





*'The End of the World'*  
Laura Makabresku

Laura Makabresku's creations evoke a theme of overflowing mystic symbols and a fairy tale atmosphere. They also hold a consistent mood of eroticism and death, provoked by some nude bodies and grim images. This picture is from her collection "The End Of The World", which adds to the general sad emotion.

Her images tend to have persistent cold tones to them, though this particular image is black and white. This filter would enhance the idea that it may represent a memory, which is also suggested by the faded effect. The girl's face has likely been erased in an editing software, then added to another image of the girl as an overlay and to create this almost-double effect. By doing so, it makes the image seem like a broken, melancholic memory.

I was first drawn to the effect that has been achieved - how the girl has been faded onto another picture of her face definitely enhances the photo to make it exquisite. The main subject of the image, the girl, portrays innocence and purity. The fact that her face is almost half distorted can deprecate these common connotations, adding to the sorrowful emotion.

The girl's face takes up most of the frame which create a strict focal point on her, since she is the main and only subject. To achieve the subtle blur effect, the shutter speed would have been set to around f/60. There does not seem to be much movement in order make the photo calm and clear, though the slight motion blur adds to the sense of it being a faded memory.

# Photographer Research and analysis



*'Spaces Between'*  
Kyle Thompson

The majority of Kyle Thompson's photos divert the subject's face. By doing so, the image is made more ambiguous and less personal, since identity is often tied to a person's face. This image is overall very minimal, with only the sky, main subject and the fence. I believe this combination could evoke a sense of rebellion or contradiction, because of the "no trespassing" sign. Moreover, Thompson's attempt at climbing over the gate results in the limp and almost dead-like pose as he simply hangs over it. With the idea of fighting against something (in this case the fence is the barrier) also comes the potential of failure, which Thompson's body portrays.

Thompson might have cropped the image to drive the focus onto himself and gate. If it was zoomed out a bit more, the picture may evoke a more lost and isolated feeling - this is because Thompson seems to be by himself hanging over a fence, in the middle of nowhere.

The main formal elements would be contrast and space. The clear difference between the sky against Thompson and the gate is achieved through the contrast in colour and darkness. With the dark shadows amongst Thompson's body and the gate, they strongly pop out.

Thompson's tendency with shooting in abandoned locations since the age of 19 can show through in this image. This is because using abandoned and desolated locations is not what many people would consider as an environment to take pictures in. Since this is Thompson's unique style, he has chosen another unusual location to pose in (a gate stating "no trespassing"). Thompson is usual the model for his own work which makes his work even more impressive and, of course, personal.



*'Hands On Me'*  
Lissy Elle

The title of this image is "Hands On Me". This is clear in the photo because of the bizarre duplicated set of arms and hands around the subject's body. The subject has mostly been placed on the side, on a bisecting line in the image. By using this placement it can evoke more space for the subject to think, though she is facing in front of her and downwards, instead of to the side.

I believe the photo may depict the concept of owning and handling yourself gently. Humans are strong yet fragile so we should respect each other as well as ourselves, and remember that we do not own anyone and are not owned.

We can see that the aperture of the camera is quite small because the background (out the window) is not very blurred, and there is nothing prominent in the foreground to be blurred and convey a shallow aperture.

The use of warm pale tones, including the skin, bed, wall and window frame, induces a calm and homely feel to the image. Doing so could make the picture more casual or personal to the photographer and viewer, whilst also making it seem delicate and soft. Elle's use of natural light is skilled and the scene has a range of hues and tones.

To achieve the duplication of the subject's arms, Elle most likely took two photos with her arms in different poses. Then she would have overlapped the two photos, and erase the excess parts of the top layer to leave only the arms over the body. The extra arms make the overall picture seem more interesting and exquisite, further emphasising the potential meaning of the image.



