

Memory & Place

Spring 2013

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Memory & Place

Introduction

This book and exhibition is a result of a collaborative project from the students in the course, Memory & Place at the California College of the Arts and the residents at the Piedmont Gardens Senior Housing.

These projects are based on the residents' recollections on oral histories and memories of a specific place followed by the student's responses through exploring those places and making visual their experiences. The results are then shared again with the seniors, developing a collaborative dialogue and a pluralistic visual narrative applied through different disciplines and studio practices.

In our first visit to Piedmont Gardens the students and residents paired themselves up naturally and opened individual dialogue; periodically we met and shared presentations and socialized over juice and soft drinks generously hosted by Piedmont Gardens, this was helpful in creating a social environment that supported this endeavor.

During this brief time the residents shared glimpses of their life stories and the students responded carefully, listening and sharing moments of trust and intimacy, employing their own art making skills and sensibilities in transforming these experiences into visual narratives.

Mariella Poli



Diva Ricci

Diva Ricci was born in Picciorana, Italy, a town outside of Lucca. Her mother worked for the government making cigars, and her father took care of their house, their land, and their animals. Her mother was able to get her a job at a cigar factory in Lucca, a stable job that provided well but came with poor working conditions.

She came to America, where she initially started working in yet another cigar factory. Her next job was at a retail store selling hats, where her vibrant, charismatic, and humor made her quite successful, selling more hats in a week than other employees did in months. She would meet her husband here, and her son would end up studying in Italy and marrying an Italian woman, continuing the family heritage another generation.

Aaron Bartholomew

Aaron Bartholomew was born in San Francisco, California. His mother worked in the medical field, and his father took care of the family and house. He began studying architecture at a community college in the east bay area.

He would later transfer to California College of the Arts in San Francisco, pursuing a bachelor's degree in architecture. Like Diva, he also works at a retail store selling clothing. He has family in the New Jersey area and plans to journey there to begin his career once graduated.

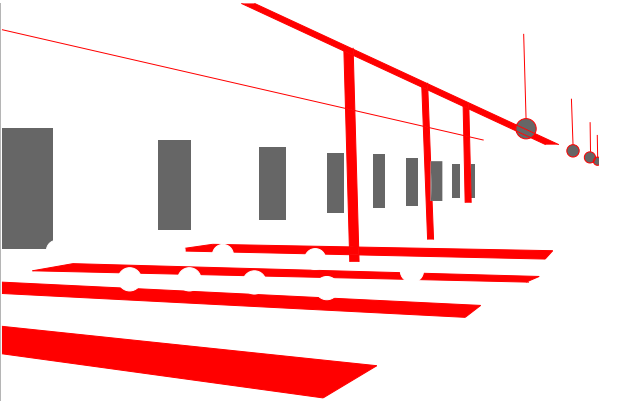
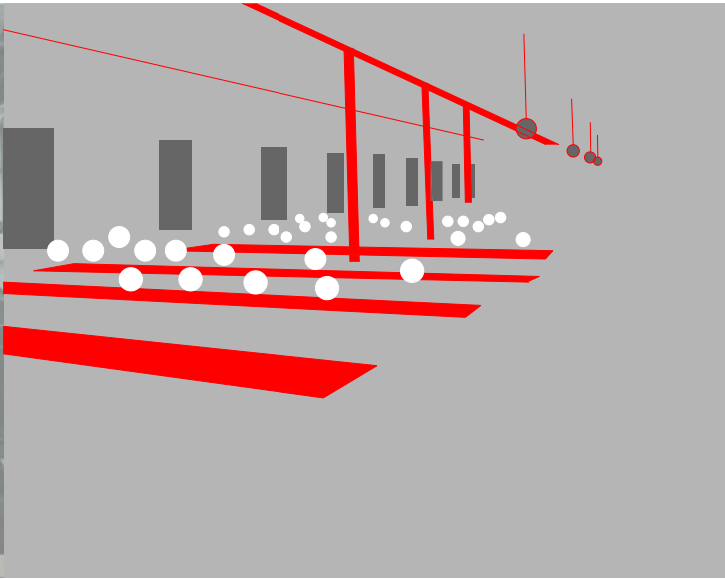
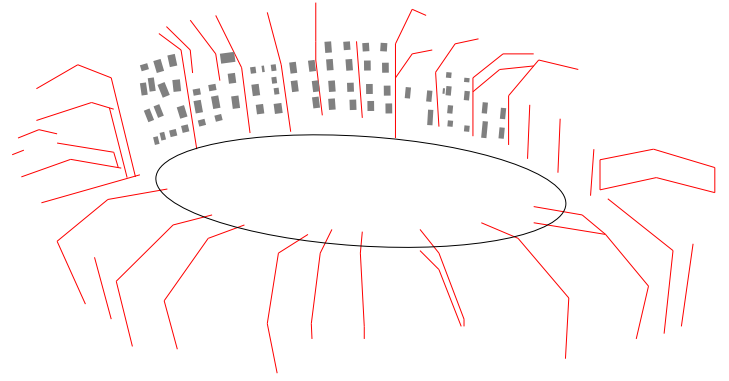
Raised in Italy; Architecture informed by Politics

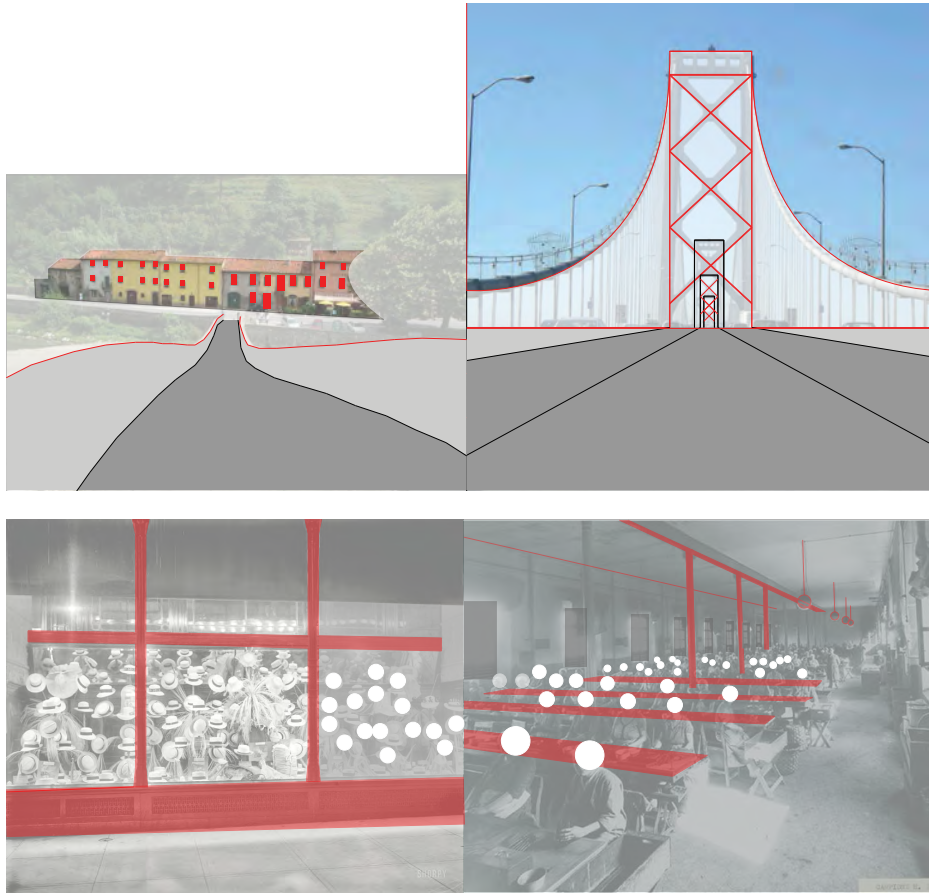
The first part of these pieces is meant to tell the story of Diva's growing up in a small town outside of Lucca, Italy during the 1940's. The politics of Mussolini were fascists at the time, and thus there was strict control over citizens implemented. For instance, the cigar factory worker was a government job, and although it wasn't glamorous work, the government provided money, a place to live, and food to the workers. Not only were the uniforms a reflection of the politics, but politics informed the architecture, which in turn informed the sense of order and lack of individuality of the workers within the factory. I'm interested in the way the politics of her time created



