

THE EFFECTS OF  
FRAMING AND  
DISPLAYING TWO-  
DIMENSIONAL  
ARTWORK

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# WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO DISPLAY WORK WITHOUT INHIBITING THE VIEWERSHIP IN A GALLERY SPACE?

There are different options for an artist on how to display their work within the gallery. Though, there are pros and cons to each option.

Glass may be a barrier to the viewers, or it protects and seals the intimate moment captured.

A wooden frame surrounding open photographs may make the work feel claustrophobic or it may give the work the importance it deserves within the gallery.

Frames can also become very expensive and inaccessible with glass, molding, mating, and mounting adding up quickly.

# QUANTITY AND SCALE

The quantity and the scale of the work can have a large impact on which option an artist chooses because of the costs of the materials.



In my research, I used a project with a large body of work of twelve 20" by 24" silver gelatin photo prints.







## WHAT IS THE ARTWORK ABOUT?

The intended message behind the artwork can be very important to the way it is displayed.

A frame can disrupt images or can even add a sense of confinement and claustrophobia.

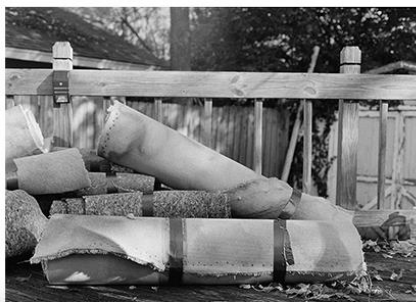
Artwork that is about feeling confined may not look great frameless



# TO FRAME OR NOT TO FRAME?

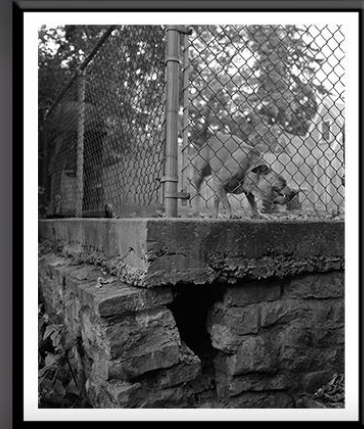
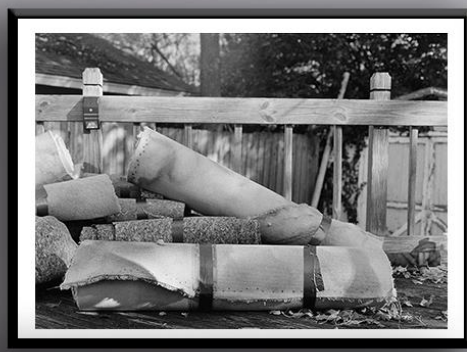






