

ART 4753 Summer 2024

The Aquarium

Clay Shumate

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	PAGE 6
RESEARCH	PAGE 10
PROCESS & PRODUCTION	PAGE 12
OBSERVATIONS & OUTPUTS	PAGE 22
INDEX/BIBLIOGRAPHY	PAGE 44

INTRODUCTION

This project is to approach the major issue of surveillance by the government and major corporations. How it disregards an individuals rights and privacy.

To approach this problem I wanted to create a diorama where the a subject is being monitored heavily while also being contained and trapped in it's environment. Which lead me to creating the whole piece as something akin to an aquarium. I also wanted the viewer to feel uncomfortable watching this lone figure minding its business.

Why focus on the Patriot act? Because I love our country and I cannot stand our rights being violated for an act that has barely works. That and it is can be a step towards loosing or rights altogether. I believe that surveillance is necessary to a certain degree however, not to the point of the Patriot Act.

Complex tools used for this project were a laser engraver and a resin printer

INTRODUCTION

Utilize Image

I want to reference motif of 1984. For example the time period it takes place except in our reality. I also wanted to give off the dystopia style however not exactly like the one described in 1984 but one that could mirror our own.

Utilize Volume

To illustrate volume I used scale to my advantage the large security camera watching over the figures shoulder. The lack of objects in the small room the figure is placed in with nothing but these computers to keep him company. It is barren to make the viewer uneasy and question the scenario.

Utilize Layers

The project is designed to be multi-layered look at different problems our generation faces. Mostly focused on Surveillance but can also be a look into our reliance on technology can dive us further apart.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH SUB-CONTENTS:

- IDENTIFICATION OF TOPIC/
ISSUE
- INITIAL RESEARCH
- RESEARCH REFERENCE
- FOCUSED RESEARCH
(IMAGE, VOLUME, LAYERS)

RESEARCH TOPIC/ INITIAL RESEARCH

Though this project I want to explore the controversy of major surveillance done by the US government and large corporations. Like George Orwell's works are a warning to readers of giving up freedom and never getting it back; I wish to warn the view of the potential future for us and the next generation if this goes unchecked.

I choose this mostly because I value our rights over all else. I view it as the identity of the United States of America what we are responsible to upkeep for us and the next generation.

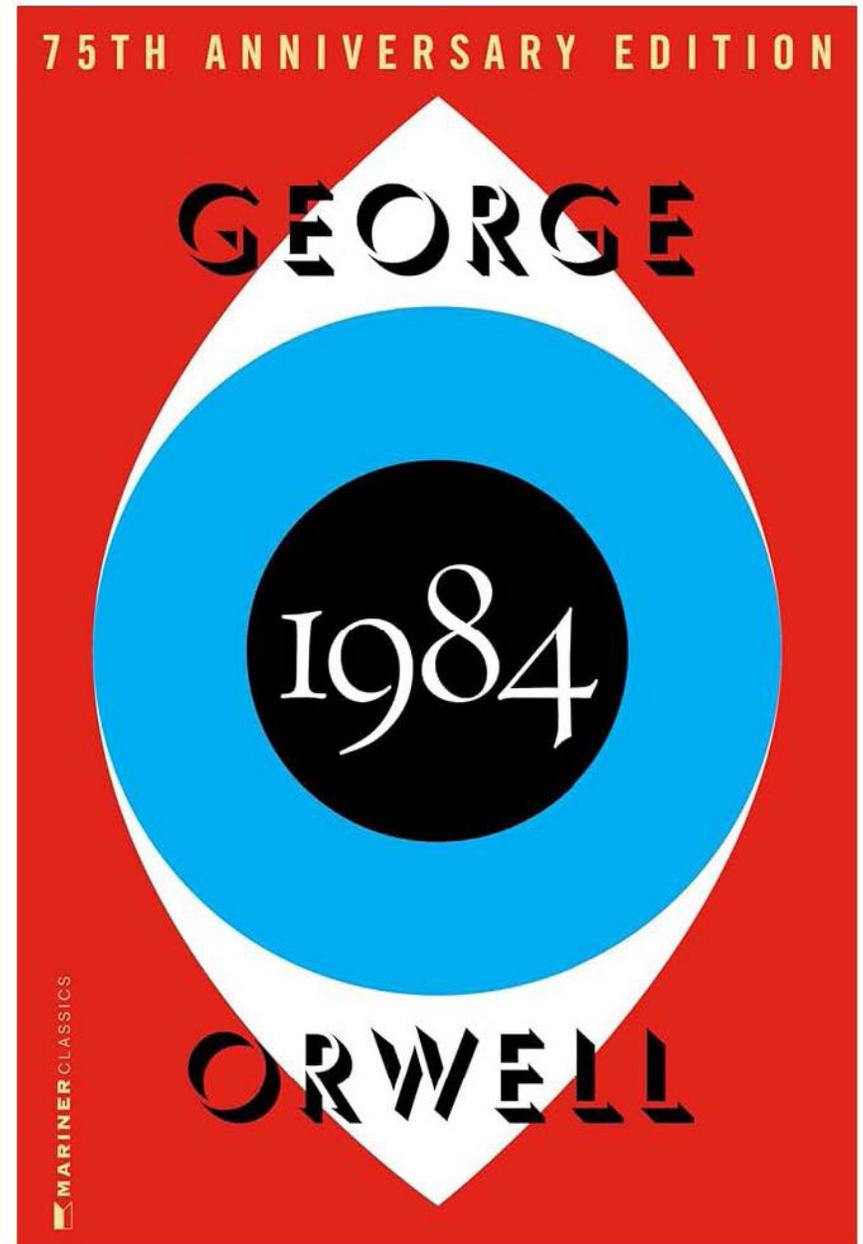
Why focus on the Patriot act? Because I love our country and I cannot stand our rights being violated for an act that has barely works. That and it is can be a step towards loosing or rights altogether. I believe that surveillance is necessary to a certain degree however, not to the point of the Patriot Act.

