

PHOTOGRAPHY HOMAGE FOLIO

Tiantian Shen – Visual Art 2023

CONTENTS

2 Chosen Artist – Rodney Smith

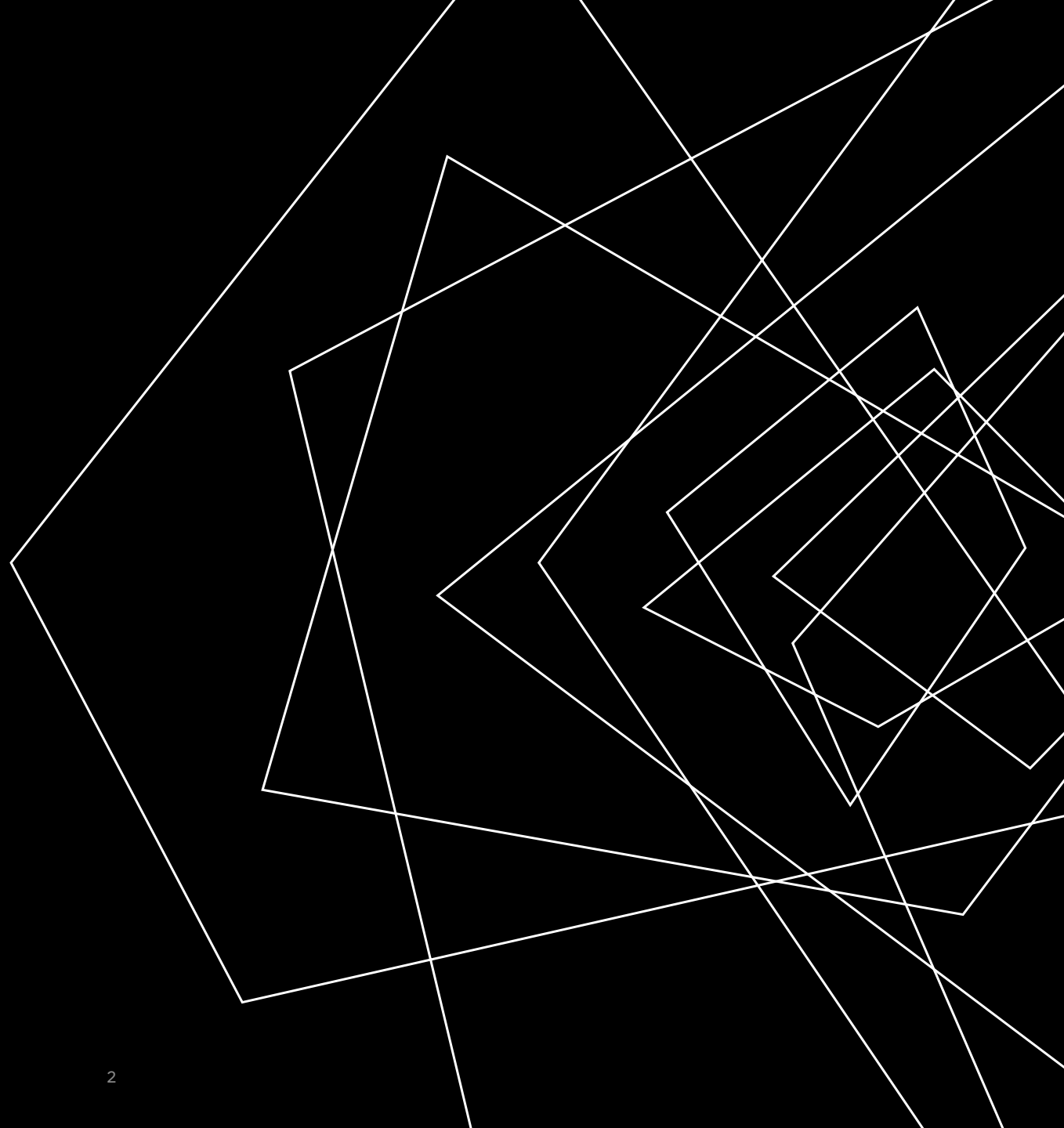
3 Evaluation of Artwork

4 Homage Folio 1:

5 Homage Folio 2:

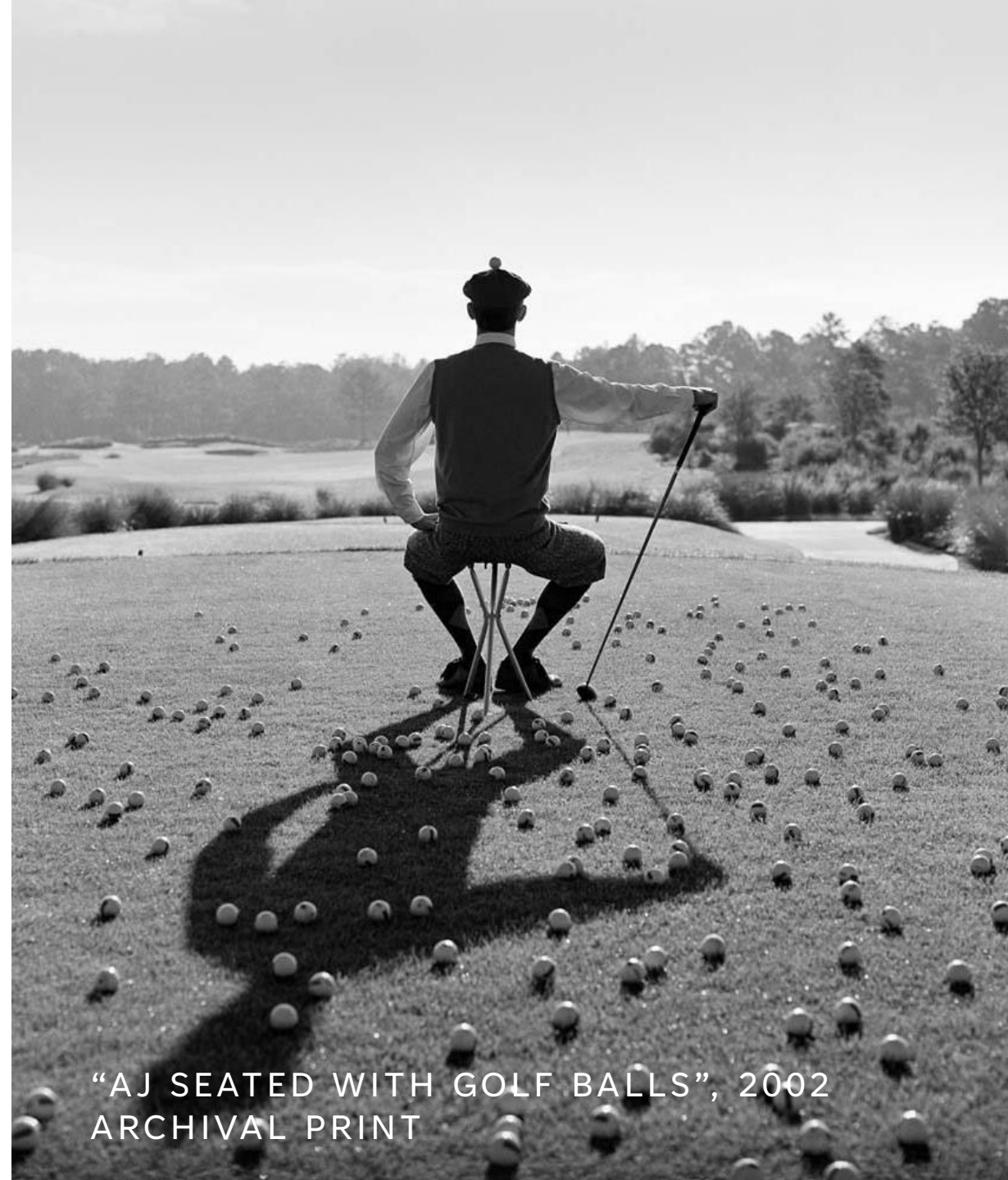
6 Homage Folio 3:

7 Homage Folio 4:



RODNEY SMITH PHOTO EVALUATION

This artwork by the renowned artist Rodney Smith uses many interesting elements to establish his humorous, inspiring, and surrealist style of photography. In this photo a man is positioned as the main subject, sitting with his back to the viewer on a grass field full of golf balls. The element of shape is emphasised in this photo by the model's grotesque pose and his shadow – this awkward yet ridiculous sitting position creates an underpinning sense of humour, as the pose is quite funny for the audience to look at. Furthermore, Smith uses many surreal elements in his artwork such as the large amount of golf balls spread everywhere in this photo. These golf balls, showing the principle of balance when placed in contrast to the singular ball placed on top of the main model creates an element of surrealism and further emphasises humour as this unordinary set-up is unseen in a normal world. Therefore, the uncanny creativity, surrealism and humour Smith incorporates into photos such as this one greatly inspires me to create a homage folio commemorating his distinct style of photography.



