

Stella Faussane

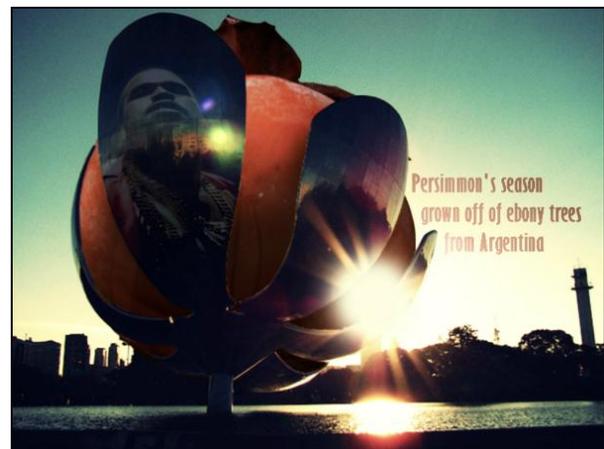
DSC 294

April 28, 2012

Final Written Mediated Assignment

My knowledge of media editing prior to taking the class was limited to graphics editing. I knew that media also included audio and video, but I did not think to imagine that media could also mean networks, interfaces, physical spaces, and life. Taking this course was a learning experience, to say the least. I signed up because I felt like it was the only class that interested me within the subject area for the Digital Culture concentration.

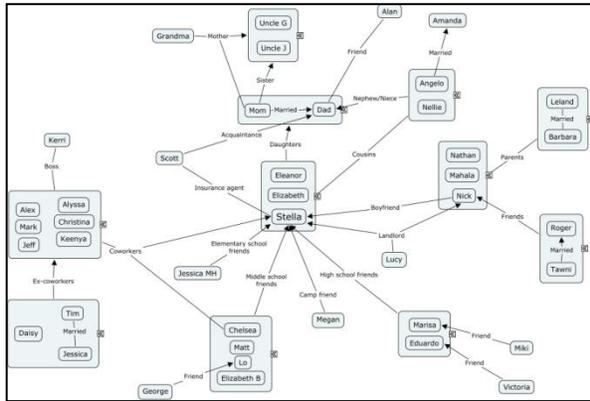
The first module was for text and graphics editing, which I was excited about because I already had 9 years of experience in Adobe Photoshop. The assignments and final project came easy to me, a relaxing start to a full semester. It was more fun to learn about the works of influential graphic designers, artists, and photographers. I am a perfectionist to the core and consider myself a graphic artist rather than designer, so scraping the surface of composition and color was very interesting to me as I am always trying to be better. The interface module, later on, was fun for me because of the importance of composition and design in interfaces, and I felt as if I had learned something from that module. Of the three assignments in the graphics module, my favorite was the first, pictured to the right. I was freshly inspired by the lecture and while it took me a while to get good idea for composition flowing, I feel like the finished product was something I could be proud of. Once the second module rolled by, did I wish I had experimented with other forms of media editing before taking the course.



While I do enjoy music, I would definitely say that I am very much a visual rather than audio person. With that, I ran into roadblocks with the audio module. I was able to manage the first assignment as I explored the features of Audacity and the strict rules of the first

assignment helped me to create something that I thought was great for my first attempt with a new program. This was also when I realized that I had no patience for technical editing. I found myself at a loss for any creativity whatsoever with the rest of the module. This bled into the video module, which required even more painstaking editing in complicated programs with high learning curves. I had dabbled with flash animation in the past, but video editing proved to be in a class all on its own. iMovie was simple enough and I enjoyed the user-friendly interface, but AfterEffects, like Photoshop, required a lot of tinkering with and since I did not own it, I could not spend time with it and I wished I had more time.

The last few modules were more interesting in the sense that they were not traditional media. I never considered a social network to be media, but using graphs really helped me to



visualize it in a way that I could understand.

The image to the right is my CMAP, with every contact in my phone and their relation to me. I found this assignment to be very fascinating because I've always had an interest in sociology. Though I had made myself the center of the map, it was fun to see how someone I knew was or was not connected to everyone

else. The life module was similar in that editing of media revolved around a single person.

Though the media was more traditional in the life module, I thought the SenseCam was an amazing tool and wished it was more affordable. You don't realize the smaller things in life unless it's made obvious by things like lifelogging. Daraugh was often in front of a computer for most of the day, and it made me realize that if I had a SenseCam, it would probably be the same. It makes you want to fill your day with "more interesting" activities so the lifelog artifacts aren't so mundane.

Spatial intervention was an eye opening module because I did not even realize that physical objects could be edited as well. Even if the intervention served no purpose other than being a literal intervention in a space, it appealed to me artistically because I could see the value. Christo and Jeanne-Claude's work was especially intriguing with their large-scale wrapping. I thought their intervention of "gates" in Central Park, pictured to the right, was particularly inspiring. It reminded me of moments when you suddenly notice an object (or lack of object) in a place you frequent, which happens to me often. You become so desensitized to environments that you are in constantly, so when something changed, it throws you off.



Upon realizing that media editing is not limited to traditional art forms, I feel as if the future will bring more types of media to be edited. I learned a lot in this course, not just of editing but of myself. Every assignment, project, and edit is a learning experience.