



Danielle Armstrong

2026 Spring Semester

Capstone - Photo Image Making

Department of Art and Art History

Artist Statement:

Why Revisit my childhood at this point in my life? Graduating college marks a shift into adulthood, bringing new responsibility, change, and awareness. With that, I return to my childhood; not to escape the present, but to remember and understand where my sense of comfort, love, and identity began.

We Played Until It Got Dark explores memory as something that shifts overtime. It is not a documentation of events as they happened, but as they are remembered now. They are filtered through growth, distance, and reflection. Looking through old photos brought a sense of happiness and longing, but also an awareness of how differently those moments exist in my memory. The piece takes the form of an accordion-style book, allowing all pages to exist together as one continuous work while also functioning as individual moments. This structure mirrors the way my memories have unfolded: nonlinear, connected, and with many layers of emotion. Each spread is inspired from specific memories, such as summers spent with my older sister riding bikes and drawing with chalk outside, capturing that nostalgia and calmness tied to that time. Another, remembering times of me and my sister dressing up in princess costumes, incorporating the actual wand and costume elements which act as a physical extension of the memory itself.

Material choices play the central role. Textured paper, fabric scraps, lace, and gold leaf, each representing something different for me: comfort, delicacy, value. Some materials come directly from my childhood, reinforcing that connection between object and memory. Similar to the idea that “smell holds memory”, these materials act as anchors for me bringing the past into the present. Visually, the work leans into warm, muted tones to echo the faded quality of old photographs and distant memories. Images printed on thin, almost transparent paper allow layering to create depth. Negative space is also used intentionally to give each moment room to exist. Viewers should feel they can move at their own pace through each page and feel their own emotions that resonate with the work. Rather than presenting childhood as fixed or purely nostalgic, *We Played Until It Got Dark* considers how memory evolves and how those early experiences continue to shape identity in adulthood. There is growth, expanded knowledge, and that sense of peace a child has, but doesn't realize it.

Title**Original Format**

Figure 1: Detail 1	11in x 16in
Figure 2: Detail 2	11in x 16in
Figure 3: Detail 3	11in x 16in
Figure 4: Detail 4	11in x 16in
Figure 5: Detail 5	11in x 16in
Figure 6: Detail 6	11in x 16in
Figure 7: Detail 7	11in x 16in
Figure 8: Detail 8	11in x 16in
Figure 9: Detail 9	11in x 16in



