

SP.747 Project Report

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Overview

This piece is a combination of two everyday articles that lie as if discarded on a table top surface. When looked at more closely, one can see that the piece has photos or imagery that reflect the places I've been to and the memories I have of Boston after a year here.

The combination of these memories, in this particular setting is meant to emphasise how moving to Boston for a year has changed my everyday life and become a part of it.

Photographic Work

Producing this piece is a combination of many different actual photos. The four main photos I have chosen from all the pictures I have collected this year, as the ones which most emphasise and remind me of Boston and MIT. The reflections in the sunglasses are also two separate pictures that have been treated before incorporating them into the picture. Finally, the sunglasses themselves are taken from a photo which was taken specifically of a pair of sunglasses.

Creation Process

The first elements that were brought together were the ones which make up the stamps.

A full composite of those as a stand-alone piece was created. The stamp shapes were drawn using a combination of guides and the pen tool. One side was duplicated to four, which was then duplicated to four copies of the same stamp. The photos were then added after making them black and white and adjusting the levels suitably. Suitable text was added, modelled from the United States Postal Service 80c Airmail stamps, which I have used throughout the year to keep in touch with friends and relatives.



The next stage was to create the surface to place the articles on. This was done by spending some time distorting various surfaces until a suitable look was achieved. The same distortion affects were then added to the stamps that were already created. The shadows were adjusted to create the correct sense of depth and height above the surface of the table.

I then turned to the sunglasses. The main structure of these was taken from one of a series of shots taken digitally of a pair of sunglasses. The one that was selected was that which was most compatible with the perspective and angles of the scene thus far. Only slight adjustment of the rotation was needed to make the sunglasses appear part of the scene.

Once in the scene, the sunglasses were split into frames and lenses so that the opacity of the lenses could be adjusted independently. This was needed to let some of the table show through from behind the lenses. Next, two pictures were chosen to be reflected in the fronts of the glasses. These pictures were grey-scaled, and a 3-D transform was performed on them to match the picture to the curvature of the lenses. The resulting pictures were placed on a separate layer and opacity was adjusted until the picture looked realistic. Also included was a reflection in the surface of the table. This gave some direction to the lighting in the picture and caused the surface of the table to take on a glossy look that turned out rather attractively.

The finishing touches included applying some gradient overlays to accentuate the focus of the picture and some roughening of the table edges in the background.

Picture Sources