an architecture that helped enforce the values of that political system on the citizens living under it. My technique to do this will be coloring the key elements in the black and white photos that show the architectural and cultural elements informed by the politics. Contrasted with colored images of the city today, this technique will help to bring the old black and white photos back to life for the viewer, and thus the memories back to life for Diva.







The second half of the piece touches on the architectural and cultural changes of coming to America for Diva. Her first memory of this country was the Bay Bridge, which was an unbelievable structure compared to what she had previously seen back home. She would transition from a cigar maker to a job in retail selling hats. She would marry and have a family of her own, who grew up in quite a different architectural landscape than her hometown in Italy. A charismatic person with a great sense of humor, she's always drawn others to want to be around her.

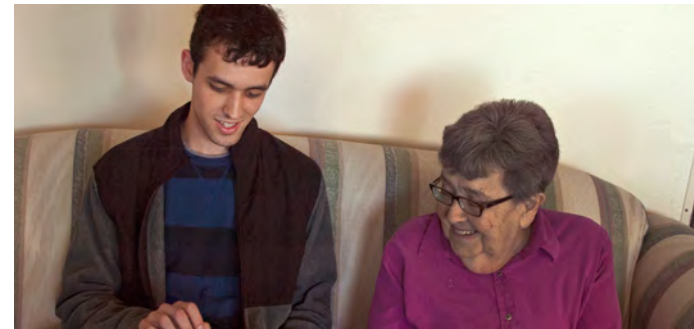


Ricky & Gerry Kaplan

Ricky and Gerry Kaplan have been (happily) married for 63 years. Originally from New Jersey, they moved to California later in life. Gerry had great variety in his career, holding an MBA and BEE working in engineering and apparel, as well as teaching as a college professor at Rutgers University. Ricky was a full time parent before returning to school and finding employment as a social worker, specializing in domestic issues. Above both of their careers, they were parents: together Ricky and Gerry spawned four dashing handsome, wildly successful sons named Billy, Jon, Jimmy, and Bruce. Their self-adopted family color is purple, and they display it with pride.

Christopher Griffin

Christopher Griffin is the son of an Australian sheep herder and sole proprietor of “The Cheese Shoppe,” England’s only dairy supply store. He graduated from CCA in Summer 2013 with a BA in graphic design.



Brian Mutschler

Brian Mutschler grew up on the mean streets of West Linn, deep within the rugged hinterlands of the Portland metropolitan area. After graduating high school in 2009, Brian relocated to the fabled land of San Francisco to learn the ancient craft of illustration. He graduated from California College of the Arts with a BFA in 2013.

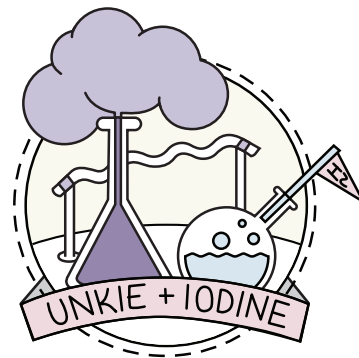
Better-Than-Blue

When Gerry's son Jon had blue jeans banned from his public school, Jon thought he had found a unique loop-hole. Gerry recalls coming home and seeing his son load all of his jeans into a single wash while pouring in red dye for added effect. In the end, Jon's school didn't appreciate his artistic merit: two weeks suspension was the result and thus Jon's Better-Than-Blue Blue Jeans was born!



Unkie and Iodine

One of Gerry's pass-times as a kid was experimenting with various chemicals, particularly iodine gas. Gerry described some of his experiments as being explosive if you even tickled them with a feather... a phenomenon that would ultimately backfire on "Unkie," his favorite uncle and resulted in an explosion of purple gas. How fitting!

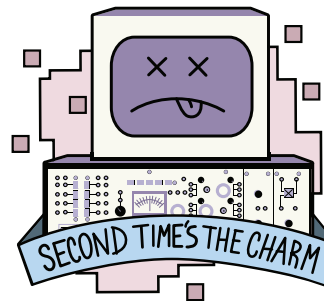


Roughin' It in the Navy

During his time in the Navy, some of the most intense adventures were during "survival," a true test of will in which the Navy men would eat bugs, plants, and hunt to survive. Gerry, on the other hand, argues that these were among the best meals of his time there his squad would simply pay a visit to the nearby farms and enjoy full home-cooked meals from the housewives there.

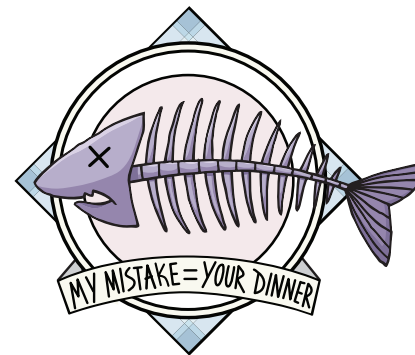
Second Time's the Charm

While teaching at Rutgers, Gerry accidentally shut down the mainframe computer by inputting a faulty command, a situation that ultimately caused the computers throughout the school to crash in turn. In typical Gerry fashion, he figured he might as well give it another shot the same thing happened again and as it turns out, the second time wasn't the charm.



My Mistake is Your Dinner

Gerry has always been known for his cooking his sons certainly appreciated his home-cooked meals while Ricky's adventures in the kitchen weren't quite so loved. When Ricky was asked about her favorite funny memory of Gerry, she recalled him getting a new job and hearing the moans of the boys as they realized he would no longer be cooking for them. Ricky's response? "My mistake is your dinner!"



There's Ants in my Plants!



