

Portfolio

Project 01

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2021

FLOW:

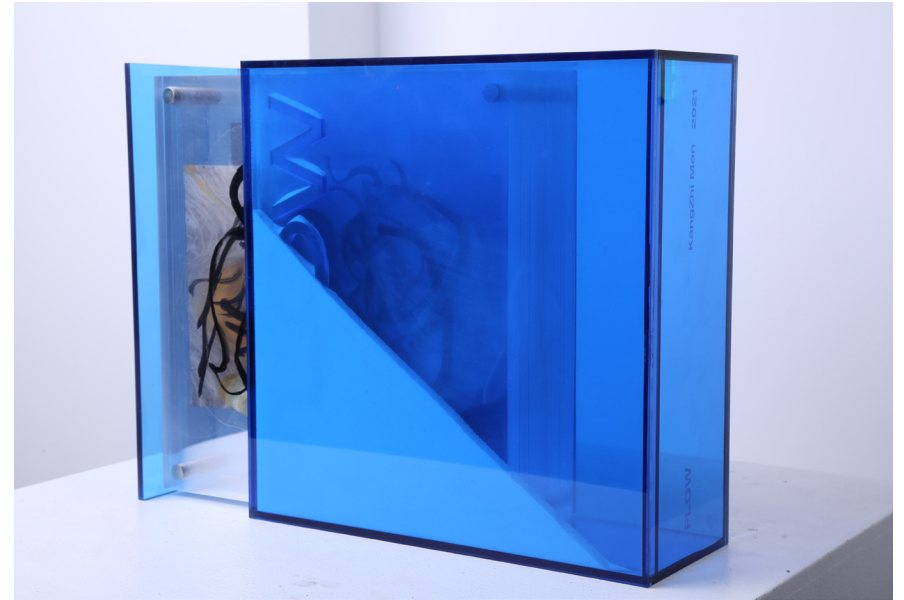
An artist's book about control and out of control

FLOW is an artist book dominated by the idea of 'control' and "out-of-control".

It includes 3 sets of artwork, including the blind drawing, patterns of flowing water and action painting. The three sets of artwork were separate activities for fun at first but then brought together after I recognized the parallel between them. Each two or three art pieces are caught together between a pair of transparent acrylic plates which have some thickness, in order to form overlapping images which

can be watched from both sides and to see through several pages.

The total 21 pages are kept inside a blue, transparent, acrylic case, and thus the overall weight is relatively large. The cover of the book is made of two layers, and there is free-flowing sand between the layers, resonating with the title FLOW.



Concepts & Design:

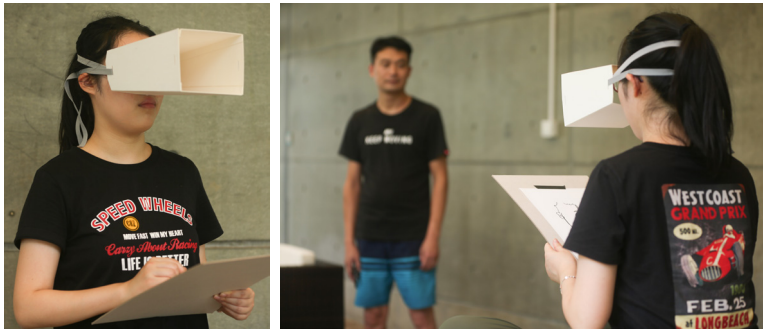
The ideas of 'control' and 'out-of-control' are demonstrated throughout the creation, arrangement and presentation of the book.

In the creation process, which is demonstrated below, these two ideas are intertwined and influenced each other, and thus no two pieces are the same. The pieces are products of my will and the power of coincidence, giving a breakthrough of subconscious expression and capturing a profile of it. Also, my mind is constantly reacting to the current stage of the piece during the creation and thus generating instant chemistry between my will and every accident. Therefore, it reflects the flow of my thoughts as well.