I heavily reference 1984 due to its unlikely but possible worse case scenario. The government depicted in this dystopia mirrors our own with the Patriot Act; allowing the government to spy on its citizens.

RESEARCH REFERENCE 1

George Orwell's 1984

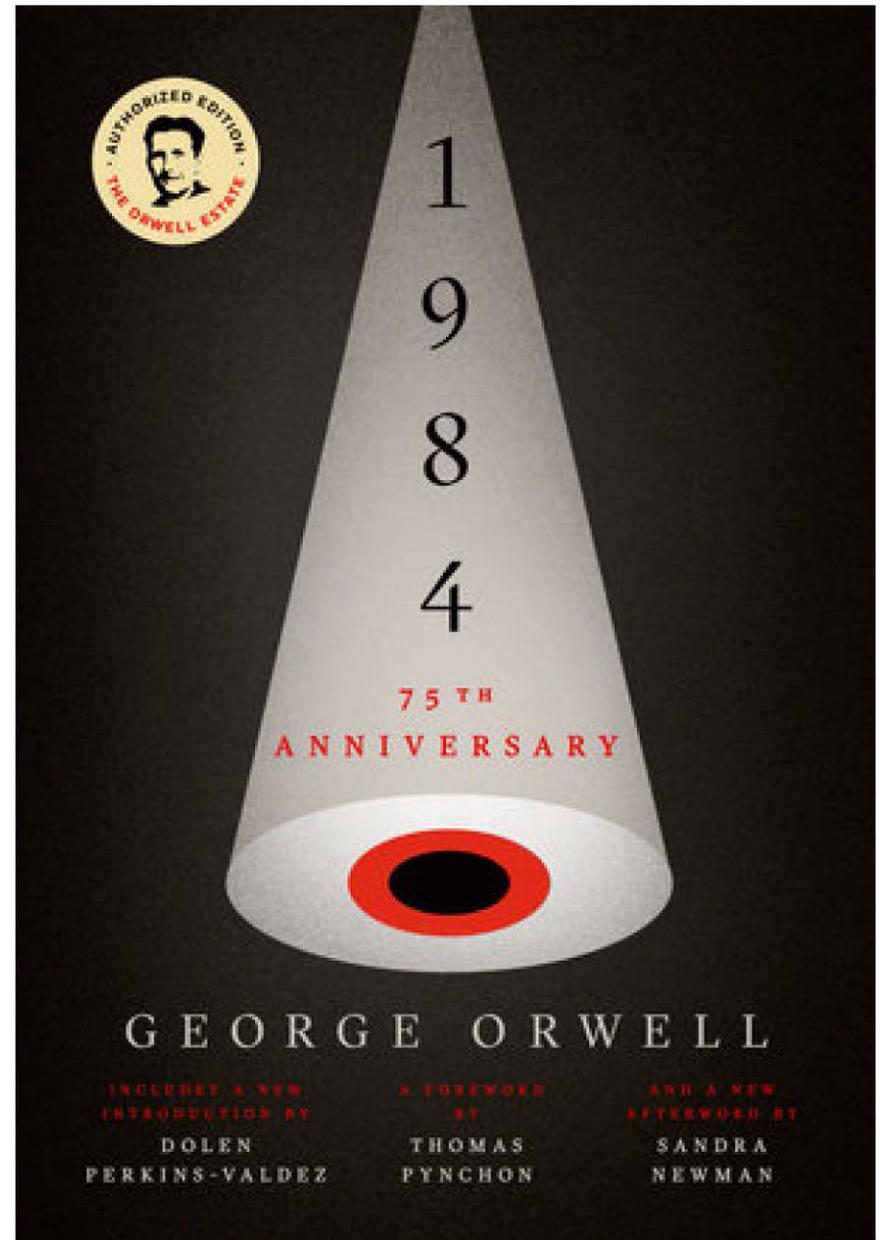
I referenced 1984 in this project due to being one of the most common and referenced piece of media in relation to the patriot act. The image on the right is the cover art of the copy I own.