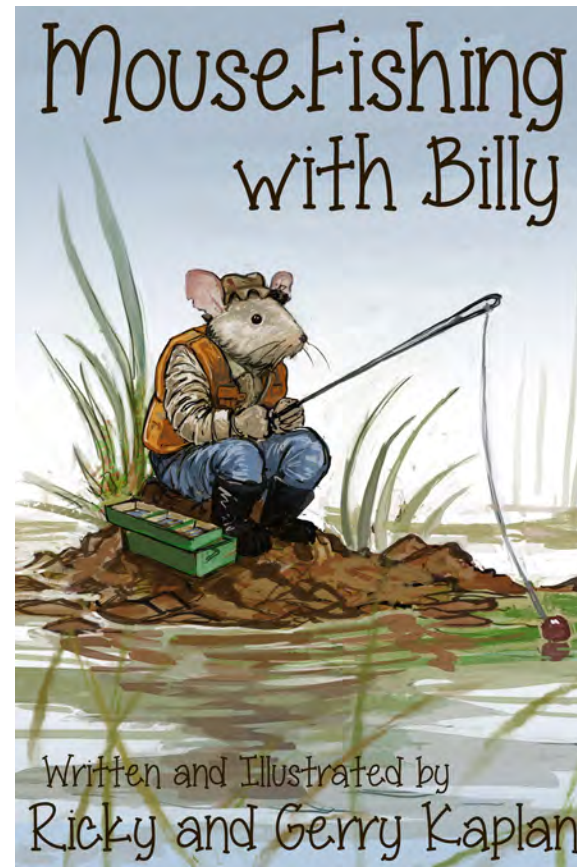
A Novel By

Ricky and Gerry Kaplan

There's Ants in my Plants!

When asking her about her early memories, Ricky told me a story about her mother's garden and the sorts of flowers that grew in it. Yellow roses, irises, peonies, and lilacs. She said that the flowers smells so sweet that the smell would attract ants. I was initially interested in exploring the color scheme set by the flowers, and Ricky had expressed an in-

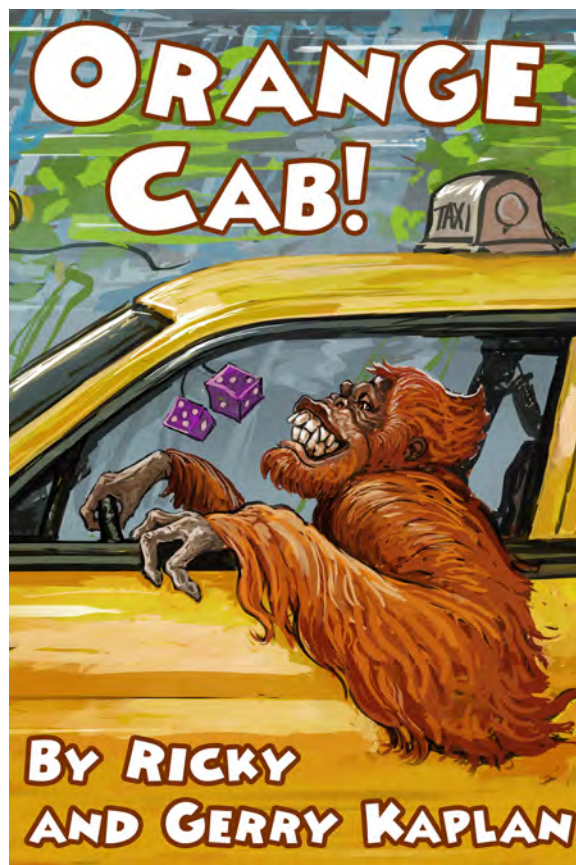
terest in my paintings depicting nature. The illustration began as a standalone painting, but as the semester progressed I decided to revisit this image and transform it into a book cover in order to keep continuity with the later images I was producing. Because humor became one of the strongest tropes we explored, I wanted to give it a playful title.



Mouse Fishing

Ricky and Gerry told us a story of their son, Billy, who as a child would play a game with himself which he dubbed "Mouse Fishing." They were fairly vague about exactly what the game entailed, which raised the question, what exactly did it mean? I adopted the concept as a prompt to produce an illustrated book cover. The intention was to design the

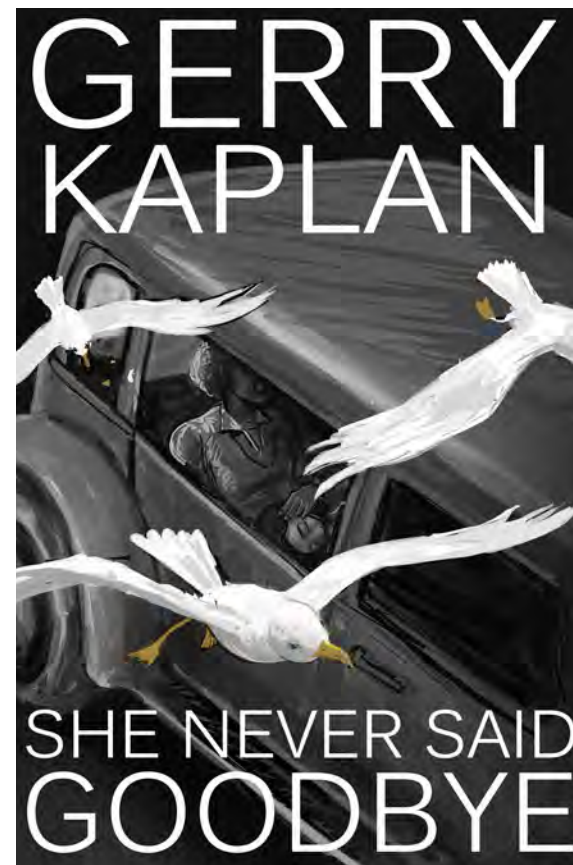
cover as if it were made to appeal to a younger audience. This was the first book cover I illustrated, which eventually became the direction I took for the rest of my work in this class.



Orange Cab

I visited New York during spring break with a class of fellow illustration majors, a yearly tradition in the department. We met with a number of successful illustrators and art directors, including several publishing companies, such as Penguin Books. One art director at Simon and Schuster asked me to send her some samples of my work. I

thought back to the previous visit to Piedmont Gardens when Ricky told us a joke about a monkey driving a car and it occurred to me that one of the sample pieces could be inspired by Ricky's joke. I took some creative liberties with this illustration, changing the monkey to an orangutan and incorporating elements of the New York trip.



She Never Said Goodbye

On my first visit to Piedmont Gardens, Ricky told me about her earliest memory: driving home from the beach with her head on her mother's lap. On a later visit, Gerry told me about his interest in murder mystery novels. The two ideas were combined to produce a noir style book cover about a kidnapped little girl.

The title is based on a running gag which began when Ricky went to claim something from her room and did not return before Chris and I had to leave. Gerry commented jokingly "she didn't say goodbye" which became a recurring joke between the four of us.



Fran Harris

She's had a career as a teacher, educating in high school and mentally handicapped kids. Later she became an advocate for education and literacy. She organized events and help advocate for legislation supporting teachers and education. She was victim to a car accident that left her in a stroke like state. With her experience teaching the mentally handicapped she used puzzles, games and basic educational tools to research herself to recognize words speech. She made a recovery and then went back to school and took up art therapy and kept a dream journal in order to focus on analyzing the trauma of her accident. Her art has been featured at the New York MOMA. She now lives in Piedmont Gardens in Oakland.

Colin Andersen

Colin is a self-proclaimed "art wizard," originally from the northwest United States. Now in Oakland, Colin enjoys pulp fiction, tattoos, comics, sweaters and prog metal. Currently, he is practicing his two favorite mystical arts: freelance illustration and comics. Always on the go, one can often find Colin riding the BART train to his next destination.



Fran keeps a journal of her dreams. She has a reoccurring about her traumatic brain injury that left her in a stroke like state of A demon dance dervish chases her throughout a landscape.

Fran had to reteach herself how to do speak and read. In her mind she knew she could do it but when ever she spoke or read it wouldn't come out right.

