**Am I creative enough? An artist in the age of Covid.**

My initial plan for this year was to extend my second-year project and take an analogue approach. I had planned on taking my digital ‘City Silhouettes’ abstracts and using darkroom processes to create unique abstracts - taking an experimental approach. Since I mostly work digitally, I wanted to expand my knowledge and skill in the darkroom but unfortunately with the times it is not possible. However, I wondered how I could still challenge myself in the comfort of my own home.

I tried to figure out how I could pursue my darkroom project at home – maybe making my own darkroom, it just was not possible, so I considered ways of replicating darkroom processes but digitally. I figured that I would only be able to develop this project so far with the facilities at home and it would be very limited. Then it came to me - a documentary project which explores the life of an artist. I have always wanted to do a documentary project and a self-portraiture project. The word ‘hybrid’ has been used a lot within the university this year and naturally I thought I can make a hybrid project which blends self-portraiture with documentary. I hope to document my life as an artist and my thoughts at the time.

Over my time at art school I have always contemplated whether I am creative enough and if I am a good enough photographer. The past year I have attempted several methods to achieve personal growth, since lockdown I have learnt a lot about myself as a person and an artist. Naturally, I have had my ups and downs which is what inspired this project. My idea is to create the Truman show of photography projects. Photograph the everyday, capturing days where I am creative and even days when I am not. I hope to create a journal which combines written thoughts with my imagery. I came across Jim Goldberg’s work a few years ago and would like to incorporate a similar presentation to Goldberg. I am also hoping to experiment with my silhouettes project (digitally) as part of the process and finding new ways to work from home and document myself working on this project.

Regarding research, I will need to look at artists who have created documentary projects. I briefly came across work by Uldas Bakhtiozina in second year, she creates dream-like self-portraits which projects how daily life could be. It would be interesting to consider ways of incorporating her methods into my own work. Over lockdown I enjoyed online webinars held by galleries, there are several webinars held by the Photographers Gallery that I have signed up to aid the research process. Also, by looking at relevant texts and case studies about how other artists have coped during the pandemic will help as well.