Top Left- is a screen shot from Apples 1984 commercial in reference to George Orwell's 1984. I had some visual inspiration from Apples Mac 1984 commercial as well. This is the one of the reasons I used old computers in the diorama.

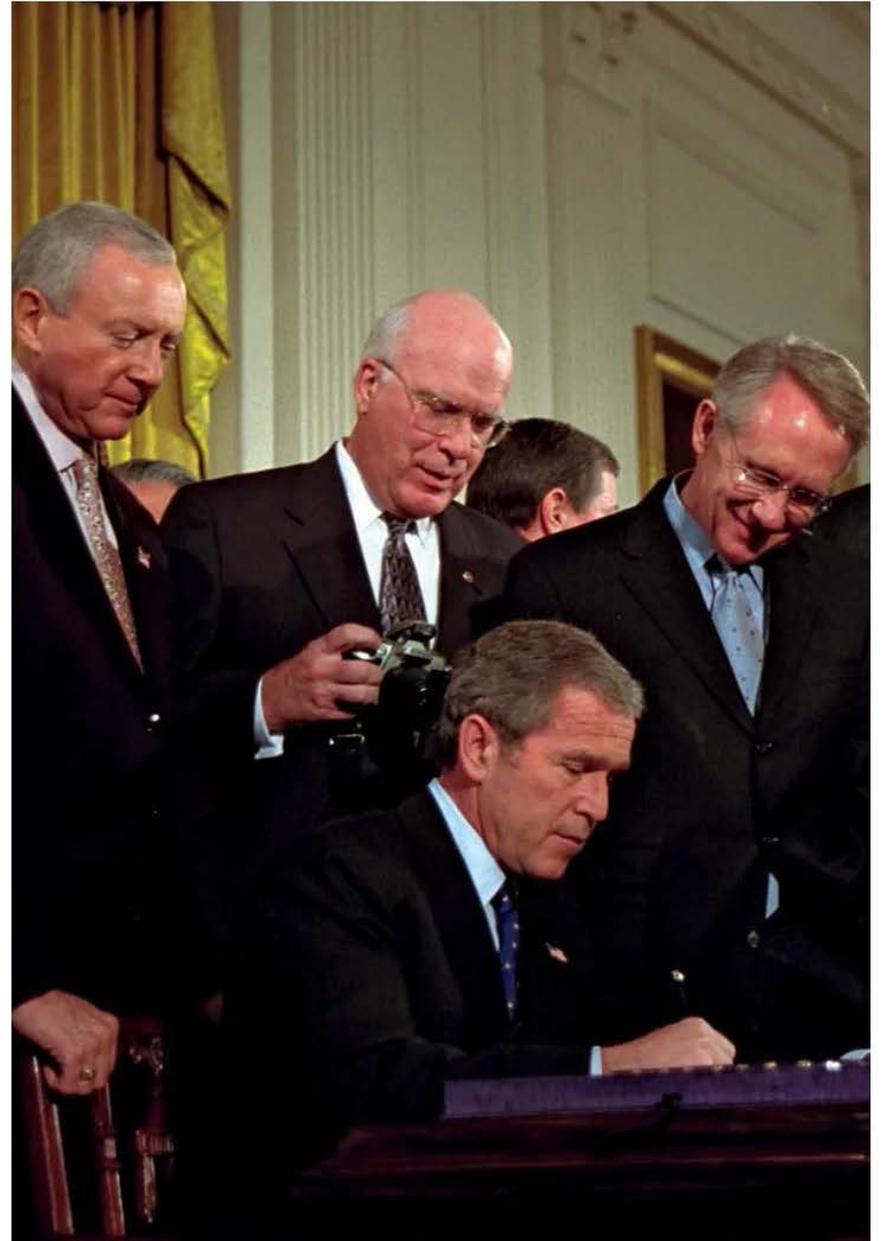
Image right- is another dustcover artwork for 1984.