WHITE FRAMES





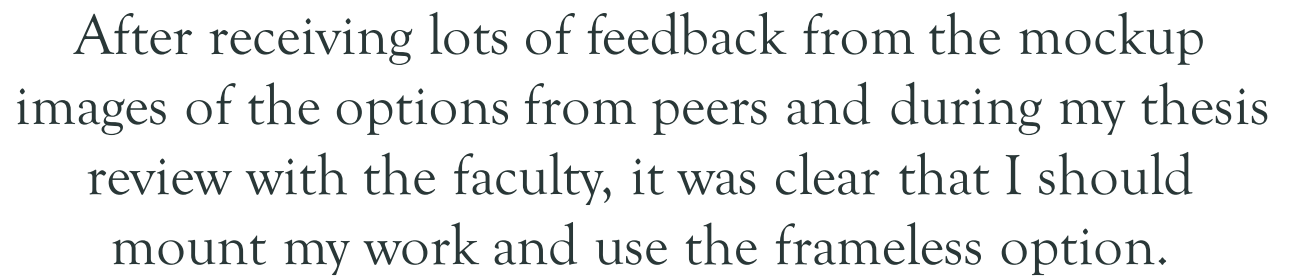
BLACK FRAMES





FRAMELESS/ MOUNTED

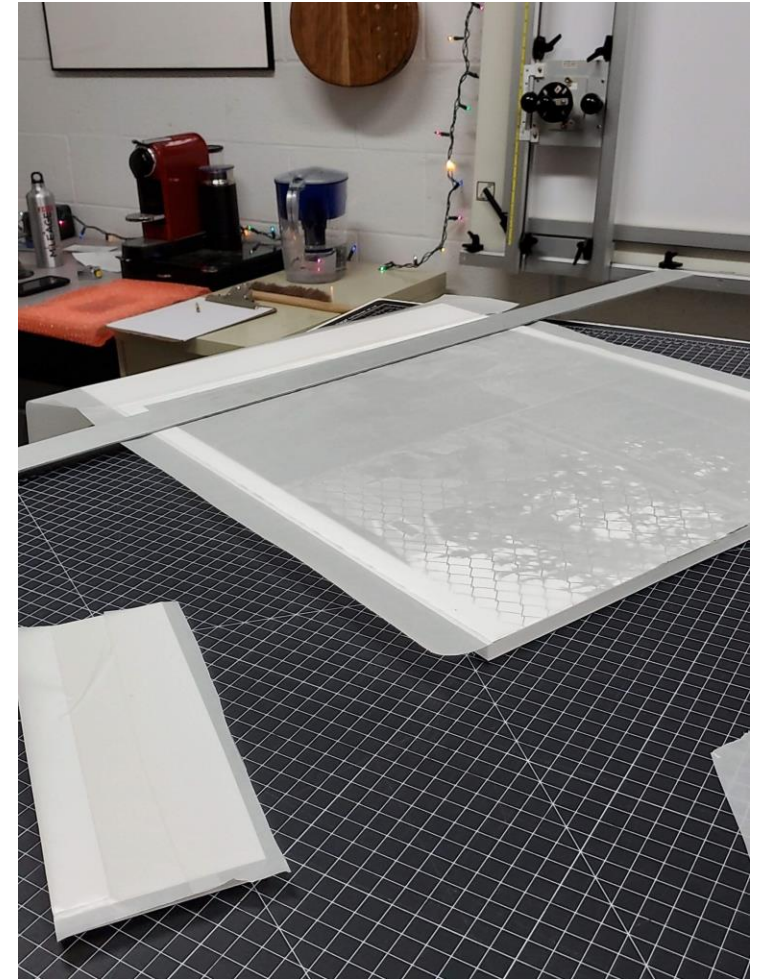
# THE DECISION



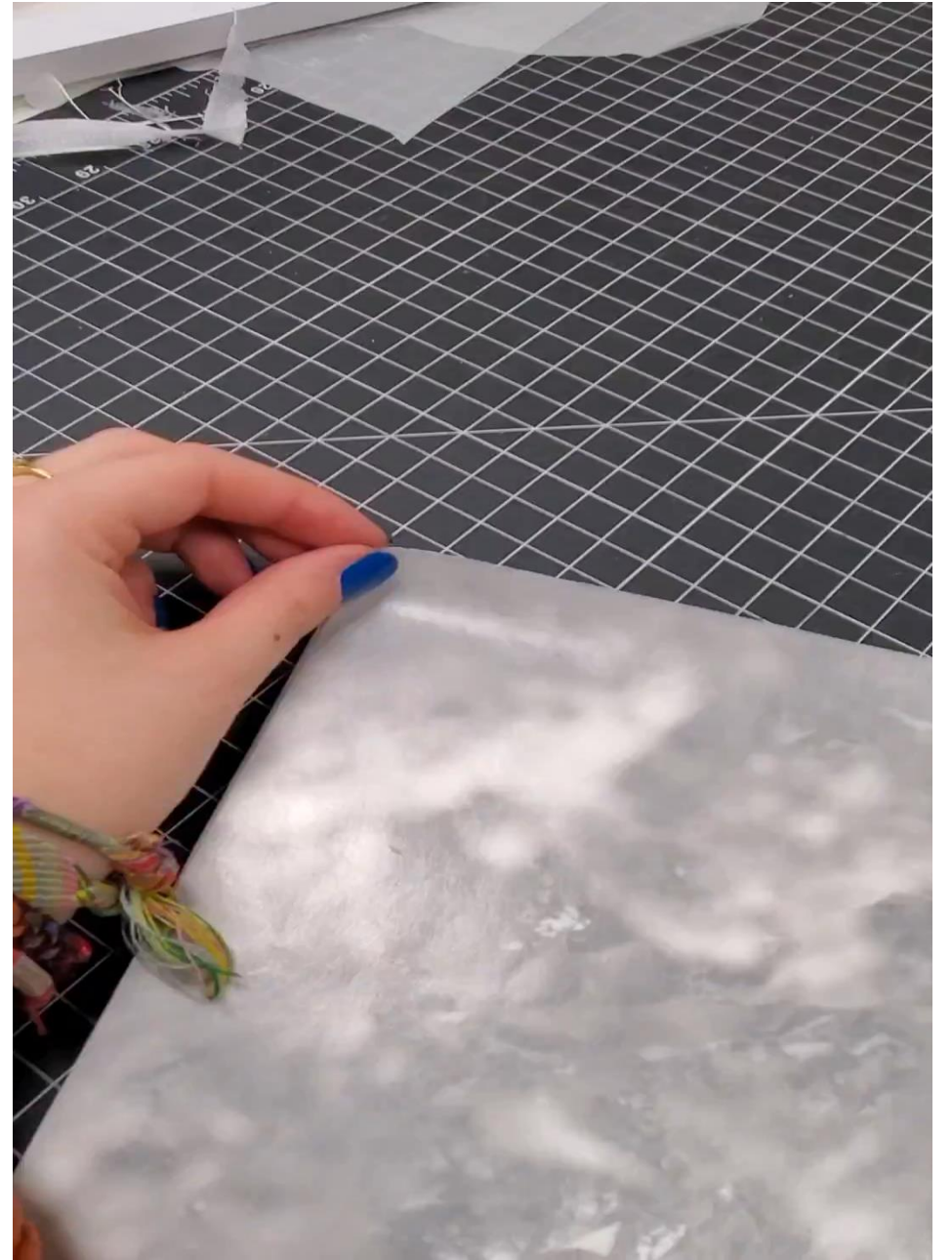
After receiving lots of feedback from the mockup images of the options from peers and during my thesis review with the faculty, it was clear that I should mount my work and use the frameless option.



