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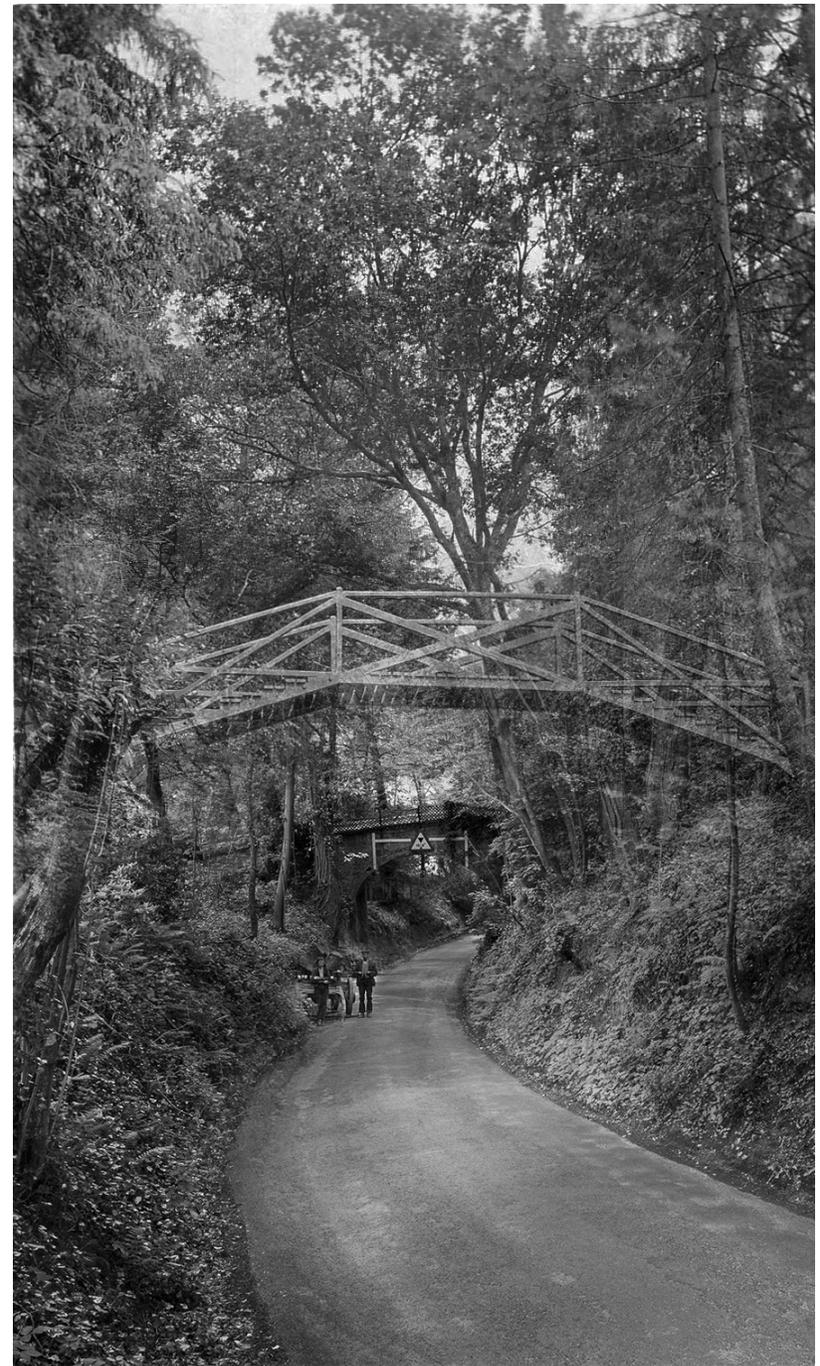
MA PHOTOGRAPHY

PHO730 – SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

WORK IN PROGRESS PORTFOLIO



Transtemporal Identity



## STATEMENT OF INTENT

Transtemporal Identity explores my sense of place within the rural village where I live, which I started to question following a period of bereavement, Covid isolation and redundancy which occurred within a short window of time. Through exploring archival images of Milland, I became interested in the relationship between our history and daily reality. Walking past familiar locations, we are unaware of past events that have occurred in these same places over many years. While we think of history as something from the past, it can also be intertwined with the present.

Albert Einstein wrote that 'this separation between past, present, and future is only an illusion, if a stubborn one' (1955), while Joan Fontcuberta states that every photograph is a fiction with pretensions to truth (1955). I set out to rephotograph local landmarks to challenge the historical distancing between the 'then' of past and the 'now' of the present which become entangled with one another. When the two photographs, the original and a rephotograph are paired together, the combination illustrates change and the passage of time, but neither image can encompass the events that led to the change. These photographs bring together specific moments of liminality so that we question both the nature of photographic representation and our relationship to time.