“AJ SEATED WITH GOLF BALLS”, 2002
ARCHIVAL PRINT

PHOTOGRAPH 1

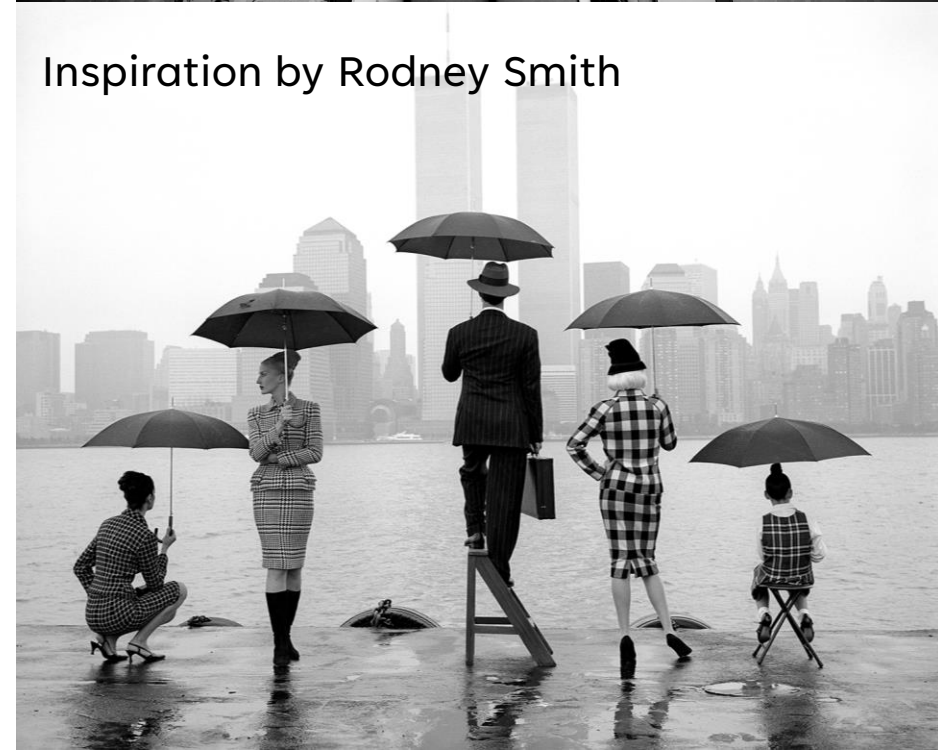


EVALUATION AND EXPLANATION

This photo takes many inspirations from Rodney Smith's style shown in the image to convey a sense of power, highlighting the model's clothing and architecture. For example, in Rodney Smith's picture on the right, his style of photographing around the subject of fashion and architecture is exemplified. Models are posed with fashionable clothes and accessories, their clothing style and the element of shape accentuated against the foggy background of a city skyline. Furthermore, these models each have specific poses which emphasises Smith's fashion photography style. The architecture of the skyline in the background is also a key element portrayed in many of his photographs, and his distinct photographing style usually presents this as the backdrop. So, the sense of fashion and architecture Smith incorporates in his photos inspires my photograph – the main subject of the photo is a model wearing a specific outfit as well, therefore showing the Smith's style of fashion photography. Moreover, the backdrop is inspired by this photo as it features the architecture of a house through the sharply contrasting, directional lines created by the bricks and windows. This is accentuated by the low angle the image is photographed from, as well as changing various settings while editing to produce these accented lines. However, this photo not only incorporates inspirations from Smith's style but conveys a feeling of power because the low angle as the audience is looking up at the model. Also, the choice of this symmetrical backdrop is inspired by Smith's photograph as he includes symmetry in his photograph as well in terms of the models' heights, making this photo pleasing for the audience to view. Therefore, inspired by Smith's photograph, this image commemorates his style as it is a fashion photograph empowering the model through a low angle and accentuates the element of architecture in the background.