RESEARCH REFERENCE 2

Patriot Act

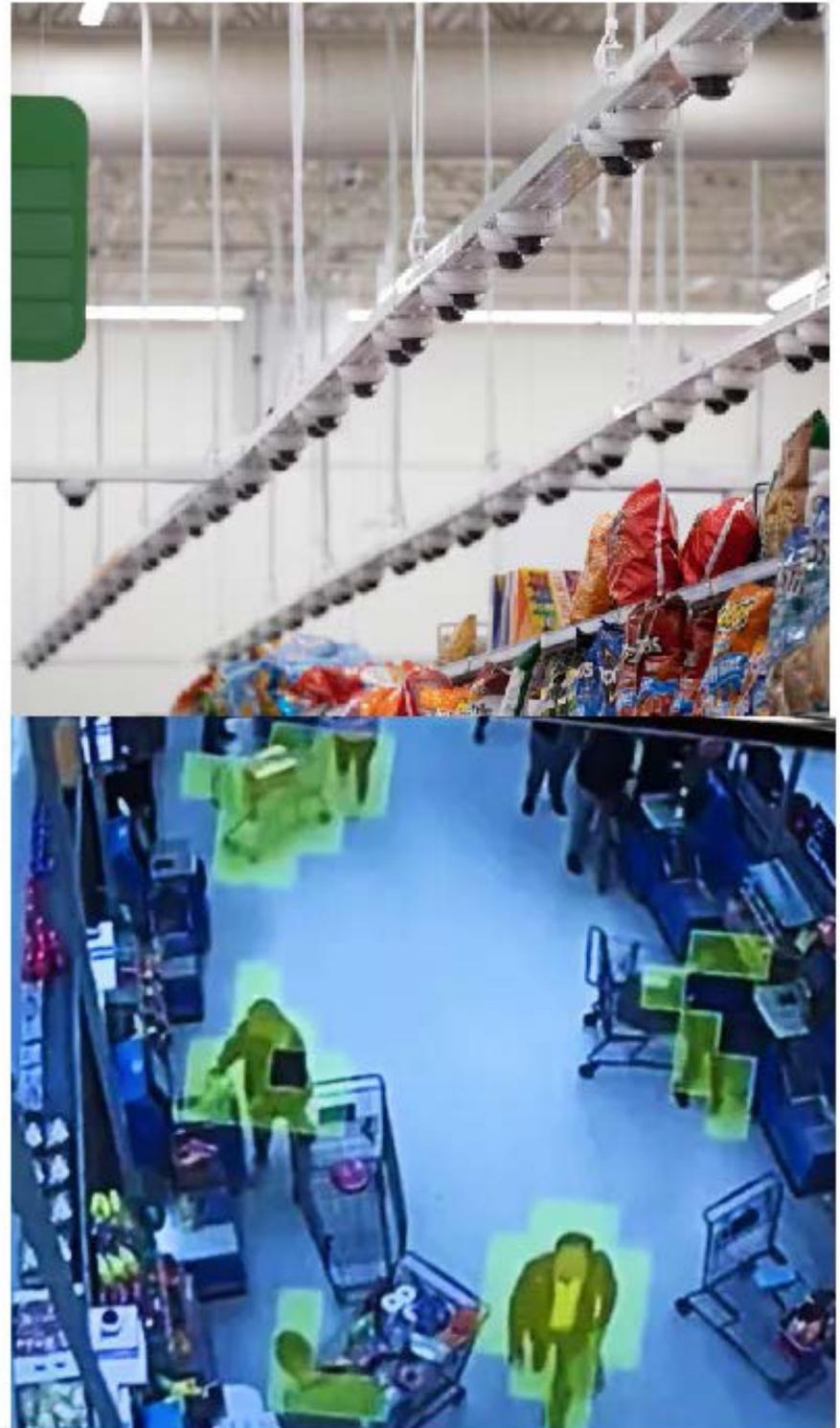
The Patriot Act. Patriot being an acronym for Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism. This was enacted after the 9/11 strike designed to rout out terrorism in the US. However, in doing so violates many amendments of the bill of rights.



