Domenique White
Kelliher
Media Editing
Final Written Assignment

Trying to describe the concept of Media Editing is nearly on-par with trying to explain what Digital Culture is to someone who has never herd of it—which happens quite often. Personally I see Media Editing as a sort of umbrella term that encompasses almost everything that can be called "creative," especially when it's tied to some type of technology. In an age where technology is booming, Media Editing is everywhere and yet, still growing.

My first "real" encounter with Media Editing would have to be our class this semester, Media Editing. Of course I have dabbled around with media elements before but I never really thought of them as anything else than what they were—I never thought of them as part of a collective of everything media-related. An image in photoshop was just that—an image. It wasn't some small piece of a larger work of art, or some grand, majestic media symbol. Usually, it was just some comical photoshopping of heads into *Lord of the Rings* posters, or something very similar to that. Of course I still do those things, but my understanding of Media Editing has grown significantly (and hopefully will continue to do so).

I believe that our first project offers a great look at what Media Editing is. Our first in-class assignment was to create a visual composition in response to a Kanye West tweet of our choosing. These tweets were not ours but we were still able to use them for inspiration and incorporate them into a unique work of art. Media Editing is a combination of our own work and the work of other's. The fact that all of our work is on a wiki page is a testament of that. When I started on the project I had no clue whatsoever how I was going to pull it off or what I wanted to portray (which happens to me a lot). I went through the tweets until I came upon one that stood out to me and messed around with it until I got something out of it. I thought of other pieces of work/moods I had seen before and stitched them all together. For this image, I chose to focus primarily on the girl in the foreground. I edited the background in order to achieve a stronger contrast with the cutout image of the girl. I wanted the image to have an overall "darker" feel that allows the
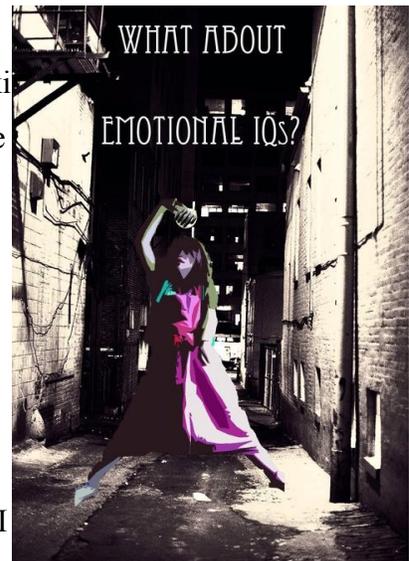
viewer to interpret it in their own way.

Overall, I would have to say that Module 1 was one of my favorites because it had a more "personal" and loose feeling to it. I felt that many of us put quite a lot of personal reflection into our pieces. Although they required a physical representation, they also required an ample amount of internal reflection as well. I found this to be an excellent start to our Media Editing class. It combined so many different aspects which resulted in completely unique and individualistic takes on the same exact prompt.

One other piece that I found to be particularly enjoyable was Module 4, Social Networks. I had never considered exploring social networks as a form of Media Editing. Of course, social networks in this day and age are everywhere—facebook, twitter, tumblr, email, even our phone contacts. When starting the phone contacts assignment, it was interesting to go through all of those names and "categorize" people: how I knew them, who they knew, and how "important" they were in my own life. Social networking has taken a huge overhaul since the "age of computers". People used to communicate in person or via letter. Even just a few years ago, you actually had to call someone on the phone to speak to them; texting wasn't even possible. Living in a generation raised on these mediums, how has this affected our ability to communicate? For the final piece of this module, the only instructions we were given was to create some representation of an aspect of your social network. For my piece, I chose to create a seven-day image collage of all of my activity on tumblr. Based primarily on images, this piece serves as a small glimpse into my "emotional" social networking. Most of these images were either found or created by other people but were shared with others— in this way a connection was formed. We may all see these pieces uniquely but by sharing them, a network is formed.

When I started this class, I really only had some experience with photoshop so all of the other modules were quite an experience. Despite not always enjoying our given assignments, or the mediums we used for those assignments, they were all important in some

way. We covered quite a few mediums in the span of one semester: audio, video, social networks, interfaces, spatial interventions, and even a life "scrap-booking" module. Each of these segments covered hugely different aspects and yet they only managed to scratch the surface of what Media Editing is. It's amazing to see how all of these things become unique through an individual's own creative process and "lens". Of course with any artistic process, we leave traces of ourselves in the work—of our experiences, our feelings, our talents (or lack thereof), and even our knowledge. Our work is shaped by the world around us which in turn then shapes the world. Module 7, the "Life" piece, is an excellent representation of this idea. The movie *The Final Cut*, brings a few important questions to mind. Can our lives be defined by a series of images? If our memories are accurately logged, does that take away from how we perceive the world? Given the task of going through nine months of another person's life we were put into a strange conundrum. I knew nothing about this man Daragh except the data that I had been given. I saw his day through a camera similar to his own perspective and read through his tweets but I had no idea what he was thinking, or feeling during these months. I could only guess at what was important to him and what was "worth" presenting in a scrap-book. Everything that I had chosen, whether consciously or subconsciously, was influenced by my own mind or what I perceived to be of importance.

As we make these technological leaps (both large and small) the term Media Editing also changes. I personally think Media Editing is just a new term for something that has been around forever—expression. Media allows us to express—outwardly. To the world, to each other, to the future. Long after we are gone, these are the things that remain—the things that impacted, or still reside in the world. This is how we communicate ourselves. These mediums provide is the means to share this work and ourselves with others—whether it be through a piece of music, photography, video, or even a hundred-foot sculpture.