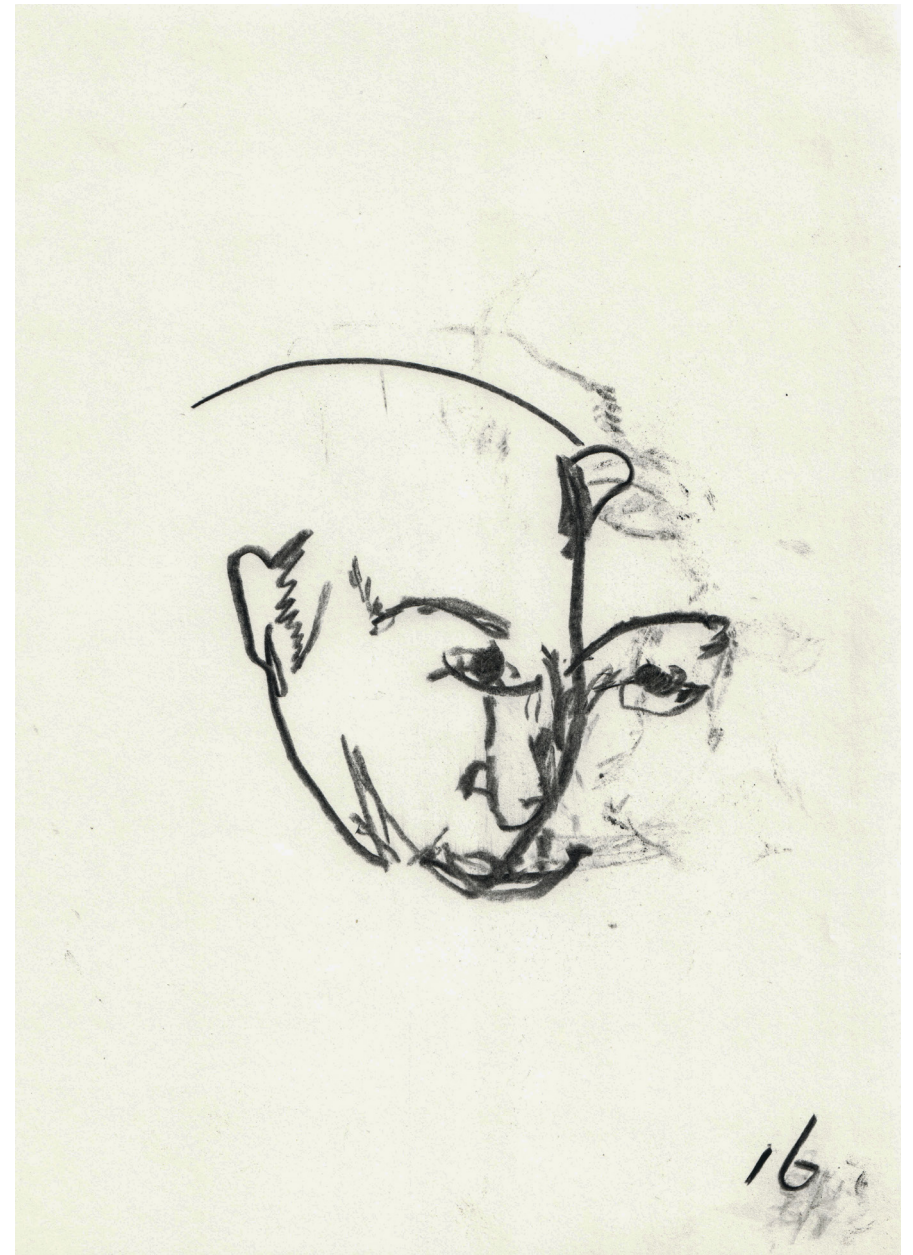
The hard and delicate feeling of the acrylic case and plates, however, contrasts with the freedom and free-flowing confined inside them, like freezing the materials all at once. On a larger scale, since the plates are not connected with each other, readers can do permutation with the pages. As a result, they are given the control over which image they can see, and hence changes and unexpected outcomes are allowed. Even if readers observe the outside of the book, changing images can be created by rotating the book to let the sand in the cover flow through the raised title, which is a further presentation of the coexistence of 'control' and uncertainty.