RESEARCH REFERENCE 3

Corporate Surveillance

Corporate Surveillance Walmart for example being one of the more well known corporations using advance surveillance in their store locations; has some extremely impressive systems capable of tracking customers through the store, what they pick up, where they go, and some have claimed that the system is cable of reading text off of a customer's phone. Walmart has stated that these systems are only in place for security purposes not to monitor individual customers. However, new technology opens a door to new problems. This kind of system can be abused for more unsavory activities.



FOCUSED RESEARCH

IMAGE, VOLUME, LAYERS

IMAGE

Imagery was references from George Orwell's 1984. Although not literal, the camera is referencing Big Brother from the book. It also reminds me of GLaDOS from the Portal series. This cold and heartless AI watching, waiting.

VOLUME

The space of the cell itself is small but not cramped and barren. Nothing of note except for a few computers for entertainment or entrapment. The figure looks uncomfortable knowing the all seeing eye looms above. The space between them... small.

LAYERS

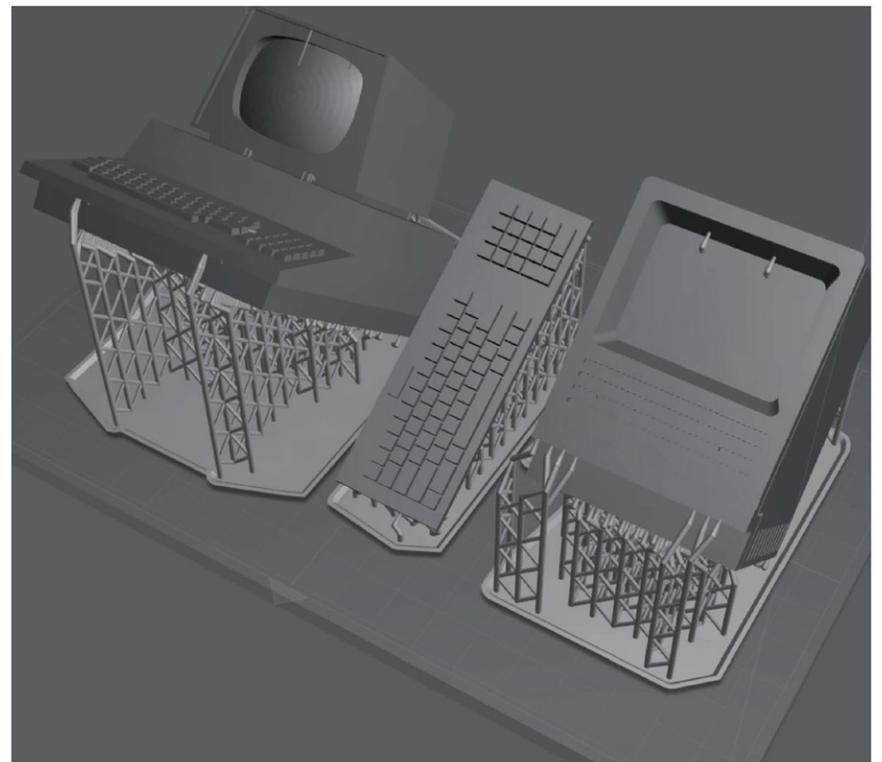
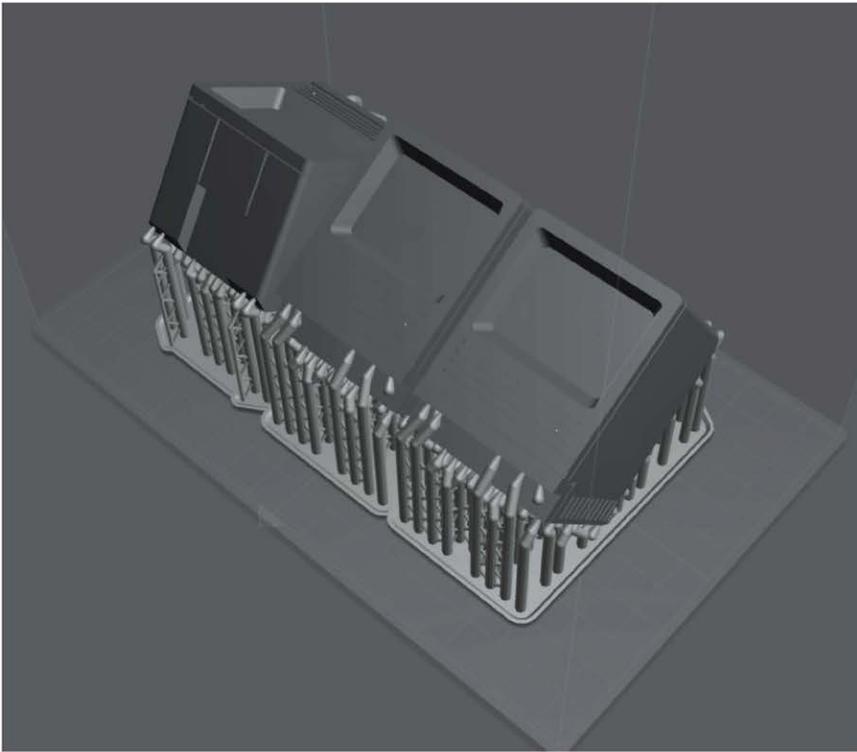
The overall project was designed to discuss multiple problems. Our reliance on the Internet, the government and big companies gathering your information, and finally how tech can enhance our lives but can also disconnect us. This project was designed to be a multi-layer address to all these problems.

