didn't think as much as before if it would be weird for them to see me standing here all the time. I figured they must have no idea what I was doing curious but too embarrassed to ask. This change is a big step forward for me. I have grown from being afraid

of negative comments about me to now that I accept and face any comments about me. I'm grateful for this week's theme for giving me a new perspective on myself.

I think through this experience, I seem to love myself and my life more than ever.

Week 2: Play and Time

Folio Object: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6lO2lw_kiQ&ab_channel=VidaZhang

Context:

In response to this week's theme. I wanted to explore the flexibility of time through metaphors. Time is the standard, which is the stable container, and what we do is the items that can be squeeze into the container.

"Time is like water in sponge; if you squeeze harder, there is always more." We are all familiar with this sentence, but it is really difficult to concrete practice. During the time I was working, I always feel that there is not enough time. I need to complete one task after another in just 8 hours. If I want to get off work on time, I need to keep squeezing my 8 hours' sponge. Seeing this week's topic made me think of what my hard work in previous years looked like. So I want to visualize the description of time in this sentence through some of my actions towards myself.

My understanding of this sentence is not just the simple meaning of "push harder". Sometimes in order to get something, we need to give up something else. When I need to get more than 8 hours of work done, I may sacrifice my time to go to the toilet, eat, or help other colleagues.

Method:

- Fill the space of the fingers and nail with ground coffee
- Drop eye drops as much as possible
- Put on as much as possible clothes
- Put the cat toy into my mouth
- Pull to my limit
- Shut myself into the closet

Ground coffee is small particles, eye drops are liquid, clothes and cat toys are soft, my strength can break through, and I can bend my body. The corresponding containers are either flexible or fixed.

Response:

Every challenge has to be pushed to the limit. Some of the challenges involve "retribution" : too much eye drops will cause pain in the eyes, cat toys stinks and make me want to vomit, deadlifts are too heavy and my waist hurts, and it is very dark in the closet. This is what I mentioned "Sometimes in order to get something, we have to give up something else." When I was shooting the video, I felt that it echoed the real situation. The reward for wanting to finish the work during this time is to shorten the lunch time or cancel the lunch.

Reflection:

I thought the saying that time is like water in a sponge is the truth, but after my exercise this week, there are still many things that can't be helped, like my suitcase, no matter how hard I try, I can't put myself in. After my exploration this week, I've realized something that seems obvious but makes pretty much sense: do what we can do. To use an exaggerated example of time, I couldn't finish college in kindergarten.

In this week's theme, I pay more attention to the figuration of time, which makes my work seem to have not much to do with play. But in the process of doing it, I have a lot of thoughts. I want to be someone who keeps surpassing myself, and when we're racking our brains trying to figure out how to slow down time, why don't we first look down at where we already standing, then turn around and look back , how far we already been. In an era of constant comparisons of age, education, and salary, I want to see how far I have been on my own path. In the video when I'm done wearing the last dress, I look in the wardrobe and I notice I still have the scarf and the hat. It is always much happier to never be satisfied with yourself than to compare yourself with someone else.

In another hand, this week's practice gave me more ideas about the shooting angles, and I also applied it to the work of studio2. When I entered the closet, I feel a mood of me as an object. "This is what it looks like from the inside out". I applied the shooting angle of the cigarettes from the inside of the cigarette pack in studio2.

Week 3: Play and Object

Folio Object:

My name in Chinese

张靖宜

low + nose + big = 鼻 (1)

standing position + mouth + ground = 站 (2)

Cover like the umbrella + Vehicle = 伞 (3)

long/grow + sit + pimple/bag + sick = 疮 (4)

The color between green and blue + without/done/none = 青 (5)

also/just/even + food + water + none/done/without = 且 (6)