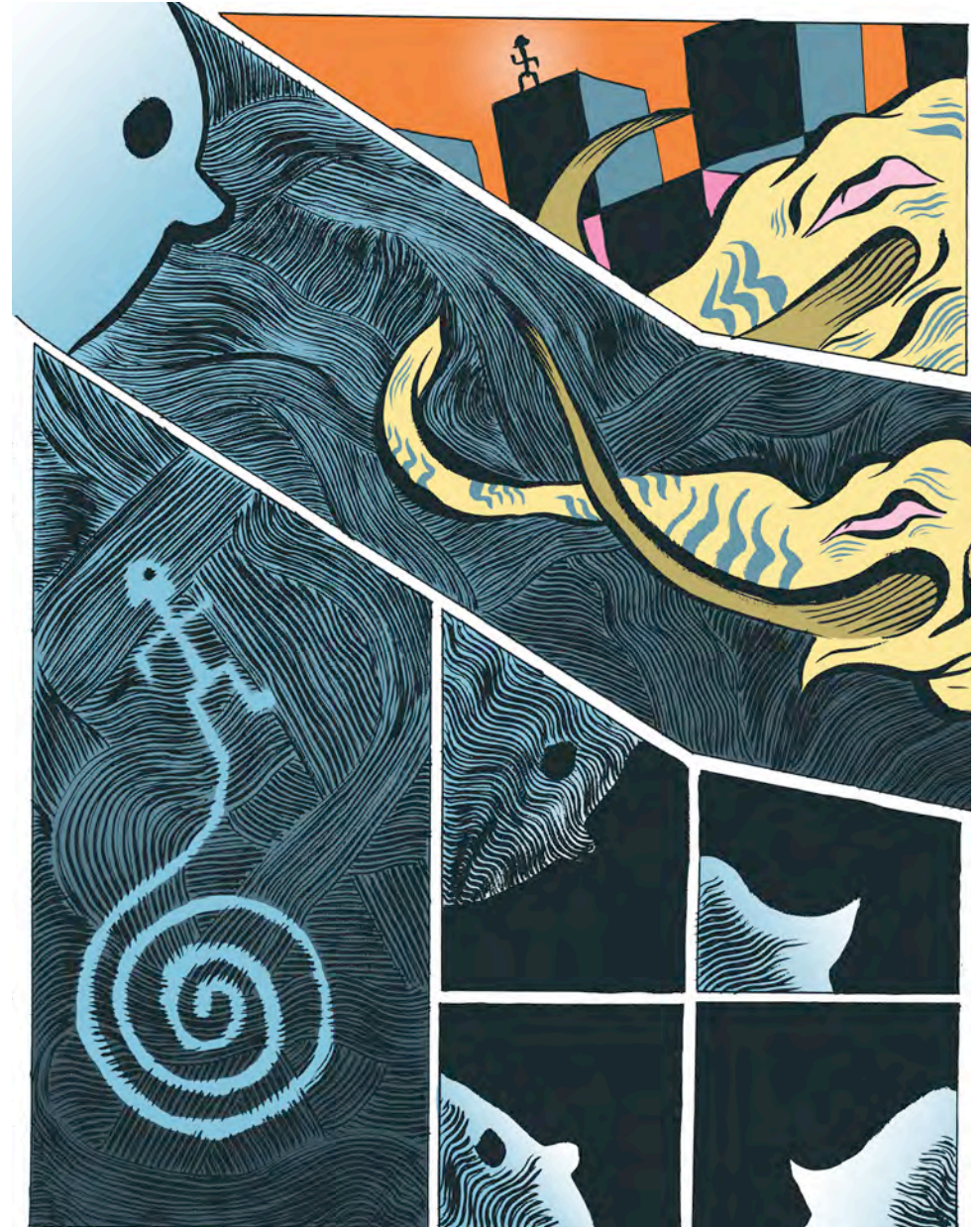
Fran had taught for many years and many of her students had been mentally handicapped. She knew that what helped them learn best was basic games and puzzles.



Fran put in hard work, mental will power and with help from friends and family she over came her state. She started art and dream therapy. As dreams of the trauma manifested them selves she would record them in journals.

Fran still keeps journals and makes art, though her dreams of the spiral have stopped. She has transformed her pain in to art and her adversity into opportunity and is one of the bravest people I have ever met.

My grandma had a stroke before I had ever met her. So throughout my childhood I had always known her as a stroke victim. When I met Fran I could hardly believe that she had overcome what so many struggle their whole lives with. She is not a victim but a survivor.





Angelica Eisenhardt

Angelica Eisenhardt at age 87 resides in the Piedmont Gardens retirement community in North Oakland. She was born in Freiburg, West Germany. Her mother was Jewish but her father was not. Once a refugee and then as an independent woman with three successful children, she still strives to lead a full life teaching English conversation to visiting professors, singing in the Berkeley Community chorus concerts, occasional interpreting and translating in Spanish and German and writing her memoirs. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, reading, having good conversations with friends and good food!

Connie Yang

Graduating class of Spring 2013 at the California College of the Arts, in Architecture, Connie Yang manages her roles as an employee, a student, and a role model. She strives to one-day build for young women and children who have been in war with poverty, disease, hunger, and trafficking. By building a place for them to gather, rest and heal, she hopes they could rethink their opportunities for themselves and their future generations.



Once in a primitive area, East Prussia, Germany, Angelica was a child with an infectious smile. Looking back at that time, she remembers life with her father, mother, sister, in a tightly knit village.



Angelica looks over her shoulder at her younger sister, Claudia, only one year apart, who was her only playmate.



Angelica's family.



Since they lived at a lagoon, in her early life, her father visited patients by boat in the summer and by ice skating in the winter.

Even on holidays, her father was constantly busy working, which became a bigger priority than family time.



Hitler's Reign of Terror. Angelica's mother was of Jewish ethnicity categorized as the 'undesirables' so she and her children were forced to escape from Germany to different countries.



Because of the persecution of Jews, her experiences contributed to a full and adventurous life. Since she lived in Italy, Switzerland and Uruguay she had many turning points in her life that forced her to make many crucial decisions.



In spite of all these obstacles, she's become a self-sustaining and resourceful parent for her children. Regardless of all the struggles, due to segregation, discrimination, and confrontation, it has made her the bold, wise, and life-affirming person of today.



Janice Orr

Janice Orr was born in 1927 in the small town of Port Byron, Illinois by the banks of the Mississippi River. Jan's father, an inventor, built a series of areas on which his children could play and grow, including a cabin, a tennis court, a croquet court, and even a barn, when he wasn't tending to his gas station or ice cream shop, Byron's Port. While she only knew about World War 1 from the stories that her father would tell her right before bedtime, she lived through World War 2 while in high school and partly in college. At the University of Illinois she studied speech therapy, focusing on autism and aphasia, or children with cerebral palsy. Jan still studies the brain, now with a reader who comes once a week to continue reading about brain research.