PROCESS & PRODUCTION

After reevaluating the original plan for the project I decided to continue with along with the project but with some changes. Instead of large monitors watching the figure inside it was replaced with a singular large security camera as an all seeing eye. This camera system was then placed on a mobile frame on top of the glass case allowing the camera to view the occupant at all angles. That was the only major change in the project.



This is the first progress photo of the project. I had quickly build a carriage system for the camera. This allows it to move freely in the enclosure.

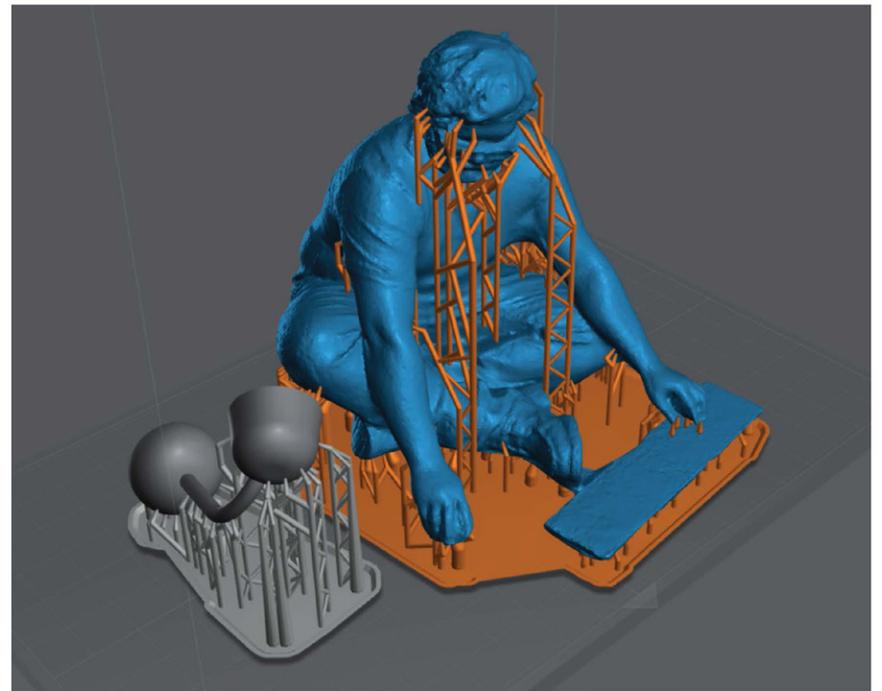


All of these photos are of screen-shots of the model, supports, and rafts built in Lychee Slicer. These were exported into g-code for the resin printer.