Understanding that photographs give people an imaginary possession of a past that's unreal (Sontag, 1977), the work I have created uses rephotography to layer the old and the new to express a style of engagement with the past that reorients the time and place of memory. Rather than past and present appearing as separate distinct occurrences, they are now simultaneous so that the then is in the now. I have curated the resulting transtemporal images to represent a walking journey through the village, where a new modality of memory inhabiting the past and present is explored.

To accompany this and inspired by Erik Kessels 'Album Beauty' celebrating the vanishing era of the photo album, I have constructed my own reality within a reused vintage photo album combining past and present to make sense of my mental, emotional, and cognitive ties to the village. While rephotographing some of the landmarks that define this village, I realised that visible changes through time are subtle, but like the ship of Theseus (1), if changes are made to Milland as a village, is it the same village? The album combines found imagery, blended digital rephotographs and black & white photographs taken with a 1950's Leica 35mm analogue camera to depict a narrative showing the subtle transcendence between past and present.

The resulting album is a unique, personal, one-off book, which will be displayed alongside the enlarged transtemporal images as part of an ongoing collaboration with Hampshire Festival of the Mind in 2023.

(1) The *Ship of Theseus* is a thought experiment about whether an object that has had all of its original components replaced remains the same object. Theseus was the mythical Greek founder-king of Athens, and the question was raised by ancient philosophers: If the ship of Theseus were kept in a harbour and every part on the ship were replaced one at a time, would it then be a new ship?



























# The photo album





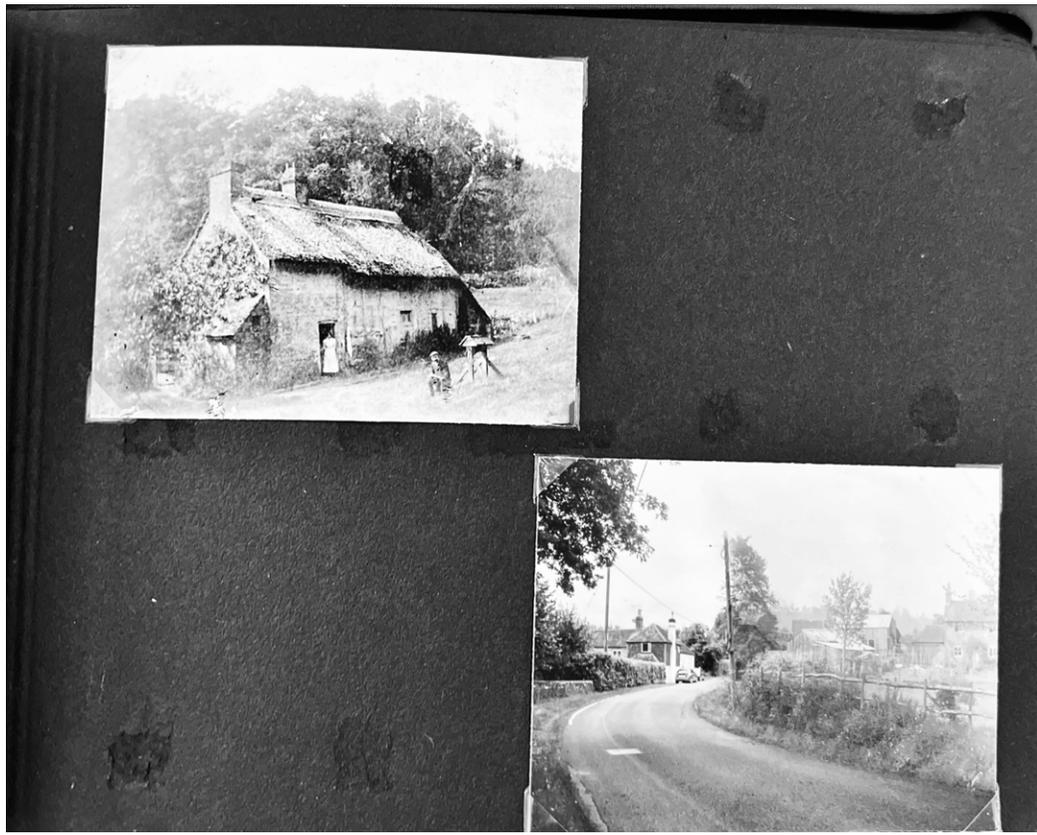
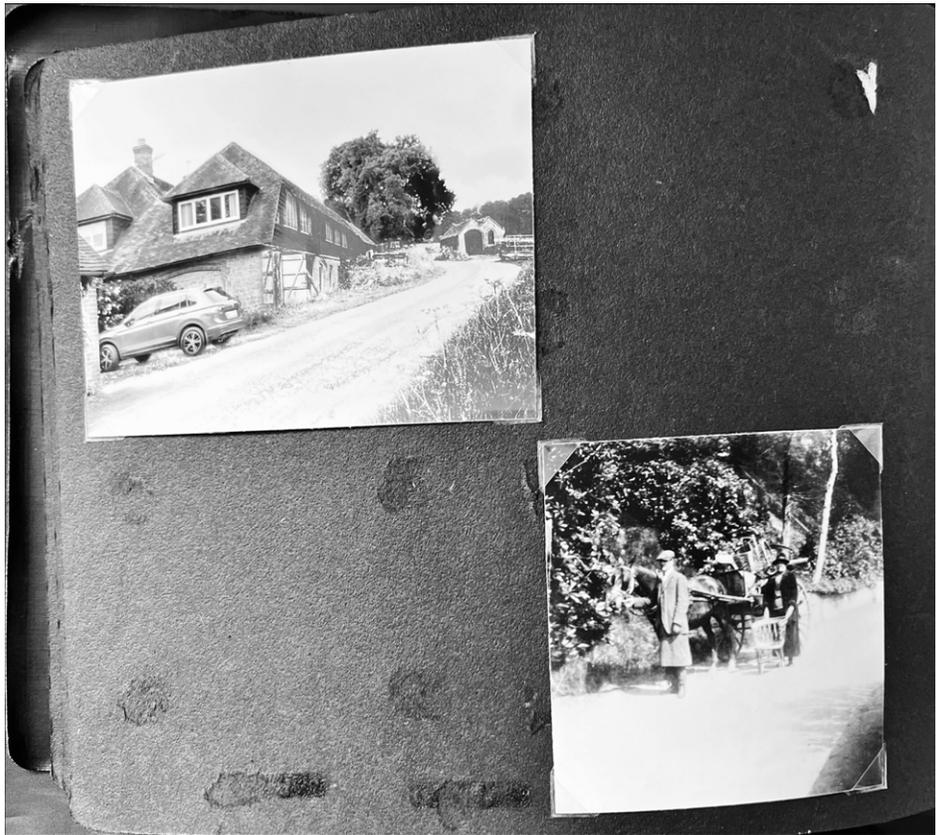