Inspiration by Rodney Smith





- Inspiration by Rodney Smith



PHOTOGRAPH 2

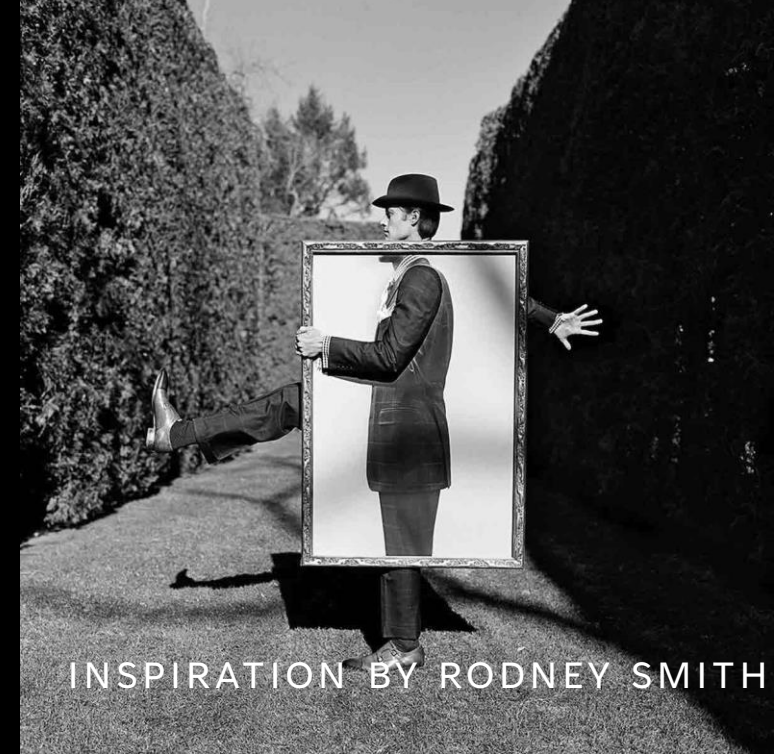
This portrait not only includes inspiration from Smith's photograph in terms of lighting but pays tribute to his general whimsical surrealist style. Firstly, in Smith's photo the element of value emphasises the model's facial features from the side, achieved by using lighting in a dark space. This style of lighting and portraiture photography inspired my photo – the element of value accentuates the model's face in here as well. Smith's style of surrealism is also incorporated in this photo as diamonds are strangely arranged on the model's face – this is not expected to exist on a face in the real, rational world, therefore showing a subtle style of surrealism inspired by Smith's uncanny photos. This creates a dreamlike photo. However, the sharp lighting and contrast of light to dark in value coupled with the model's facial expression conveys the more prominent sense of hostility and mystery, as parts of the model are in the shadow, hidden in darkness due to the lighting.

PHOTO 3



EVALUATION AND EXPLANATION

In Rodney Smith's photo which this image is inspired from, he includes a prominent element of surprise and humour. For example, the model holds a picture over his body, causing the illusion that his body is complete. However, an unexpected hand that is still free reaches out the back, creating the element of surprise. Also, this exemplifies Smith's creativity and humour because of its whimsical ingenuity. So, this photo commemorates his sense of creativity and humour because it includes certain aspects inspired by these features in Smith's photos. For example, the use of a frame replacing parts of the model's body is incorporated into my photo, where a mirror is used for the lower half of the model's body. The element of surprise is also shown because the lower half of the model's body is a female wearing a dress, which is unexpected given their top half is wearing a masculine suit – this is also humorous as the element of surprise portrayed is quite amusing in its nature. Therefore, the idea of this photo is inspired from Smith, and the creativity + humour of it commemorates his imaginative style.



FINAL PHOTO



EVALUATION AND EXPLANATION

This image is inspired from the humour and movement created in Smith's photos as well as the angle of the setting he uses. In the inspiration photo by Rodney Smith, there is a person trying to ski down the roads in full gear, conveying movement. The awkward movement and extraordinary clothing of the model also creates humour. So, firstly, this photo's setting is inspired by Smith's photo as the subject is placed in the middle of a road as well. Also, the dog is captured in motion, creating the sense of directional movement towards the camera as inspired by Smith. Furthermore, this photo is captured from an angle level to the dog, making objects in the space nearest to the camera appear larger. This further emphasises the movement of the dog, as the level angle show that he is moving towards the camera. Also, happy expression of the dog makes the reader feel pleasant and adds humour to the photo, making it amusing just like Smith's photo. Therefore, this photo takes inspiration from Rodney Smith's sense of humour and prominent set-up style of a single subject in the middle of a wide expanse such as the road.





THANK YOU!