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Polaroids from Heaven: Experiential Learning with Special Collections

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Polaroids from Heaven: Experiential Learning with Special Collections

Jillian Ewalt

Librarian for Visual Resources and Assistant Professor, University of Dayton

Overview

- Marian Library
- Marian Apparitions Collection
- Alternative Photography course
- Alterations assignment
- Overview of experiential learning project
- Outcomes



Photograph of Lipa Leaves, Marian Library Photograph Collection, Marian Library

Marian Library and Apparitions Collection

- Marian Library collections document Marian theology, spirituality, and culture
- Apparitions photograph collection documents alleged Marian apparitions



“Blessed Mother’s Image Inside of Flower” Marian Apparitions Collection, Marian Library



Taken July 9th 1995
Blessed Mother appeared at
my home Sophia Klein seems
she is holding a candle
Jesus appeared with thorns
on his head, later disappeared.
seems like another Saint in
standing to the left.
This is a miracle.

JUL 95 048 NNN2 24

Konica Long L

Photograph from
the Marian
Apparitions
Collection

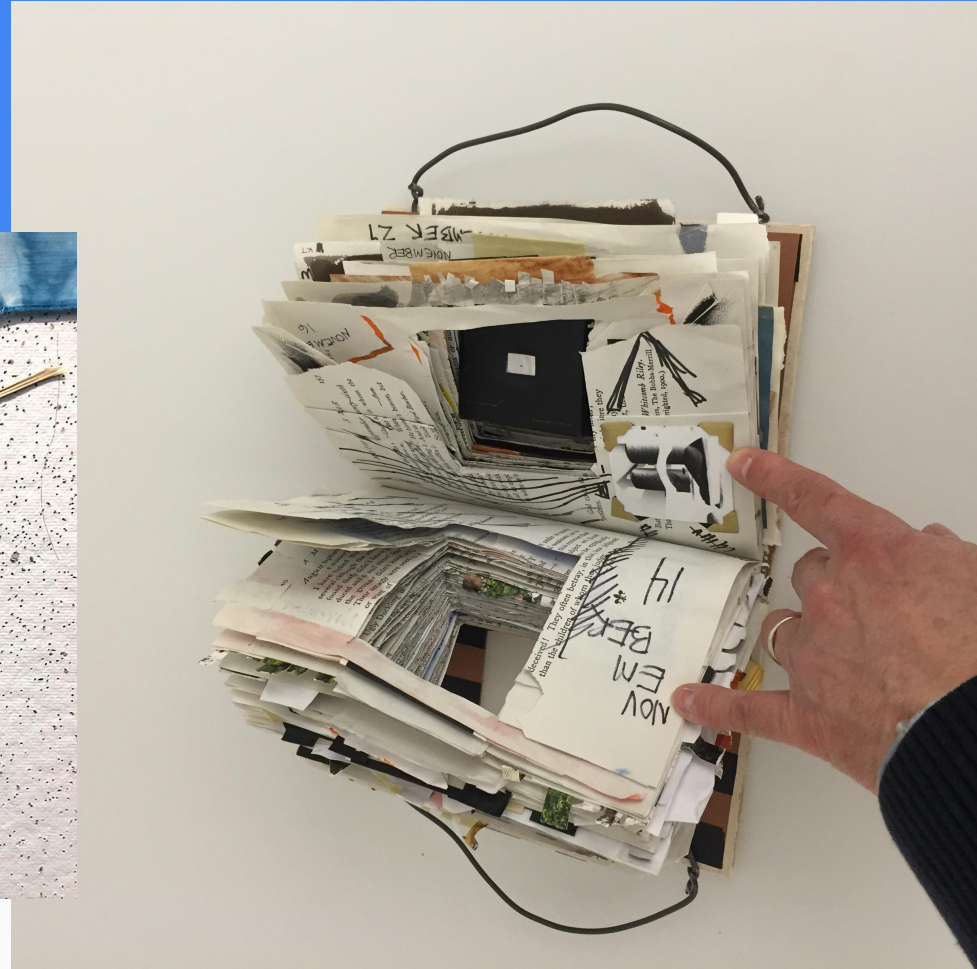


Photograph from the Marian Apparitions Collection



Photograph from
the Marian
Apparitions
Collection

VAP 330 Alternative Photography



Left image, chlorophyll prints. Right image, final sketchbook. Both by Katie Timko.