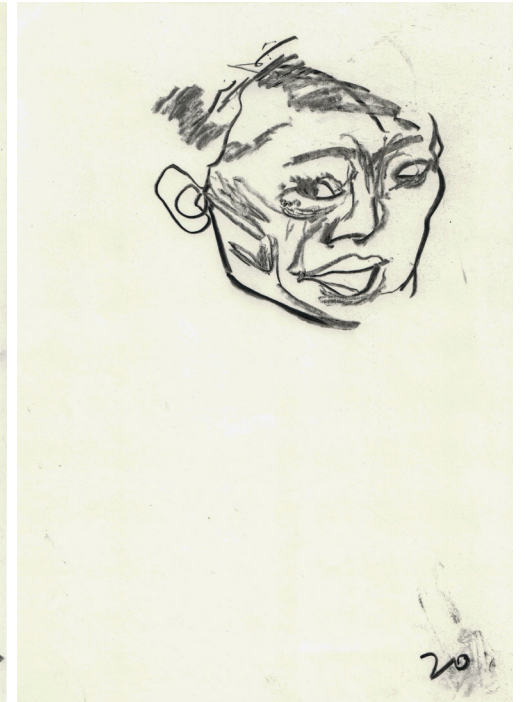
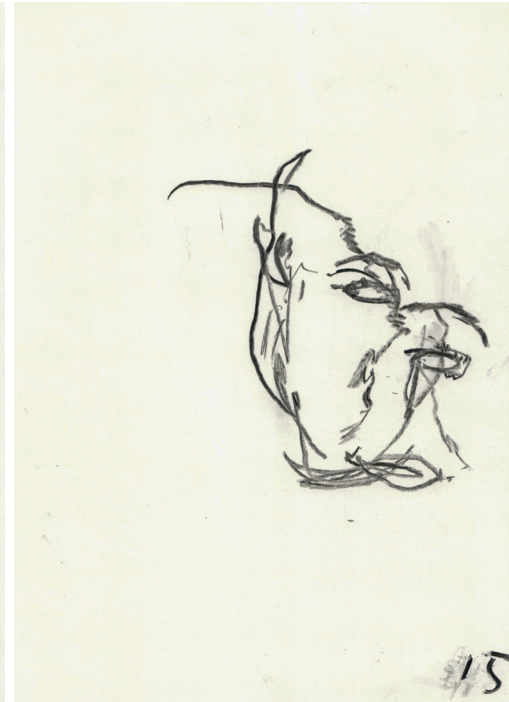
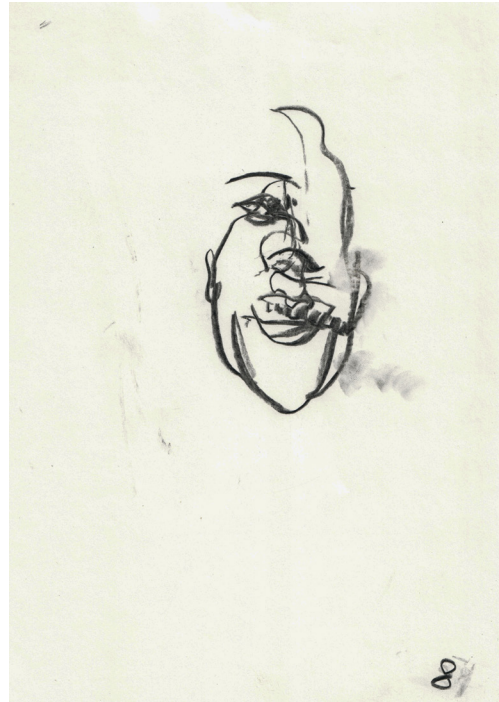
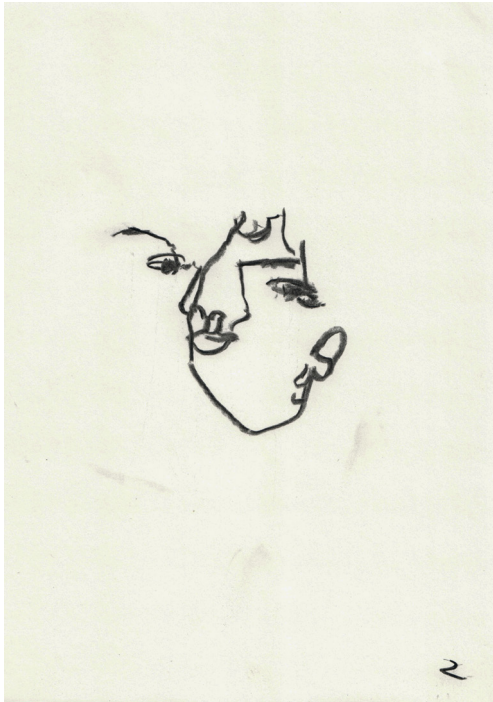