Figure 1: Detail 1

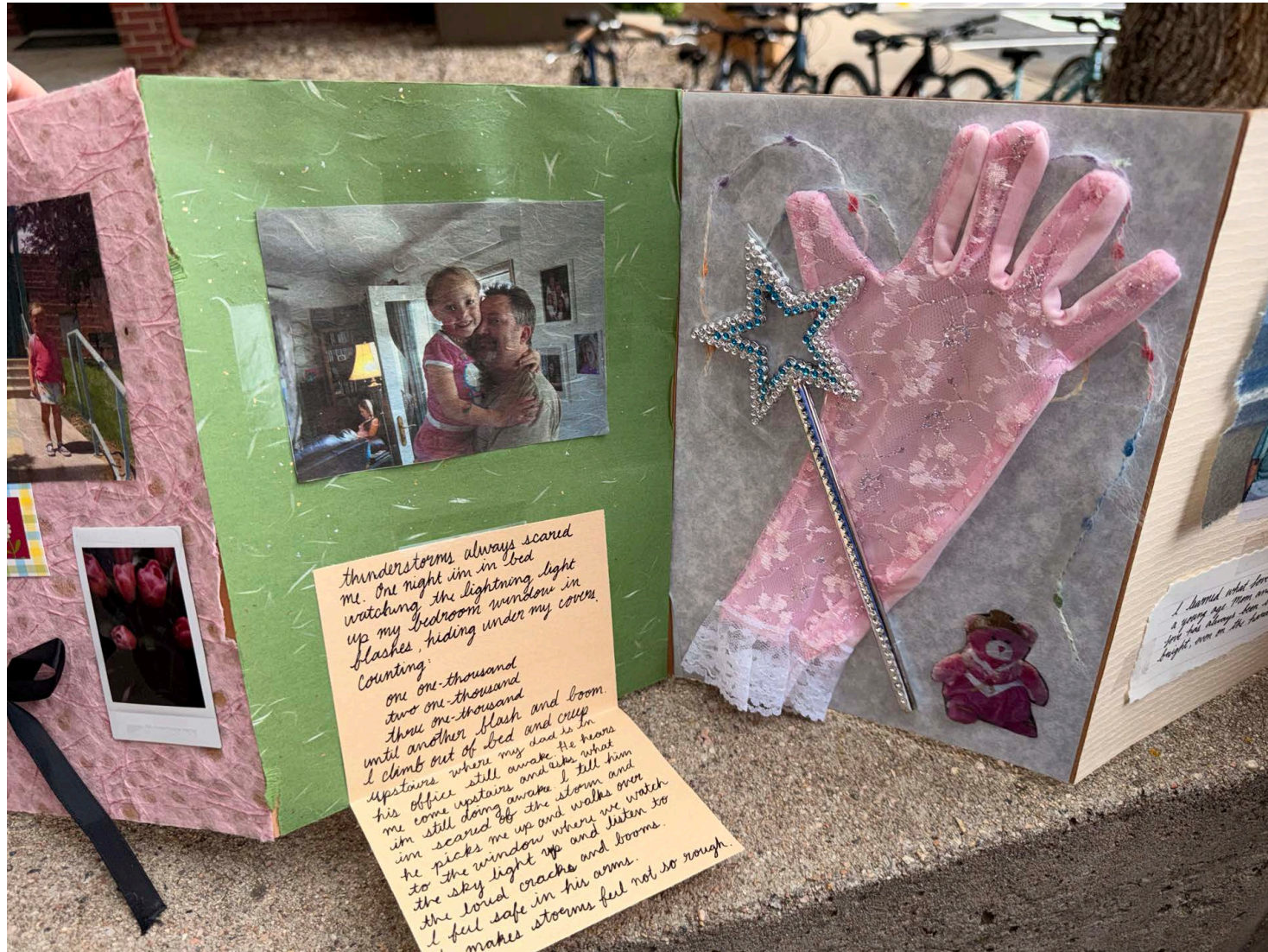


Figure 2: Detail 2



After-school evenings were the best evenings. Mom would pick Sydney and I up from Day care. We had just finished getting our hair braided by our favorite teacher, and we were always the last kids left to be picked up. We helped clean and watched it get dark outside. Evenings consisted of grilled cheese and Scooby Doo. Mom would watch with us and enjoy the silly mysteries and our giggles.

Figure 3: Detail 3



thunderstorms always scared
me. One night im in bed
watching the lightning light
up my bedroom window in
flashes, hiding under my covers.

Counting:
one one-thousand
two one-thousand
three one-thousand
until another flash and creep
I climb out of bed and creep
upstairs where my dad is in
his office still awake. He hears
me come upstairs and asks what
im scared of. The storm and
he picks me up and walks over
to the window where we watch
the sky light up and listen to
the loud cracks and booms.
I feel safe in his arms.
He makes storms feel not so rough.

I learned what love
a young age from and
and has always been the
bright, over on the road

Figure 4: Detail 4



Figure 5: Detail 5



Figure 6: Detail 6

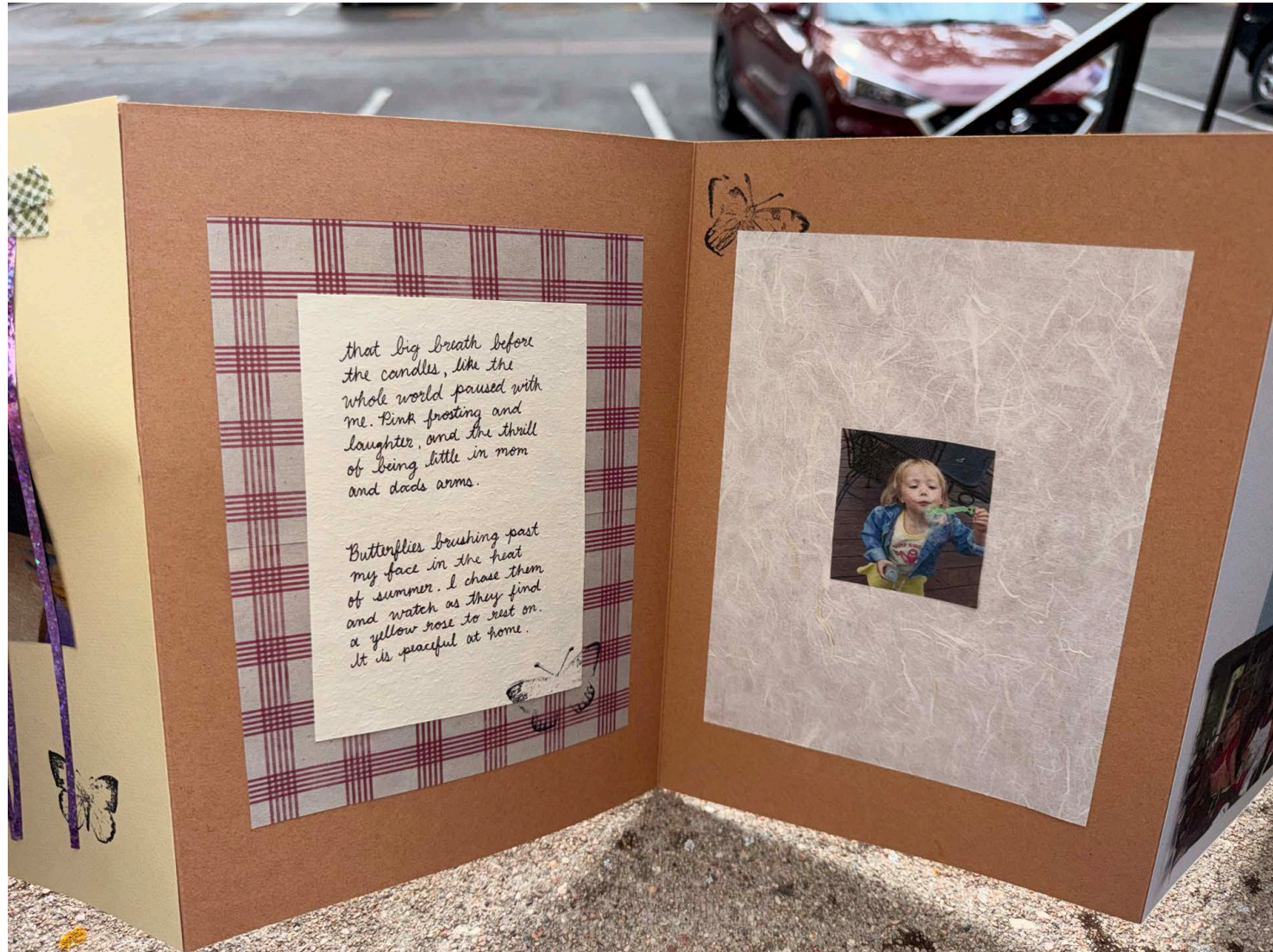


Figure 7: Detail 7



Figure 8: Detail 8



Figure 9: Detail 9