Alterations: Negative, Print, Space

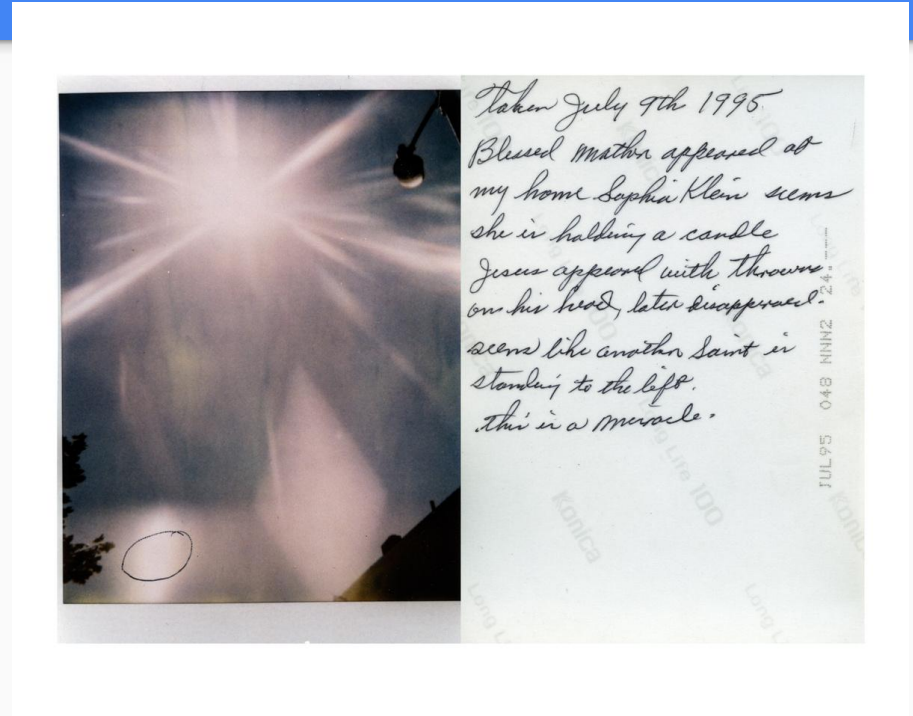


*Alteration assignment by
Elizabeth Weiler*

Collaboration overview

- Marian Library active learning
- Photography session
- Critique

Photograph by Sophia Klein, Marian Apparitions Collection, Marian Library



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Marian Library session

- Active learning with Marian Library archival collections
 - “Speed-dating” with archival photographs
 - Pair and share
 - Group discussion