Cristina Chavez

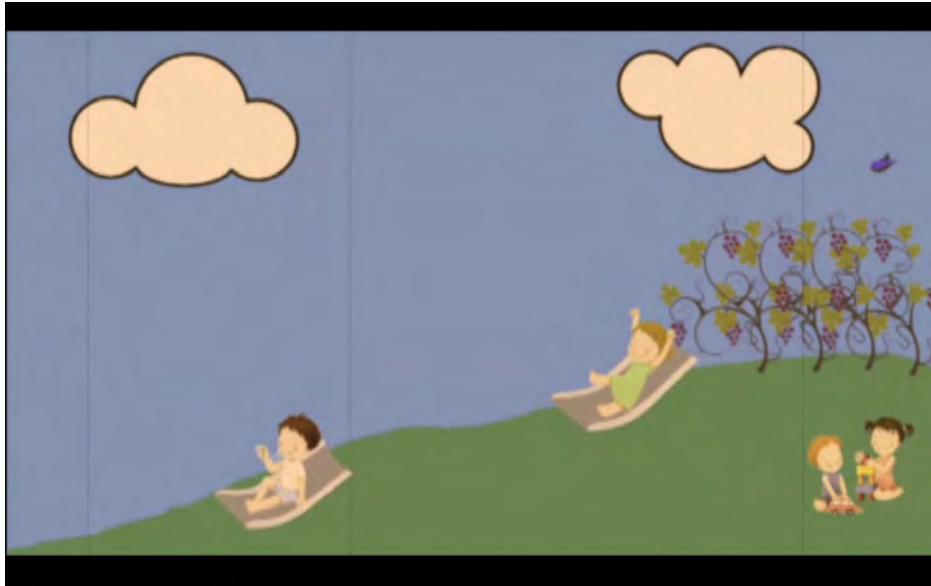
Cristina Chavez is a senior film student at the California College of the Arts, graduating this Spring 2013. While she is passionate about producing her own as well as other's films within her field, she also enjoys dabbling in other aspects of art, including writing, wire sculpting, glassblowing, drawing, and design. She hopes to travel to other countries as well, learning about the significant differences in film around the world.



Drawn Image

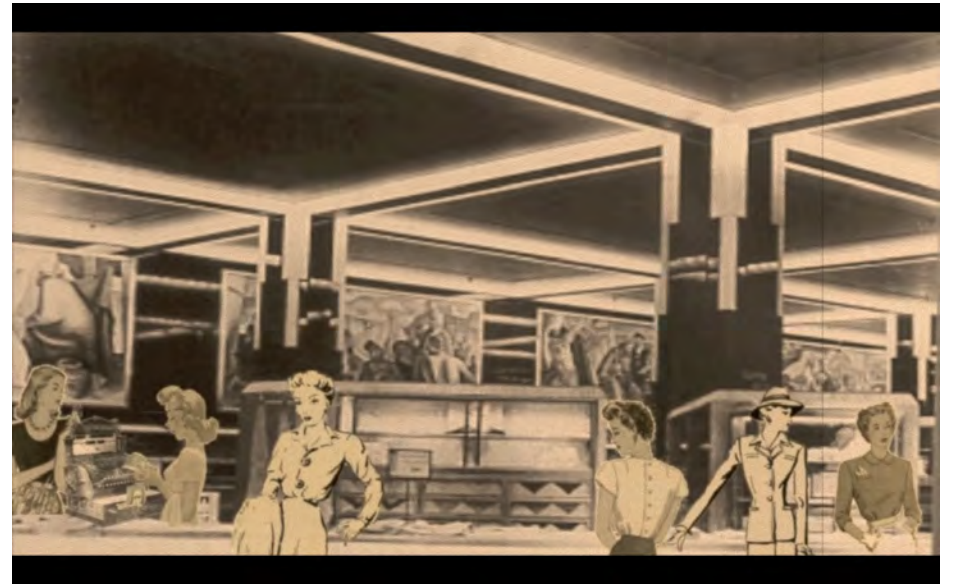
When Jan was a little girl, she didn't have the typical bedtime stories told to her. Her father was back from World War 1, and instead of leaving her to dream about rainbows and princesses, he would tell her stories of the trenches and what he had to quickly learn about warfare in order to survive. She was told many stories, but one of the most important was the first lesson that her father learned when he arrived on the battlefield how to tell the difference between the sound of a bomb that's simply passing overhead and one that's about to hit the trench you're standing in.

This collage of drawings depicts young Jan as she eagerly awaits another exciting tale from her father's past in the trenches. He describes the memory of the war to her, but Jan never had nightmares from what she heard. I was amazed to learn that no matter what story he would tell, she never had nightmares, nor was she afraid of them. I found this an important image to portray since it involves yet another person's memory, and an especially significant memory about their lives, told through Jan years after she experienced it.



Slide Memory

As a child, Jan's father would constantly build and invent structures on the family's backyard, such as a slide running down a hill, swings, or a screened-in cabin in which Jan and her friends could play in. This animation depicts her experience with sliding down the hill in their backyard with the neighborhood friends.



Shop Memory

Jan's first job was at a department store in Illinois when she was 16. This short clip and animation describes her relationship with the woman that taught her how to use the register and count cash, as well as how much she loved to put items on layaway for her mother.





Lena Cahn

Lena Cahn is a Newark, New Jersey native of Russian descent. She was born on February 13, 1922 to two first generation parents. With husband Al Cahn, Lena raised her three children, Michael, David and Cheryl, in New York City's Lower East Side. Committed to helping the community and improving others' quality of life, Lena served as a volunteer for over 50 years, including working in psychiatric hospitals and schools to care for mentally disabled women and children. Lena recently relocated from New York to settle in the Bay Area, where she continues to contribute to the community.

Ines Chan

Growing up in Hong Kong, Ines Chan came to develop an eye for photography through curiosity and wanderlust. This brought her to discover a love of cinematography, and film-making, as a medium. Ines seeks to create work that explores notions of identity, voice and everyday relationships. She splits her time between Hong Kong and San Francisco, where she currently pursues a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film at the California College of the Arts.

Based on our conversations together, I chose to tell Lena Cahn's story through the medium of found footage. Lena spoke of her experiences working with mentally disabled women and children, so I adopted footage from the 1940s to 1950s to lend my film an authentic look and feel. Lena often spoke fondly of the women in her life, including her daughter and the group of women she worked with, and I wanted to depict the respect she holds for women through the use of female-centric footage.



Back in the day, Lena was given a nurse cap resembling this one.



Lena was struck by this image and its resemblance to the little girl whom she describes in the film, down to her dress and innocent spirit.





Rosalind Levine

Rosalind Levine was born in 1927. She loves chocolate covered almonds. What I talked about with Rosalind the most was her marriage with Jason. They were married for 61 years, so there are many stories for her to tell. She got married in 1948 at the age of 21 and a half and they had three children, and Ros was a full time mother of her three rascals.

Rosalind and her husband enjoyed sailing on their sailboat together. They traveled all around the world, sometimes taking their kids along for their trips too. The secret to a long and happy marriage, she told me, is creating shared values with the person you love.

Megan Darrough

Megan Darrough was born in 1990 in Portland, Oregon. She currently lives in San Francisco earning her BFA for Illustration at the California College of the Arts. She works in both traditional and digital mediums, and enjoys designing tattoos and making graphic novels. Like Ros, she also loves chocolate covered almonds.





Rosline and her husband enjoyed sailing together in their little sail boat. They often sailed for hours enjoying the quietness out in the ocean.

One day when they were out sailing along the coast of New England, a thick fog rolled in; a fog so thick they couldn't see anything around them. Rosline flew into fear and panic.

