

### Self, Time, and Development

Throughout the Fall semester, I have been working on a book exploring self, time, memory, development and their relationship with one another. I was interested in the way everything we do and experience changes who we are. Every day, we are a new person. To accomplish this project, I learned numerous new skills and printmaking forms.

My objectives were to complete a book exploring the idea of layered selves across time, improve my knowledge of the craft and technical aspects of bookmaking, and further develop the conceptual side of my art. My original concept held true for the most part and I learned many new skills, such as printing with pronto plates, different types of bookbinding, and staining paper and cloth. I originally set out to make an edition of three, but completed one along with the pages and materials for the other two; I only, therefore, need to put the other two together, which I plan to do next semester.

I ended up doing a square-back book instead of Coptic binding because I thought it presented a more intimate feel, of a place of memories and great care. It is 6.5" x 6.5". My book consists of twenty-one folios. It is a compilation of handmade and bought papers, prints (etchings and pronto plates), ink and pencil drawings, typewriter text, photos, dyed fabric, water-soluble crayon drawings and painting, and stitching. There are many found objects and collage. The book is titled *Synesthesia*, alluding to the idea of transposable parts and ways of being, and how time and events can become distorted or mixed up in memories. I modeled the book after my own life, with each folio loosely representing its respective year in the sequence of my twenty-one. The transparent paper allows each section to flow seamlessly to the next, and make the layering more literal. I start with birth, putting down roots in the world, and forming connections. I used more color and crude drawings in the beginning, which is more representative of childhood and maturation. Later on there is more black and white with accents of color. One later section is blue, highlighting mental disorders. I end with a bit of ambiguity, of being uncertain facing the future but knowing there is something nonetheless. I love making books because I really value attention to detail, and every mark or decision is intentional and holds some sort of meaning.

Deviations from my original budget included buying zinc plates, Neocolor crayons, and linoleum blocks instead of wood; excluding ink and curved needles; and spending more on paper.

#### *Expenditures:*

Paper	\$250
Linoleum blocks	\$40
Zinc plate	\$10
Book board	\$30
Thread	\$30
Book cloth	\$30
Pronto plates	\$20
Brayer	\$15
Neocolor crayons	\$30
Wax	\$15
Virginia/local tax	\$30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500</b>

I have so enjoyed working on this project and learning such a vast amount. Thank you so much to Miller Arts Scholars and its donors for their generous support and making this project and learning experience possible!