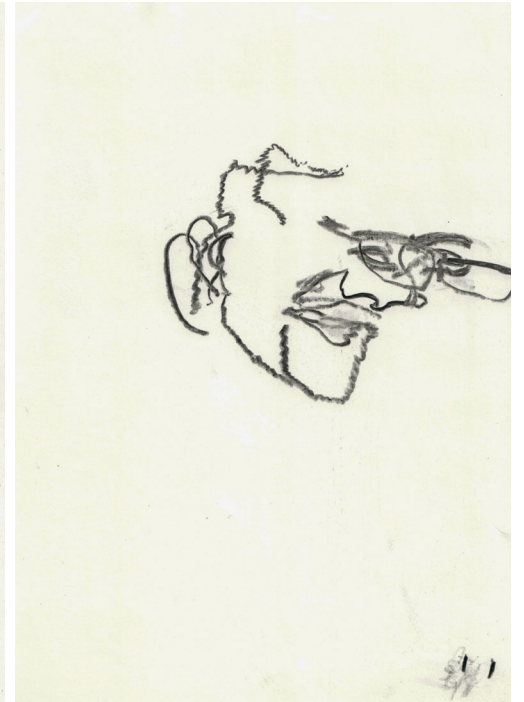
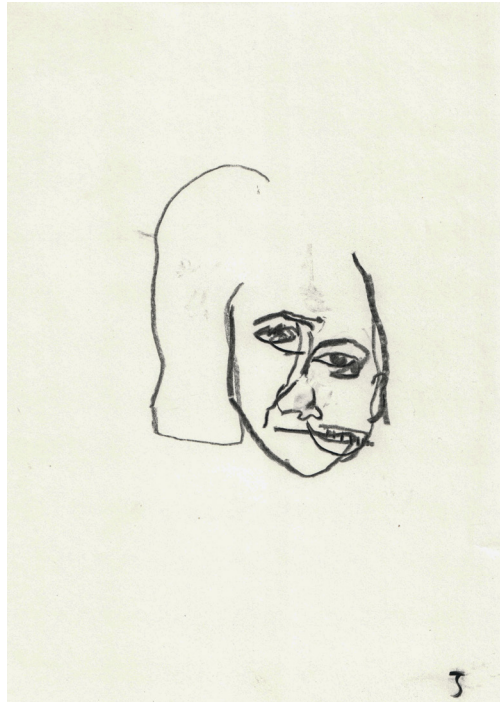
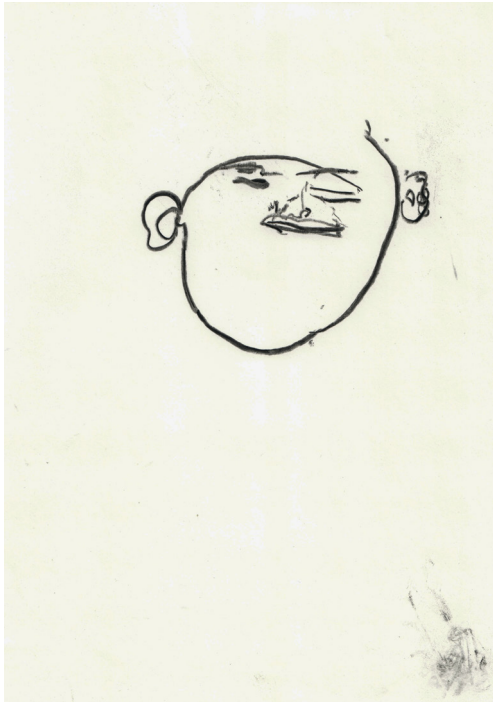