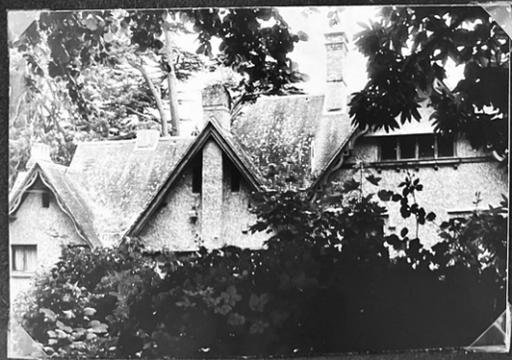






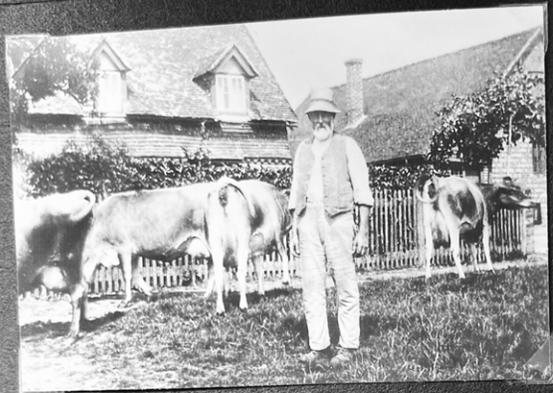






















Click here to view the photo album.



<https://youtu.be/0It8xhp6-Tw>

## LIST OF REFERENCES

1. Erik Kessels. (n.d.). *Album Beauty Exhibition*. [online] Available at: <https://www.erikkessels.com/album-beauty> [Accessed 27 Jul. 2022].
2. Holt, J. (n.d.). *The Grand Illusion / Jim Holt*. [online] Lapham's Quarterly. Available at: <https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/time/grand-illusion>.
3. Khan, N. (2021). *Quote Of The Week By Joan Fontcuberta - Better Photography*. [online] [www.betterphotography.in](http://www.betterphotography.in). Available at: <http://www.betterphotography.in/news/quote-of-the-week-by-joan-fontcuberta/169622/> [Accessed 15 Jul. 2022].
4. Sontag, Susan. *On Photography*. Penguin books, 1977.p.9