Chosen theme mood board

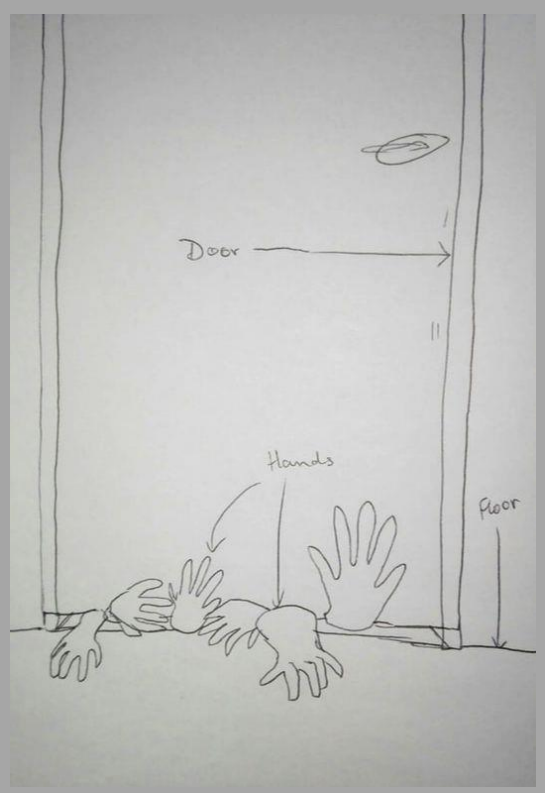
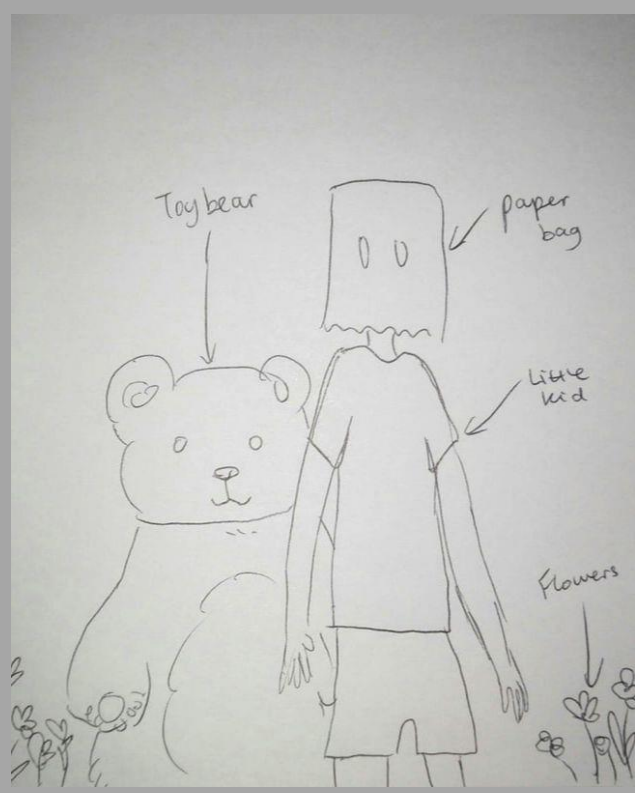
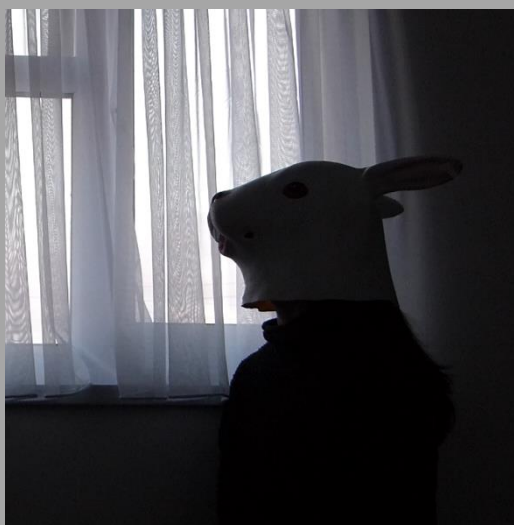


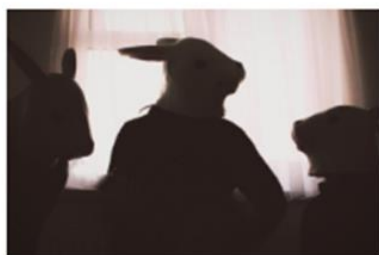
Photo shoot plans

## The Rabbit's Den - Original Photos



I took these photographs with the light behind the subject to create a silhouette effect. I have tried a variety of poses and compositions to gather ideas.

COMPOSITION 1



COMPOSITION 2



COMPOSITION 3



COMPOSITION 4



To develop my idea further I edited the images in Photoshop. I brightened the image to reveal more detail within the rabbits mask. I used various filters including gradient layers, and a variety of photo filters to experiment with effects that gave an atmosphere similar to Makabresku's work. I found adjusting the colour channels and adding a photo filter to a high contrast image gave the best results.



## 'The Rabbit's Den'

My first final piece showcases a person wearing a rabbit mask. The photographer who has inspired me for this topic is Laura Makabresku, because I admire her eerie vintage style of photography. Some of her pictures convey a subject with no identity as they wear a mask, or their face is cut out of the frame. I fused this aspect with my own photos to mimic her style, as seen in this picture where you cannot see the person's face. By doing this, the overall theme and image is more eerie and unsettling since you do not know who is under the mask and what type of person they may turn out to be. By combining the people and rabbit masks I have achieved a twisted idea as it is not a usual thing to encounter; this also represents the nightmare aspect of the picture.