Top left- Those models are actually old Macs. Though I used them as monitors in the diorama

Top right- The first resin print of this project. The old Mac failed and needed reprinting.

Bottom right- This was the final print made. Specifically the figure and a lamp.





This is a rough layout for the wires coming from the back of the monitor.

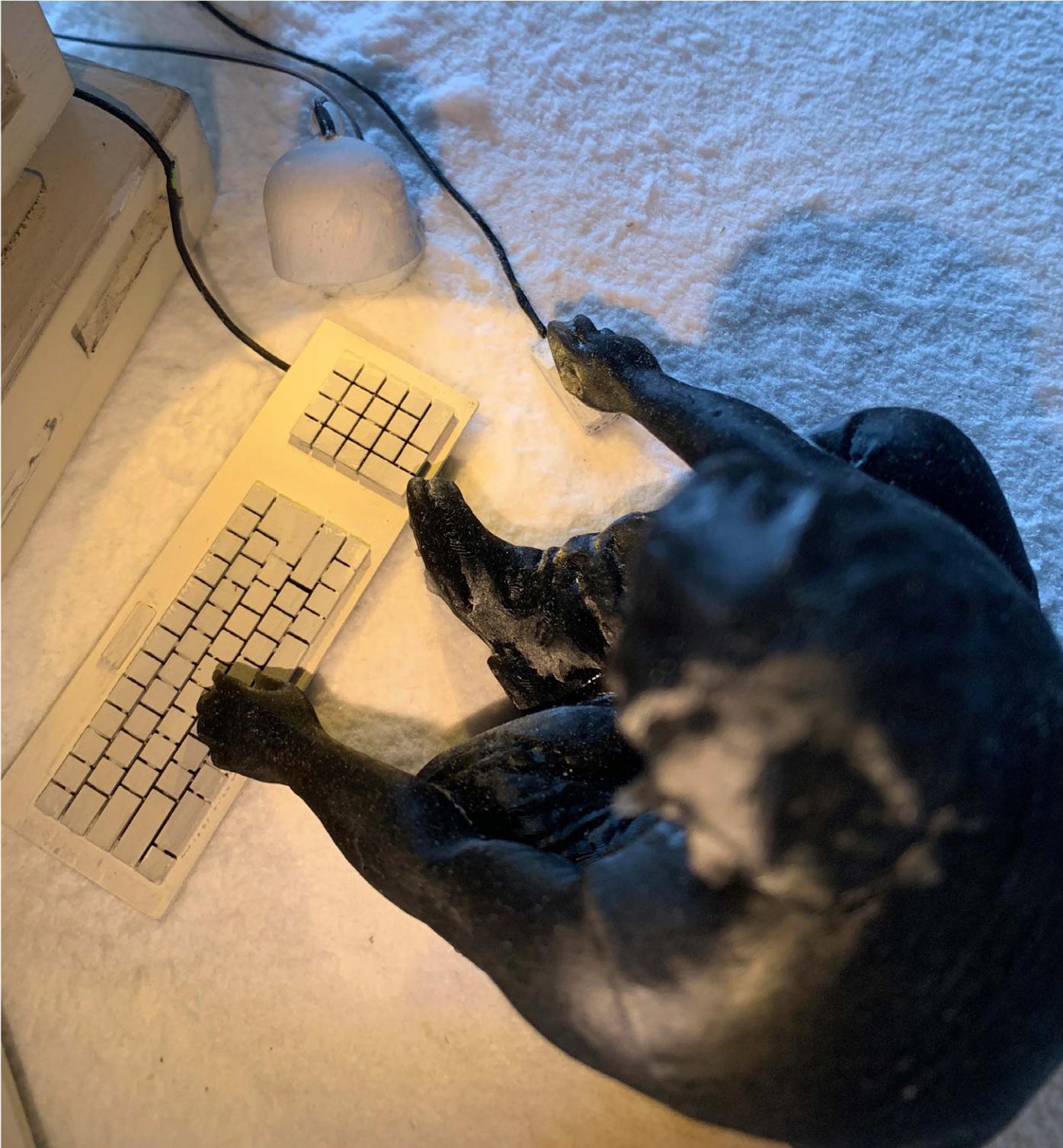
The bottom image is the final layout of all the monitors and props.





Lighting test for the overhanging camera.

This was an experimental
shot done from the
perspective of the camera.



Detail shot from the viewers perspective.

