SUMMARY

Ceramic Photo Album "The Family Heirloom"

This thesis examines the formation, disappearance, and materialization of memory. The main focus is on how personal and family histories can be translated into physical form. This artistic process investigates the intersection of ceramics and cyanotype. Ceramic and cyanotype together work as objects that function as images and material artefacts at the same time. This relationship can be translated into symbiosis of fragility and perseverance of memories. The theoretical part of this thesis concentrates on the background system and conceptual motivations behind the project and analyses the role of material and technique used as carriers of memory.

Practical outcome of the thesis is a ceramic photo album titled The Family Heirloom. It was created by combining ceramic surface with cyanotype printing. This approach highlights the historical significance of photography while emphasising the frailty and persistence of memory through the physical qualities of the material. The process revealed how technical limitations, material behaviour and elements of unpredictability mirror the nature of memory itself – shifting, imperfect and shaped by time.

The project demonstrates that the fusion of ceramics and photographic processes can generate new layers of personal meaning and offer a form for preserving family narratives. While the work faced challenges related to material constraints and time-consuming nature of the process, these obstacles contributed to the development of adaptive methods. The thesis concludes that the created negatives and completed artwork mark the beginning of an ongoing exploration of family memory and its embodiment through material-based image making.

Keywords (5)

1. photo album
2. cyanotype
3. ceramics
4. interdisciplinary
5. alternative photographic process