SUMMARY

For my bachelors thesis I created a documentary film called “Ivi Laagriküll Is a Photographer” The film follows my last living grandmother Ivi. My goal was to capture her likeness as a photographer.

When I started my studies in the Pallas photography department, she let me know she was also a photographer in her early twenties. This came as a surprise to me therefore I wanted to study this part of my family history further. Since this project is very close to my heart and personal, then it feels right to go on with it even after my thesis is done.

In the written portion of my thesis, I talk about how I got from a general interest in documentary to a movie about my grandmother. I explain how I got 60-year-old photo negatives from Ivi. I digitized them and then curated an album based on my artistic standpoint. I also talk about the filming and editing process. In the written portion I also conduct a self-evaluation from both a practical and emotional standpoint. I analyse what went wrong, what right and what should I improve on going forward with this project.

For the practical portion I have created a film that's surface level premise is a granddaughter going to visit her grandmother. In actuality it is a visit where I reintroduce my grandmother to her own photography that she herself hasn’t seen in over 50 years. Showing these photos to her from the viewpoint of a professional photographer, me. The works were presented in an album that I had curated. Other than the album and old photos, the movie shows how my grandmother lives alone in her big house and garden. She also touches on more general talk of photography in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Over the course of six days, I gathered five hours of video and audio footage that I then whittled down to a 23 minute documentary.