# THE PROCESS



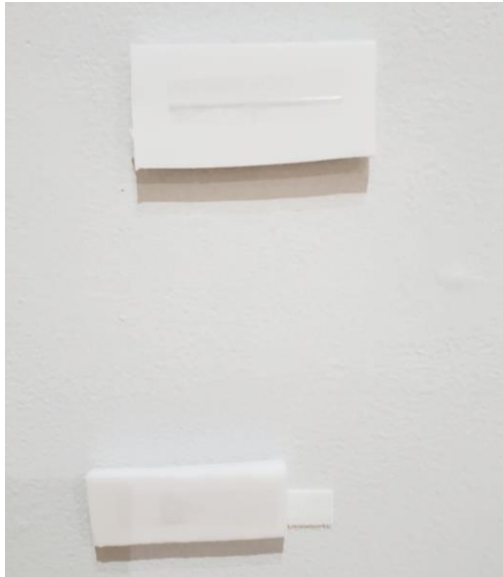
This decision did involve a bit more of preparation and craftsmanship. The result was well worth the extra effort and care though.







## INSTALLATION AND HANGING



Deciding to go frameless meant I would have to create a different method of hanging. I also wanted the images to have space from the wall.

Command strips and little pieces of foam core was my solution.





This choice of presentation ended up being a very great result. I was awarded multiple awards and received great recognition for the style of presentation. The images were not overpowered by the display, and they felt as if you could walk into them.





## THE FATAL FLAW

The work fell a multiple of  
times from quiet high  
distances.

Humidity seeped under the  
contact paper.

Edges and corners began to  
peel.







However, this was not the fault of the materials or installation. This was a highly avoidable mishap from the humidity levels and change in weather. This being said, this would not have been an issue with the use of frames instead.

## STORAGE AFTER THE SHOW



Because of the lack of protection offered from the mounted images, there needed to be an investment in storage options.

Three archival storage boxes protect the twelve images from any further damage.

This is an extra cost, however, it conveniently holds everything involved in the project from day one.



# OVERALL PRO AND CONS

The prints looked very clean and well done

The presentation felt exactly right and made sense for the work

Much more cost efficient

Storage boxes hold everything together

Unique display

Little to no protection for the prints

A risk in certain galleries or climates

A bit more craftsmanship and labor needed

You had to cut the actual prints

You must invest in storage boxes

# WAS THIS THE BEST OPTION?

After all the opinions  
gathered, and the initial  
response, yes!

There were mishaps,  
however, this great of a  
presentation would not  
have been achievable with  
frames.