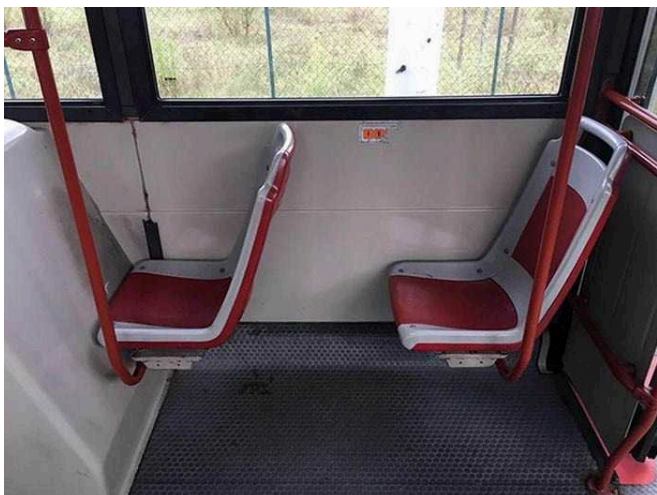
Context:

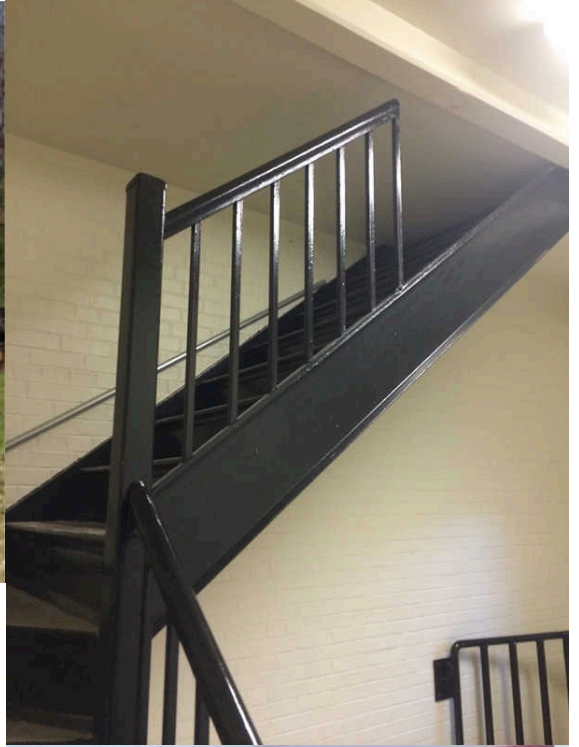
Play and Object make me think about the essence of the object, the objects themselves are tools that humans create and use. Technology, food, architecture, clothes, everything! We even made toys or games for us to pass the time or make us happy when we are bored.

I focused on the Chinese characters, the written word in China is a magical medium. From the perspective of usage, it is a tool that can help people communicate, but from the perspective of visual cognition, it is lines that mean every character is also a painting. So I want to explore when Chinese characters are used as visual tools, can we create characters that look good and also provide more value? Or can we create new words based on existing radicals and give them new meanings?

Method:

I will use a dictionary, starting with my name, to create new words and give them meaning. The inspiration is from my related work, which is a collection of unexpected designs. These designs may seem meaningless, but seeing them will bring us joy and make us laugh, which is also a meaningful thing.





Response:

In the process of creating the characters, I found I made a fun game. I make up new characters by splitting my name's characters into radicals and adding other radicals. Each radical has its own meaning, and I can define the meaning of the word through my imaginary situation. This process, let me sigh that maybe the origin of many new things is just simple like that.

The followings are the meaning of each character I created:

1. The action of vigorously growing the nostrils
2. Get shocked dropped the jaw in the standing position
3. Called an Uber but haven't arrived yet so sitting indoors waiting for it to arrive
4. Got a pimple and hurts so bad, even I feel like being sick
5. Out of blue and green pigments (artist only)
6. Thirsty and hungry at the same time

Reflection:

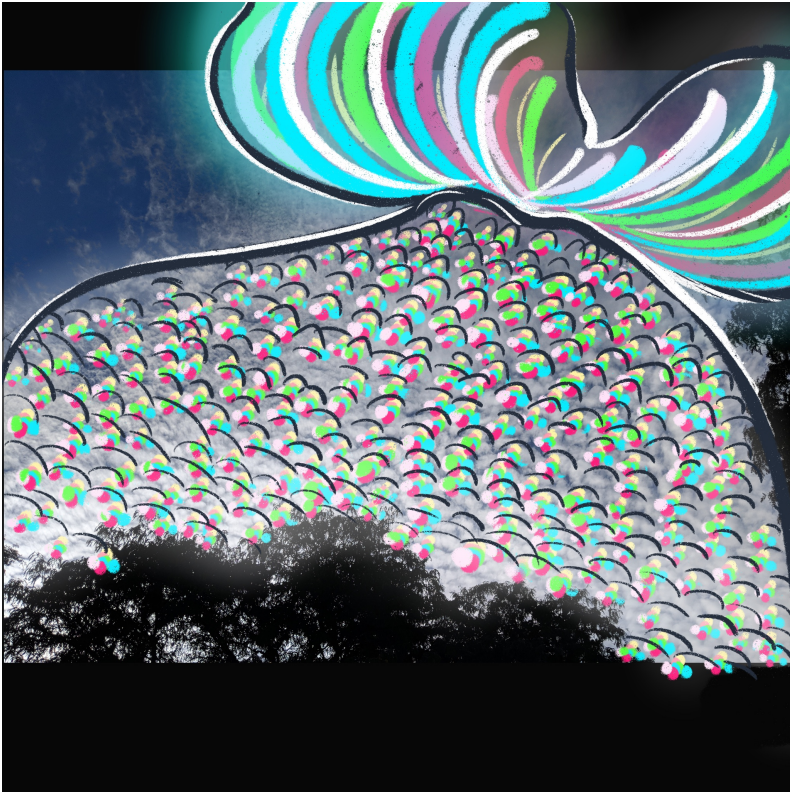
I think this can be a creative game, like I create a Chinese character and let others guess the meaning of it. For creators, it's an exercise in thinking about more meaning in a single character. At the same time, when creating this character, it is also necessary to consider whether other words or short sentence already have this meaning. In addition, in the appearance of the characters, it should also be symmetrical or balanced. The use of radicals should also be reasonable. For people who guessing the character, it is not easy to observe the meaning of the radicals and organize them into meaningful intention reasonably, just like trying to use words to make sentences. It's a fun exercise to use their imagination.

I think there are more fun ways to improve this game, like pronunciation. The pronunciation of Chinese characters is mostly determined according to the pronunciation of the radicals inside (it is not absolute). I think that if we can create pronunciations on the basis of creating characters, it will be possible to create useful "new Chinese characters".

This week's theme let me find out the very essence of simplicity, and I'm having a lot of fun. New discoveries may be made by observing the simple and exploring the dull content. I got inspired these from this week's theme and exercises.

Week 4: Play and Place

Folio Object:



Context:

I've been going back and forth between Beijing and Boston since I went to college. For me, Beijing is a home where my parents are, and it brings me a sense of security. Boston is a place where I am independent and work hard to overcome difficult and challenges. These two places are full of memories for me. Beijing and Boston, two completely different cities with different architecture, climate, culture and people. I went to the Charles River when I feel homesick, because the scenery on the bridge is very similar to the night in the park next to my house in Beijing. I went to the roof of my company building when I miss my friends in Boston, because the wind there always carries a fishy smell from the seafood restaurant downstairs, much like the sea breeze blowing in Boston every day.

It's really hard to find what these two places have in common. Until I flipped through the album and found that the pictures I took of the clouds made me unable to tell which city it was in. Thinking about it carefully, where the place that makes me feel warm is actually my home. Looking at the pictures of these clouds, my memories of living in these two cities keep popping into my mind.

I want to present this week's theme by recalling the mood of that time period (around I'm taking the photos) by drawing on the clouds.

Method:

The way I draw the image reminds me of a game I always played with my mom when I was a kid. We look at the cloud in the sky and trace the shape of it. If both of us say the same thing, I always be very happy. Sometimes we say out the same thing, but most of the time, my mom says things I don't know. Now that I'm older, I think if I get a chance to play with my mom again, it'll be fun.

I chose 5 photos that impressed me, 3 from Boston and 2 from Beijing. I would look at other photos of nearby dates, try to remember what happened during that time period, and draw out what mood I was in on the clouds.