She desperately honked the fog horn every time they heard a power boat sail by, her heart pounding, hoping they will get rescued, but because of the thickness of the fog no one was able to see them. With no sign of help in site, they were stuck in the fog for hours, nearly a whole entire day.

Rosline was feeling completely over the edge, terrified and trembling as she kept fruitfully honking the horn to call for help.

Her husband, on the contrary, was calm and quiet, unruffled by this little pickle they've gotten into. He calmly steered the boat without a single sign of fear or concern. Hours later, when the fog finally lifted and they made it to the docks, they laughed playfully talking about a new memory they'd made together.

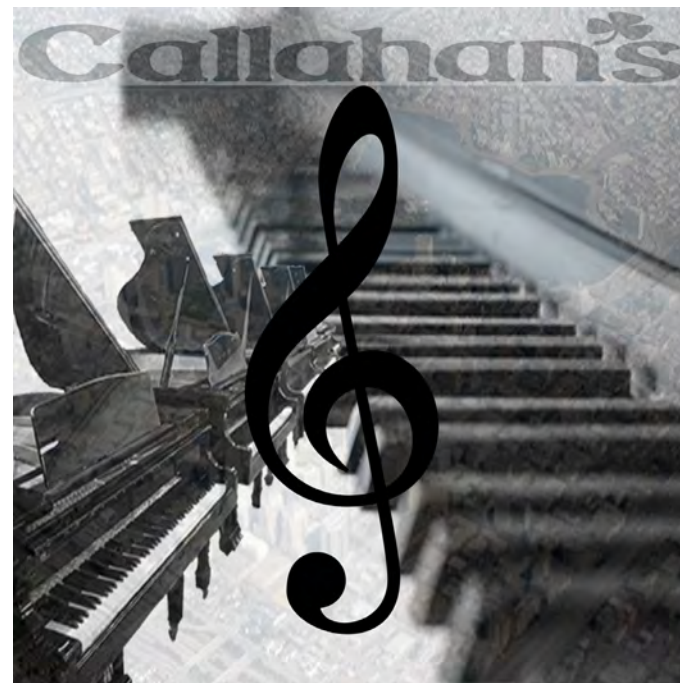


Jim and Margaret Calahan

Jim and Margaret Calahan have been married for nearly 60 years. Jim was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Margaret was born and raised in northern California. The two met in the music department at The Catholic University located in Washington, DC and married when they were both 26 years old. They raised eight children in Oakland and love each other very much to this day.

Michael Perry

Michael Perry was born and raised in New York City. He is finishing his 2nd bachelor's degree in Architecture at the California College of the Arts. He enjoys visual and performance art, staying abreast of contemporary issues and travel.



This image represents the love shared between Margaret and Jim. They both met at The Catholic University in Washington, DC. Jim was a French horn player, but, unbeknownst to him, so was Margaret! This is a story of coincidence, or as Shakespeare states, "star crossed lovers." Music is what binds these two together.



This photo montage represents the Callahan family and how there is much emphasis placed on the piano repair business. Both Jim and Margaret are musicians and from what they told me, that musicianship has carried over into their children. This image represents the influence the two parents and music had on their children which eventually lead to the Piano business.





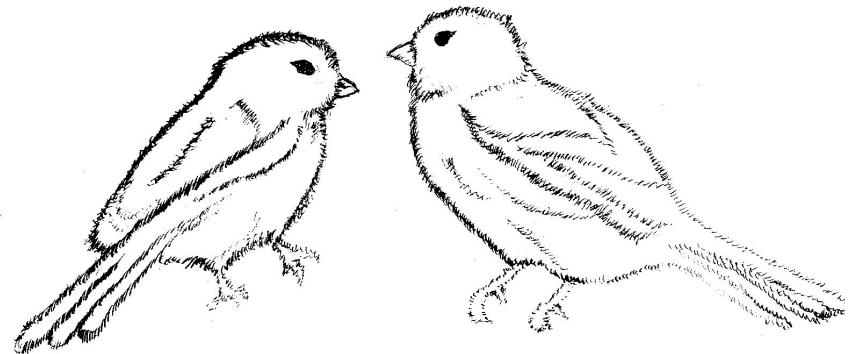
After Evelyn's husband passed away, one of their daughter had a dream that there were two blue birds protecting three bird eggs in the nest.

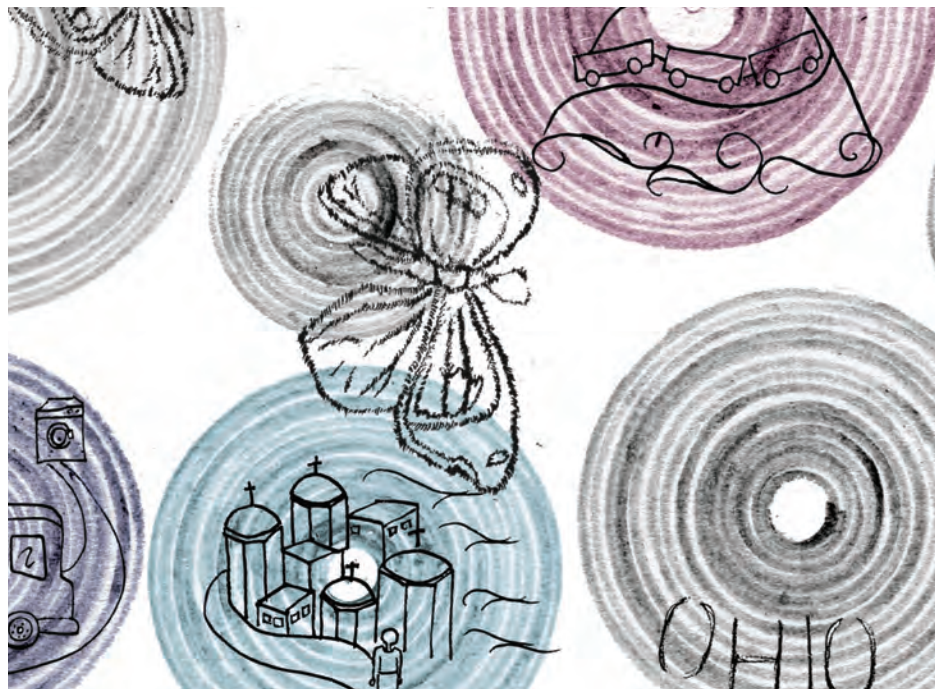
Evelyn Lewis

Evelyn Lewis was born in 1928. She spend her childhood and teenage life in Oregon, United States. She grown up in the woods which brought her interest in the nature. She worked as a social worker with YWCA where she meet her husband. Her husband was a professor in the University which gave them chance to travel to many places.

Ming Yan Sit

Ming Yan Sit was born and grown up in Hong Kong. She immigrated to the United States when she was 15 years old. She is now majored in Graphic Design at CCA. She is also interested in Chinese calligraphy, photography, and origami.





