

I.W.P.A. Theme: Free Theme

Project Statement

Vestigial (2015-2018)

«Vestigial» is a photo series I made between 2015 and 2018. It's about the connection between the body and the ruin, and it's mainly composed of self-portraits and photos of abandoned or ruined places and spaces.

I always thought I could literally feel the passage of time. Time, for me, is something that accumulates inside my body. That's the reason why I've made so many self-portraits over the years: I take pictures of myself because I know I will disappear. I then established a connection between these self-portraits - some were intentionally burned and damaged - and the places I would find in my way (mainly abandoned houses and old factories) – for instance, there's something about the body and its vulnerability that reminds me of the ruins of a house. In this sense “vestigial” refers to what is left of what is not anymore, something that is passing quickly, a remainder.

Through photography, I found a way to express my emotions towards these subjects, while trying to cope with my own fragility and fear.

Photography itself is a medium that constantly evokes the past and therefore relates to the nature of disappearance and absence. “Vestigial” is what is left of that absence, constantly reminding me that I am here for a fraction of a second.

Bio

Susana Quevedo (b. 1992) is a portuguese visual artist. In 2015 she completed her Degree in Fine Arts at Escola Superior de Artes e Design de Caldas da Rainha (ESAD.CR), and in 2018 she completed a Masters Degree in Fine Arts at the same school. She currently lives and works in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal.

The work of Susana Quevedo focuses on photography, video and drawing. She explores several concepts such as presence and absence; the fragment and the trace; the disappearance and the destruction of the image; memory and ruin. The desire to explore these themes is also connected to some personal and intimate aspects: the body and its vulnerability, identity and self-image, and fear, especially the fear of bodily dissolution.