Response:

I think the essence of this game is to discuss how to create something new within the rules of the existing environment and make the content of the environment look unobtrusive.

I found out a switch painting challenge was popular on TikTok (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_94e9GgCnx0&t=20s&ab_channel=RStudios).

They paint together for 10 mins, and they switch the canvases and continue drawing on each other's paintings. The final presentation is definitely not what they imagined at the beginning. I like how the game allows people to keep making rules, and at the same time, they also have to obey the rules of the other side.

My paintings based on clouds are actually based on the same logic. The colors, light and shadow, and shapes presented by the clouds itself are the rules I have to fulfill when they are photographed. Based on this condition, I want to think about what I hope to turn this environment into through lines or colors.

Reflection:

Drawing on clouds turned out to be such a fun thing. This reminds me of the "rules" topic from the CPS class. The color of the photo, the brightness, the lighting, the trees and buildings, each factor is a different rule for each photo. How to draw interesting content under these conditions, and how to use color to better integrate the background. When I was drawing, I not only thought about how to better convey my mood, but also considered the rules. But I found that I really like to create digital characters based on reality. Drawing on the photos reminds me of my studio2 project, which is also based on realistic scenes and to create characters. This week's exercise make me thinking about whether the characters in studio2 should be represented by solid lines or color blocks. If I want to achieve a near-realistic effect I think I should use lines, but if I want the character to stand out clearly, I should use a non-realistic scene color.

Week 5: Play and Force

Folio Object: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDW8CyZqzs4&ab_channel=VidaZhang

Context:

When I was constantly thinking about what force appeared around me every day and could still be played with, what happened in the video happened. My touch lamp was knocked out by static electricity (<https://rmiteduau.sharepoint.com/:v:/r/sites/AdvancedPlayDesignSemester12022/Shared%20Documents/Week%205%20-%20Play%20and%20Force/my%20poor%20lamp.mov?csf=1&web=1&e=jB05sM>).

So this week I'm going to make a little game about how to turn static electricity into the force we can see. I watched few electrostatic experiments, and the static electricity can make things float surprised me, it's really amazing. So I want to make a video that controls objects through the force generated by static electricity to achieve a certain purpose.

The force of static electricity generated in daily life is weak, but the electricity it carries is powerful. To compare with the gravitation of the earth, the force generated by static electricity is really small. (<https://rmiteduau.sharepoint.com/:v:/r/sites/AdvancedPlayDesignSemester12022/Shared%20Documents/Week%205%20-%20Play%20and%20Force/HAHAHA.MOV?csf=1&web=1&e=4JnJC1>)

So after doing some research, I decided to use aluminum foil to demonstrate the sound that comes from the force created by static electricity. So for this week's topic, I'm going to explore how to use the force of static electricity to make sound.

Method:

I'm going to use aluminum foil to make a base and make some tiny aluminum foil balls, and then fill the plastic sheet with static electricity with my blanket. Then cover the plastic sheet on top of the aluminum foil, and the balls will be attracted by static electricity and jump between the base and the plastic sheet. The sound of the aluminum foil and the ball hitting between the base and the plastic plate will provide. These resulting sounds are the product of my work this week.

Response:

I encountered a lot of problems during the production process. I made the base of the aluminum foil very thin at the beginning, which means it is very light, so every time I put the plastic sheet on it, the bottom will be sucked up before the balls. I tried so many times, and I thought it might have something to do with the ball being too big. So I made a lot of smaller balls. Until I wrapped a thin plastic sheet in the middle of the base, which made it heavy, and at the same time I wrapped 5 layers of aluminum foil on the plastic sheet, and then compacted it with books for a few hours. That's why in the successful video, the foil doesn't get sucked up before the balls. The second problem is about the balls not moving. I increased the friction time and strength of the plastic sheet. Until after several attempts, I noticed that the small balls that not moving were all clumped together. So I spread the balls out for later tests. This gives them room to jump around and spreads the static force more evenly.