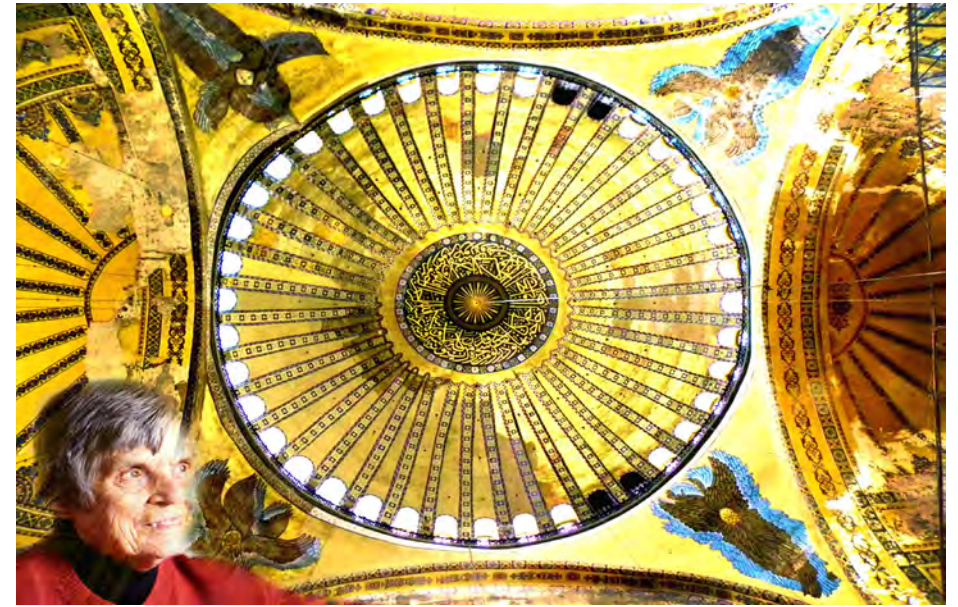


Alice Carey

Alice Carey was born in 1920 to Congregationalist Missionaries living in Turkey. Alice was taken to the nearest Embassy in Aleppo to be registered as a US Citizen. Alice remained in Turkey until moving to New England for her education. While studying at Amherst, Alice met her husband Otis Carey who was also a missionary but was born and raised in Japan. Alice went onto Yale and became a physician. Otis and Alice moved to Japan thanks to Amherst's establishment in Kyoto. Together they participated in Japan's recovery from the bombings at the end of WWII. The two remained in Kyoto Japan for over 50 years until moving to Oakland for retirement.

Nathan Booth

Nathan Booth was born in Southern California in 1977. His mother was a painter and his father was a prolific illustrator of children books, a graphic designer, homebuilder, and a professor of art. Nathan's artistic interests have spanned many disciplines including painting, sculpture, theater, film production, performance, and design. Nathan earned his Bachelor of Architecture at California College of the Arts in 2013 and hopes to integrate his many skills and interests into a career in art, design, and entertainment.



Alice Carey at The Hagia Sophia

While growing up in Turkey, Alice visited the Hagia Sophia on the last day of Muslim Services ever to be held there and before the Cathedral turned Mosque retired to a life of tourism. Alice was 13 years old. As the symbols and coverings of the Muslim faith came down, now revealed was the amazing beauty of the original Santa Sophia with endless gold inlaid mosaics. Alice is particularly fond of the angels that fly about the great dome with their vibrant blue auras in front shimmering gold heavens. It is, as Alice wrote in an essay about the Hagia Sophia in 1943, "a tribute to Divine Wisdom."



Alice and Otis at Amherst Kyoto

In the aftermath of WWII, Alice and her husband Otis moved to Kyoto Japan. Otis would serve as an interrogator and translator for the U.S. Forces, Alice would serve as a physician. Their first place of residence was the Doshisha Amherst, the College's Kyoto branch. There, living in a small room in the upper left of the house, they began what would amount to over fifty years of living in Japan. Alice recalls the beauty and fragrance of the Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival and remembers the little cherry tree that once stood in front of the Doshisha Amherst house. It was in Kyoto, that Alice and Otis would spend the best years of their lives. Alice returns to Japan every summer.



Dr. Alice on the phone

While living and practicing medicine in Kyoto, Alice was awoken early one morning by a telephone call from an American tourist man who felt he was having a nervous breakdown. The man was staying at the old Kyoto hotel and kept hearing a lion roar throughout the night. Alice told him not to worry, that he is not crazy, and there is indeed a lion in his hotel. Alice claims this to be the “most triumphant diagnosis” of her career.



Mary Wilson

Mary Wilson was born in 1931, in San Francisco. Her family originally immigrated from Wales. Mary lived in a three-story townhouse on 18th and Dolores Street across from Dolores Park, where she spent most of her childhood. Mary spent the majority of her life in the Bay Area. For her undergrad, she attended U.C. Berkeley and met her husband. She had always possessed a passion for music particularly Baroque music. She has been singing since she was a child and today she continues to sing in the St. John's Episcopal Church Choir in Oakland. Traveling has always been a part of her activities. Mary has been to numerous places around the world.

Sijia Shang

Sijia Shang is an Architecture student from CCA. She was born and raised by her grandparents in Liaoning Province, China. Sijia immigrated to Louisiana when she was sixteen years old. She lived in Louisiana for 5 years where she finished high school. Sijia enjoys exploring nature. She observes everything particularly plants, registers its meaning, and applies it into her designs. Sijia learns to question her surroundings. Sijia's acquired sensibilities of nature are a profound impact in her design practice. Her design and craft will continue to evolve through her nostalgic approach.



The collage is a geographical representation of Mary Wilson's life. There are three important locations that have the most impact to Mary and her family: Wales, San Francisco, and the U.C. Berkeley campus. These locations create the backdrop and foundation of her cherished memories. They represent who she is, where she came from, and where she met her loved ones.



As a child, Mary always spent her time after school at her relative's bakery and grocery shop. She was compensated for her help and used her earnings toward Christmas presents for her friends and parents. The bakery and grocery shop are located in San Francisco's Mission District.



Mary always had a passion for music. Sometimes after school, she would go to her friend's house nearby the grocery store and watch her friend practice piano. Mary would sit next to her friend and quietly watch her play. They remained close friends throughout their lives and were roommates in college at U.C. Berkeley. They were also both honored as bridesmaids at each other's weddings.

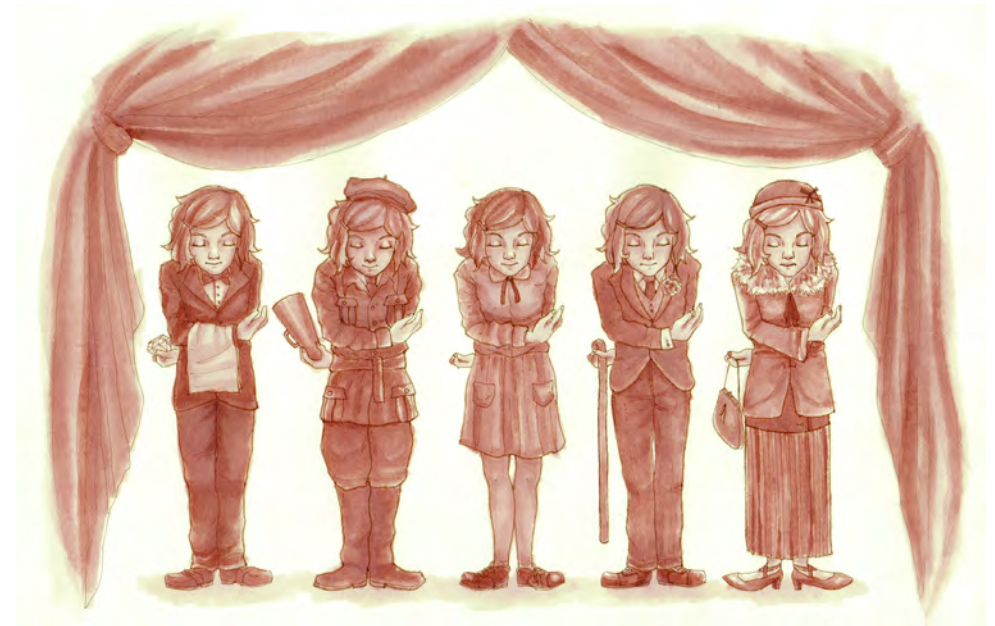


Doris Treisman

Doris Treisman is a retired psychotherapist born in Brooklyn, New York, April 13, 1922. She has an MSW from the University of California, Berkeley, and a BA from Brooklyn College, New York.