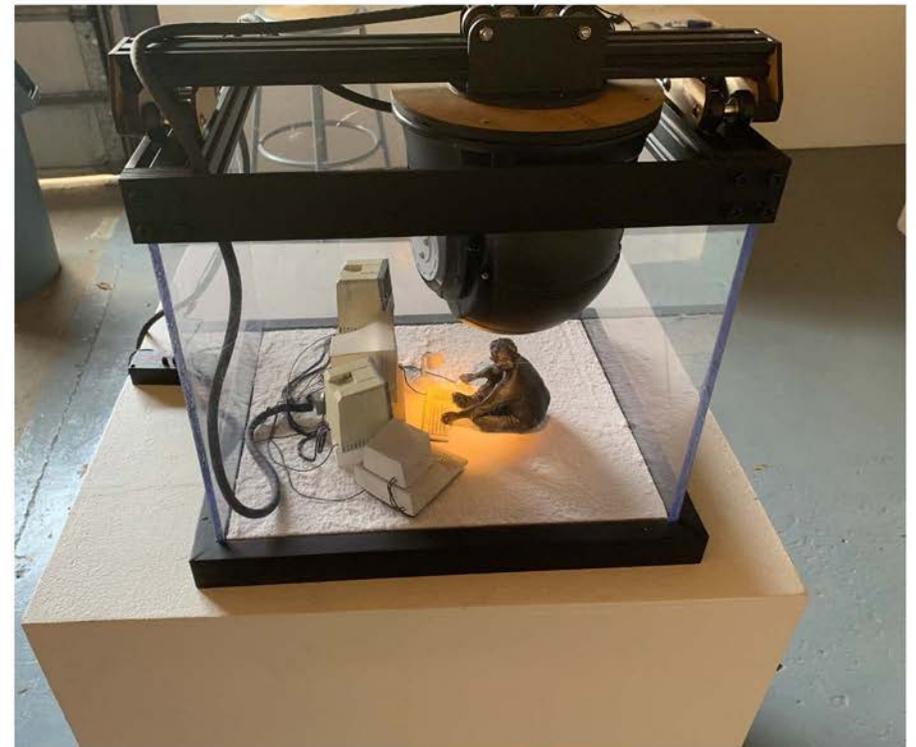


This project focused heavily on diorama making methods. Although, I did work backwards and started with a frame and glass work first. After creating the case. I had remembered I had some Ender 3 v2 frame supports and decided those would be perfect for the mobile carriage system for the camera. These supports also almost fit perfectly on the glass case. With some minor additions using draft board the formal 3d printer frame fit squarely on the glass.

I then had to find a security camera which my brother so happen to have acquired a couple. These cameras were quire large and most of the system needed to be removed in order to fit in the case. Only the black portion of the camera remains.

After the camera was mounted and secured to the carriage. My focus went towards finding and creating models for the interior of the case. All models were squired from Thingavers except the figure which was a 3d scan of me by Dan. After I had collected all needed models I set up the G-code in Lychee Slicer and got to printing the diorama.

After printing, washing, and curing the resin prints I was able to start painting. Using some model paining skills form my past I had aged the computers. After that I wired everything up and completely assembled the piece.



OBSERVATIONS & OUTPUTS

Through this project I had learned more about resin printing. Specifically how to edit the setting to get a more robust and clean print. I also made created a prep system to receive clean and bubble free liquid resin before pouring it into the FEP vat. The slicer program I used was Lychee Slicer and the resin printer was a Anycubic Mono-x. All setting from cure time, to build plate movement was edited in the resin type section. The liquid resin used was an Anycubic Black Water-washable resin.

THANK YOU - CS

INDEX

Research references

George Orwell's 1984

Orwell, G. (2021). Nineteen eighty-four. Penguin Classics. (Original work published 1949)

Link for Patriot act

https://www.justice.gov/archive/ll/what_is_the_patriot_act.pdf

Corporate Surveillance

<https://www.dailydot.com/irl/walmart-cameras-tracking-customers/>

3D models used

Standard Miniature Desk Lamp - 989495

Created by Thingiverse user jtucker72

Old Computer - 2147234

Created by Thingiverse user

PandaPrecision

Old 486 Style Computer - 854336

Created by Thingiverse user Bricitone

Mac SE, SE_30 keyboard and mouse 1_10th scale model - 3369958

Created by Thingiverse user lushprojects

Figure 3D scan

Done by Daniel Hardy