Reflection:

This week's theme I think is the most fun week for me to play and experiment. I spent a lot of time researching how to use the force of static electricity. The force of static electricity can actually be created by us. We can create it by rubbing clothes or media, and then decide where to release it. The controllability and flexibility of this force attractive me, it's not like buoyancy or gravity. We have no control over the magnitude of forces in nature. I think my use of static to create the sound feels more like I can see that the force is there and it's not weak. I also did other electrostatic experiments at the very beginning. But when I let the plastic rope float in the air, I feel that the force is very small because the rope is too light. Until I used aluminum foil to make the balls bouncing. Listening to the sound of the ball hitting, I felt the force of static electricity.

This week's exploration was a lot of fun, and I liked the way I did my work full of tests and solving problems while the tests. The process of play has opened my mind. The tests before deciding on this idea are all useful. It should be said that because of the previous tests, I finally had this good idea.

Summary:

The first five weeks of APD allowed me to understand the purpose of this course. It is a happy course that opens my mind. I didn't have a good understanding of what "play" meant in the first few weeks and its importance in this class. I was a little confused about the difference and purpose of CPS and APD, which prevents me from creating through the play mode. But during the weekly class, I gradually realized that we are trying to innovate in the existing theories or works in a playful way. After I understood, I realized that I liked the practice of this mode very much, and also enjoyed the sharing of each classmate.

The weekly theme gives me improvements in my work style and thinking. I have always been afraid to try new things, I am afraid that I will not be able to present the content that I am satisfied with in the limited time period. But in APD, the play mode relaxes me. I am willing to try painting (play& place) where I am not confident, and try to face the camera (play& time), and even start to do scientific experiments (play & force). Especially in weeks 4 and 5, once after the class, I start to pay attention to things around me which makes me have a lot of thoughts. I like the status of being brainstorming around a theme all the time. The think mode I maintain for a long time is I used to express my ideas by making videos, and after I got in APD, I found that there are so many fun ways that I can explore.

I'd like to focus on the new things that the fifth week theme brought to me. The "play and force" made me spend a long time thinking and experimenting. This is my first time exploring physical and scientific knowledge to make a work. I think what we can't see is the hardest to feel, but at the same time it's the easiest to express. For the topic of force, I initially wanted to do something about the influence of defining. But in the process of exploring, I slowly lost the focus. I found that all things are defined by the known, which makes the force I want to express also defined, and obviously the result of it is already known. After discussing with Matt and other students, I switched to the buoyancy of the water. However, after many tests, I realized that I don't have the capable tools to help me achieve my needs. So I changed my mind again. . . In the process of repeatedly overturning my own ideas, I felt an unprecedented sense of accomplishment.

On the other hand, the theoretical exploration in the process of doing exercises also allowed me to make many new discoveries while sorting out my thoughts. In the third week of play & object. My practice is to create new Chinese characters, I even bought a dictionary for doing research. In the process of looking through the dictionary, I realized that the form of looking for a character is just like a program in a software. How the dictionary organizes (radicals and pronunciation initials) the character is what I'm exploring. At that time, I had a deep experience of what is the development of technology for us to save time.

I am very much looking forward to the later on weeks and the topics that I will face. Through the first few weeks of study, I have a clearer understanding of the purpose and meaning of the emphasis of the course. I also wish I could try more new things in a playful way. I would also like to thank Matt and other students for their help and advice.

Citation:

week 1 Play & Self: The “mirror mask” concept

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCvebusD5Fo&t=15s&ab_channel=TheFutur

week 2 Play & Time: Time is like water in sponge; if you squeeze harder, there is always more.

The saying by Lu Xun who is a famous writer in China.

Week 3 Play & Object: The “simple is the essence” concept

Carl Gustav Jung (2001). “Modern Man in Search of a Soul”, p.240, Psychology Press

Week 4 Play & Place: The idea of creating within the rules of the existing environment

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_94e9GgCnx0&t=20s&ab_channel=RStudios

Week 5 Play & Force: The relationship between electricity and sound

<https://mrelectric.com/blog/is-it-possible-to-hear-electricity#:~:text=The%20audible%20noise%20emitted%20from,the%20air%20surrounding%20the%20conductor>