Tara Dienes

I am a Junior level Illustration student at California College of the Art from Brush Prairie, WA born in Illinois, November 27th, 1991. My desired illustration work leans heavily towards concept & pre-production art for video games, animation, etc. with an interest in fashion illustration & sequential art.



“Curtain Call”

This piece was inspired by Doris’ description of a memory from when she was six years old. The memory takes place in 1928 in a hotel lobby where Doris directed, wrote, and starred in her own play, titled “My Lady’s Jewels/ The Stolen Jewels.” I was inspired by the imagery of a young girl enthusiastically

conducting her own show at such a young age, taking on the roles of director and actor upon herself, while playing her parts dressed simply in her brown oxford shoes and mother’s oversize dress. The mystery of the play is concluded classically with the butler being the culprit of the missing jewels.



“Apricot Tree”

This piece is inspired by the time period from when Doris lived in Yakima, WA with her former husband and three children. They lived in a small agricultural town and kept their own apricot tree with which Doris canned and preserved the fruit of. From the time after the birth of her son, Doris had been struggling with postpartum depression and anxiety that had begun to physically manifest itself during this period of her life via migraines, back aches, and digestion problems. This image conceptually represents this struggle for her where we

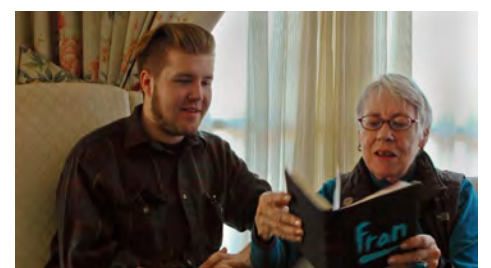
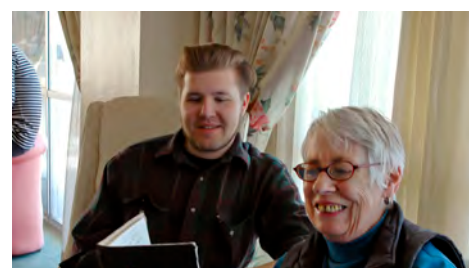
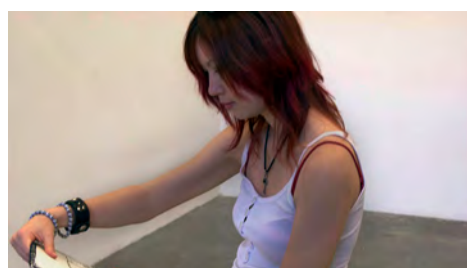
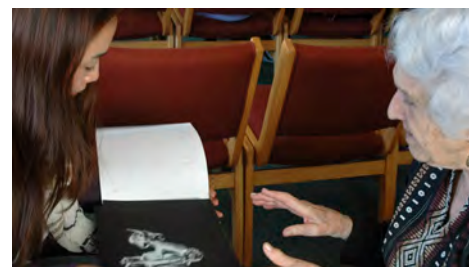
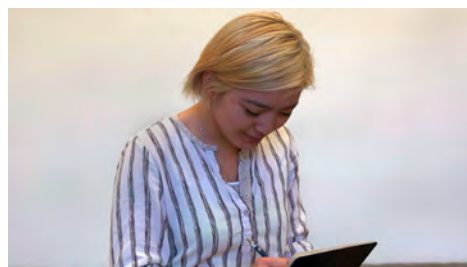
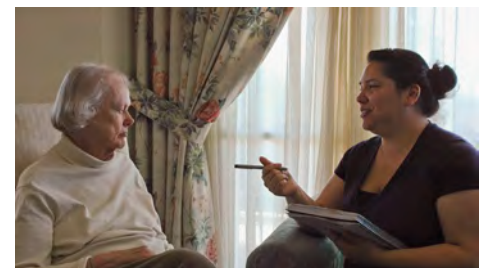
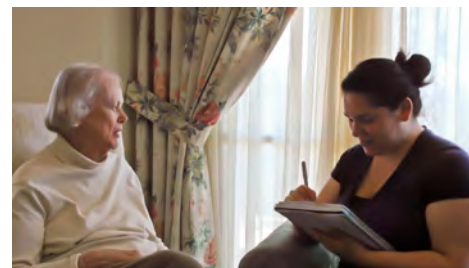
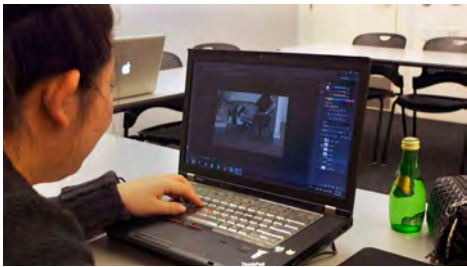
can see how the apricot tree is attempting to outgrow its shaky foundations of a too small pot (her battle with past depression and anxiety) and how this is physically warping the tree. Yet, despite this hindrance that the tree has managed to grow upwards, thrive, and bear fruit (representing her children). The ivy covered wall featured is representative of an excerpt from a poem Doris wrote describing her anxiety as barriers that keeps others out, but also boundaries that help define who she is.

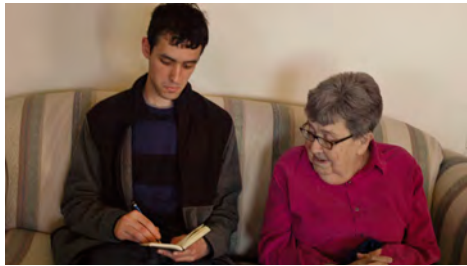


“Portrait of Doris”

For my final image I decided to follow my trend of proceeding chronically through Doris’ life and do a portrait piece dedicated to how she’s been living while in Piedmont Gardens. She says she continues to grow old the way she grew up, “reading, writing, and playing with friends.” I therefore included the imagery of the book behind her portrait to allude to her time spent reading and writing along with the depiction of her own recorder that she uses to play music with her friends in their band. I inter-

twined the piece with the depiction of ivy vines once more to tie the piece together and to suggest how nature still manages to find a place in Doris’ life from the patterns on her clothes and furniture to the plants growing near her glass patio door. The suggestion of the colors of a sunset spread across the pages of the book is in memorial of Doris’ dear friend, George, who she met at Piedmont Gardens and spent many a sunset with before he passed away.





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Mariella Poli

*Memory is the treasury and
guardian of all things.*

*-Marcus Julius Cicero
(106-43 BC) Writer
Politician and Great Roman Orator*