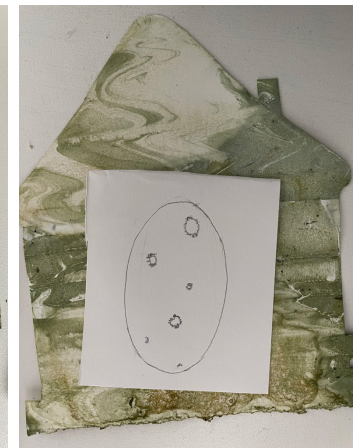


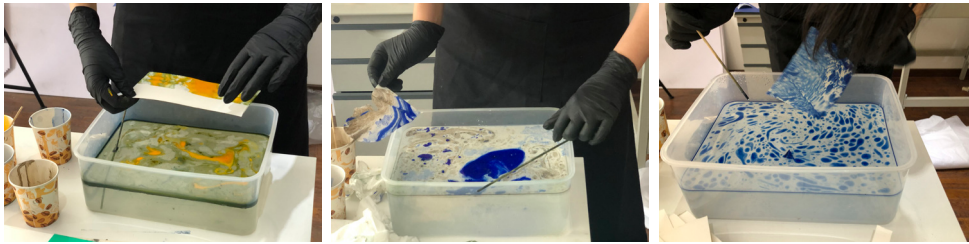
When doing the blind drawing, I only watched the face of the model without taking a glance at what I was drawing. It thus took away my control over my hands and drawing by restricting my eyesight which on the other hand required me to control my body movement. In short, 'control' led to 'out-of-control' in this set of artwork.



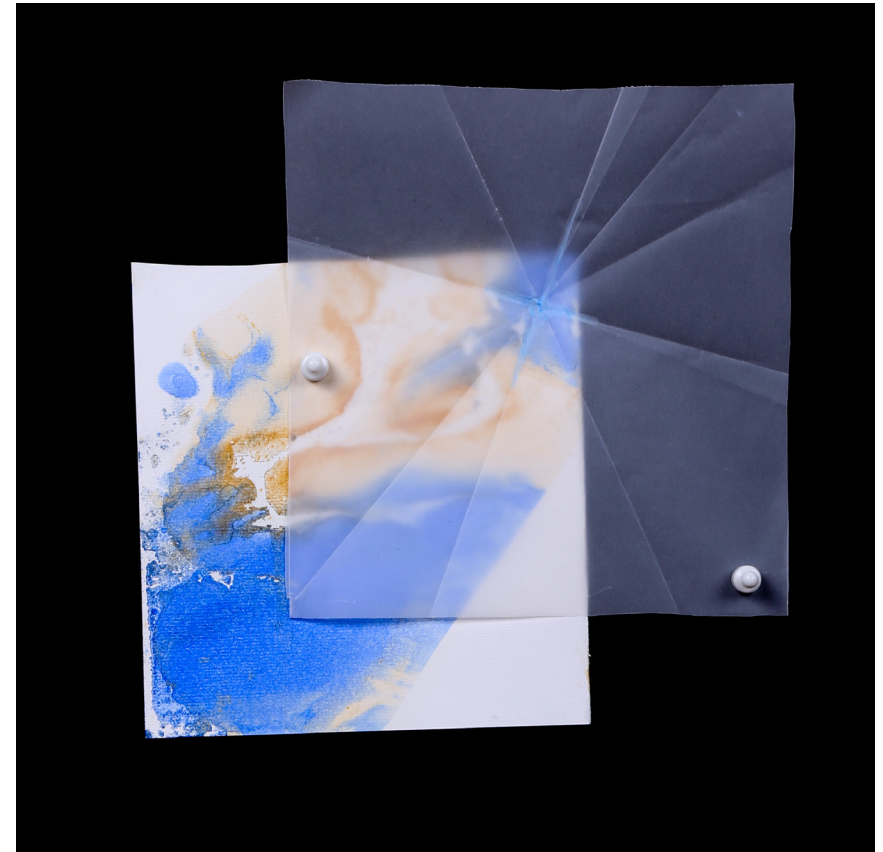








The pieces reflecting patterns of flowing water were created by first pouring oil paints on the surface of water, stirring the water, and inserting a piece of paper into it. In the process, I could only manipulate the pattern of paints shown on the paper by stirring them according to my interests and altering the inserting speed, but other parts were left to the free movement of water and oil paints. However, I gradually became more familiar with the process and thus could gain more and more control over the patterns shown. The paper was then processed by cutting or burning it into different shapes, which could be regarded as placing a restriction on the relatively unrestricted pattern.



For the final set action painting, inspired by Pollock, I threw ink drops onto the canvas and forced the ink to flow by rotating the vertically placed canvas. The flow of ink is free, but I controlled the flow.