

Pieces of Me

For my final project, I wanted to create a piece that would represent some of my memories during my years at MIT. In order to do so, I made a collage that consists of photos taken during various points over the past four years. The pictures were divided into separate pieces and were united to create an incomplete puzzle.



Collage

I created the collage by putting together many different layers of photos. When I first began working on the project, I wanted to place a separate photo on each piece of puzzle. However, I found that this created a discontinuity in the piece despite its overall unifying shape (the puzzle). Thus, instead, I placed several images in each piece of puzzle to create a better flow between each connecting piece.

As mentioned in class, I found that it was more interesting to use a series of pictures instead of just attaching individual pictures together. Therefore, I created a series through a compilation of different series. Most of the pictures are of myself and also of some of my closest friends who have made an impact in my life at MIT. To unify the different series together, I made it so that all of them direct a sense of motion to the right as you can see in the image. Not only do each series convey a sense of motion, but they also represent the progression of time – it reflects the different experiences that I encountered throughout the four years at MIT.

Shape

After creating the collage, I formed an image of a puzzle from it. I decided to apply a shape of a puzzle to unify and to show the connection among the various series. Despite the differences in each series, they all represent the same theme – my memories at MIT. To create the puzzle image, I scanned an actual puzzle on a flatbed scanner and then applied the magnetic lasso tool to create a ‘selection shape’ for each individual piece. For each piece, I also embossed it slightly to prevent the puzzle from having a very flat image and also for the shadowing between each piece of puzzle to create a more realistic representation. Lastly, I decided to create an unfinished puzzle rather than a completed one. Although my time at MIT is almost over, I wanted to create a sensation that there are still more memories to be added on during the next few weeks. These memories to be added are represented by the individual pieces of puzzle. I used a motion blur filter on the pictures on these individual pieces, because they are yet events to occur in the future and thus are uncertain.

Variations

I noticed that each series has a very different background and color scheme. In order to smooth out the differences in the backgrounds within a series, I used the rubber stamp tool and the smudge and blur tool to create a more unified background. Despite the efforts, I thought the different color schemes could be distracting to some and thus also created a black and white variation of the project. The simplification of colors helped reduce the distractions caused by the different color balances in the different series.

