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Everything, Everything Seemed Once-Upon-A-Time

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Denisse Leung Liu

Artist Statement

In my work, I create a reality and abstraction that I envision in my mind by putting together printed images of the physical world I connect with and layers of other elements. What I envision in my mind is an altered and more discrete reality that I create after I take photographs. I am more interested in ways I can maneuver it to my own pleasure. I like to imagine a more peculiar, carefree, and nonexistent reality where the mundane becomes something more intriguing and colorful.

Everything in my studio is photographed and put together digitally or physically to make a new image. I celebrate the untidy state of things in my work by photographing the process of making it, the final result itself, and the artificial flowers that I incorporate. The lack of perfection in my work is important because it creates a more open space for me to make imperfect layers, sculptures, and props that I also photograph to make new images out of it. They are all being continuously re-photographed and used around my studio to create new sets of images and prints. These props function as a filter similar to how camera lenses and its filters work. I make them out of plexiglass, artificial flowers, glue, and printed photographs. These layers I add to my printed images create a 3D effect that may sometimes distort, interfere, or transform the original print.

The art I make is the source of peacefulness and tranquility I treasure. Sometimes I find myself looking for comfort in artificial flowers that I put together and the items left behind by my loved ones. The pleasant feeling of being relaxed is what I want the viewer to feel with my work. In a way that there is tranquility and absence of noise, yet it whispers quietly to the viewer.