My final pieces have been influenced by Laura Makabresku, whose photography tends to consist of some strange and twisted concepts and images, for example a person with a large deer mask (my image was specifically inspired by this). I have edited my image to fit Makabresku's style by increasing the brightness so it looks grainy, to obtain the old, rough effect. Makabresku tends to use a specific tone over her images to create a certain mood. Here I have used a cyan tone to induce a cold atmosphere which would most suit the content of my piece. Moreover, a clear method of composition that I have used is the rule of odds - I have used duplicated the subject three times so they take up most of the frame, but not too much.

As an improvement/to make the picture more visually interesting, I could have used a slightly slower shutter speed; the subject would then shake their head side to side to create a swift blur. This would be slightly more ominous, since the viewer would barely be able to identify what the subject is wearing on their head. This would also add in another interesting technical aspect to the overall image.



Laura Makabresku

## Child's Play Photo shoot



I took these photographs using the available daylight. I edited them further to give an effect similar to Laura Makabresku's by increasing the contrast of the dark areas and saturating the colours in Photoshop. I also experimented with adding cool and warm filters to emphasise the mood. The images presented here are the best compositions from my photo shoot.





## 'Child's Play'

Here in my second final piece I have presented some childlike features, such as the bear. The setting is casual and calm since it is merely some flower pots and a hedge in a garden, however some aspects within the frame portray a sense of corruption. The bear represents innocence and a bright childhood. The boy covered with a paper bag resembles corruption and violence, and appears surreal next to the child's toy. Moreover, the young subject in the photo accompanies the bear since toys are a common connotation with children.

An expected interpretation of my image is that innocence of childhood slowly shatters as we progress in life, and understand the authentic toxicity of the things around us. Life tends to be sweet and simple in our early years of existence as we are bereft of anxieties and restrictions. This mood grows to become bittersweet during preteen years as we hold a grasp of what growing up has in line for us - we clutch onto our childhoods and carefree attitude in the assumption that most things in life turn out okay, but gradually develop the sense of meaningless during our teen years. This may continue onwards into adulthood, and so on. The bear symbolizes innocence coming to an acceptance with corruption of the real world.

Lastly, the fast food paper bag over the subject's head diverts him from his identity. This is another crippling aspect that may effect some people over their lifetime; growing up strips them away from their identity and being, making them feel utterly futile and bereft of individuality - they are only seen as another human fighting through the tedious process known as living. Moreover, we may grow to feel like a mere instrument to someone else's satisfaction, opposed to our own person. Both the child and the bear hold a dark and distorted fragment of their future.



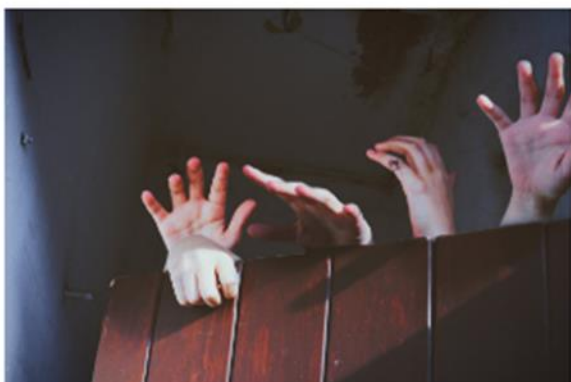
Laura Makabresku

What I like in this particular edit is that it is fairly simple, with only a few subjects to analyse. The background is simple and natural so is not deemed to be a distraction, and contradicts with the twisted visuals and message that lies in front of it. Also I like the warm tone of the hues, and the lighter shadows, which induce that warm and gentle childhood mood. By adding the toy bear into the image and a child as the subject, I believe I have achieved a photo that may hold a vibe of Laura Makabresku's style. This is due to the idea of innocence and corruption crossing over (suggested by a specific image by Makabresku, in which the setting is cold, peaceful and natural, yet the subject is quite shocking to look at, with a noose around their neck and a dead bird in their mouth).

ORIGINAL PHOTOS



EDITS





## 'The Other Side'

For my final surreal piece I have composed an image of multiple hands reaching out to nothing, from under an old door. Although the style has mainly been driven by Laura Makabresku's photography style, the build up of hands reminds me of the photo "Hands On Me" by Lissy Elle (one of my other selected photographers). The duplication of these hands may put emphasis on the feeling of desperation as the hands reach out to practically nothing and no sign of help.

The image may be improved by showing more of the door, and at a straight levelled angle, however I am please with how the edit has come out. I believe the viewpoint used here makes the overall photo look different from what other pictures, with the same idea, tend to be like. I also like the cool colours, as with my first final piece. It makes the scenario seem more tense and cold which would suit it more than a warm overtone/filter. In regards to my nightmare theme ('corrupted/twisted ideas) I think this idea is applicable. This is because you would not expect to see hands reaching out from under a door. It is also because, if you came across this, you would most likely be very concerned and maybe frightened, since you do not know whose hands these belong to.