Photography session





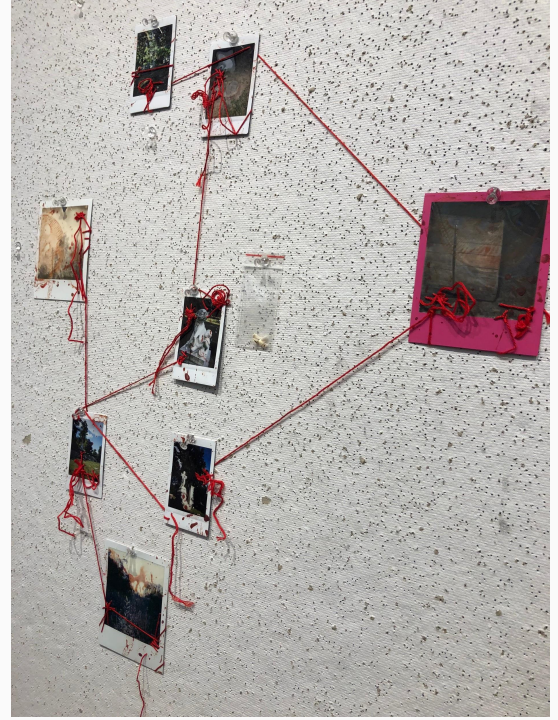


Justine Liptak

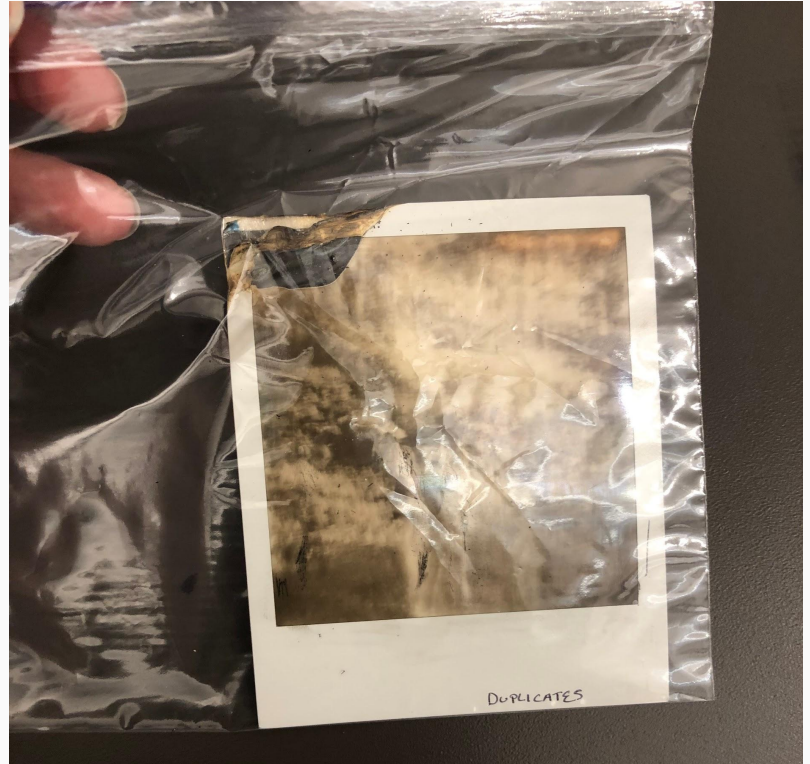
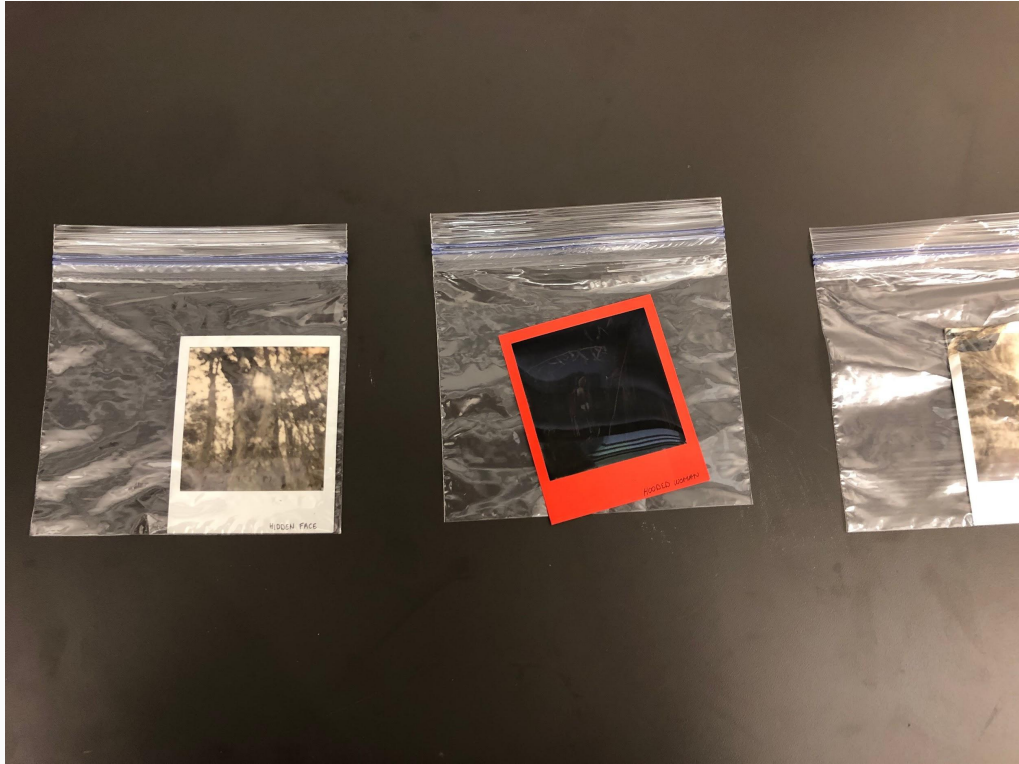




Kaitlynn Chapman



Grace Elliott



Tessa Jatczak

Outcomes

- Students engaged in active learning with visual resources from special collections
- Students used special collections to inform the image-making process
- Apparitions collection facilitated discussion of important photographic concepts
 - Photography as evidence
 - Collaborative photography and issues of ownership
 - Visual representations of the intangible
- Embedding special collections into the course

Thank you!

A version of this presentation was originally developed in collaboration with Carrie Chema, instructor of Alternative Photography

