

## Echoes of Home



we all carry countless memories in our mind, and sometimes we keep objects as mementos to preserve and strengthen the image of those memories. Seeing these mementos and recalling that memory, deed, or event makes them more vivid and tangible. These objects gain meaning through the stories of their owners who are now very far from their home and homeland. These mementos, with their sense of familiarity, help to lessen the feeling of distance and being.

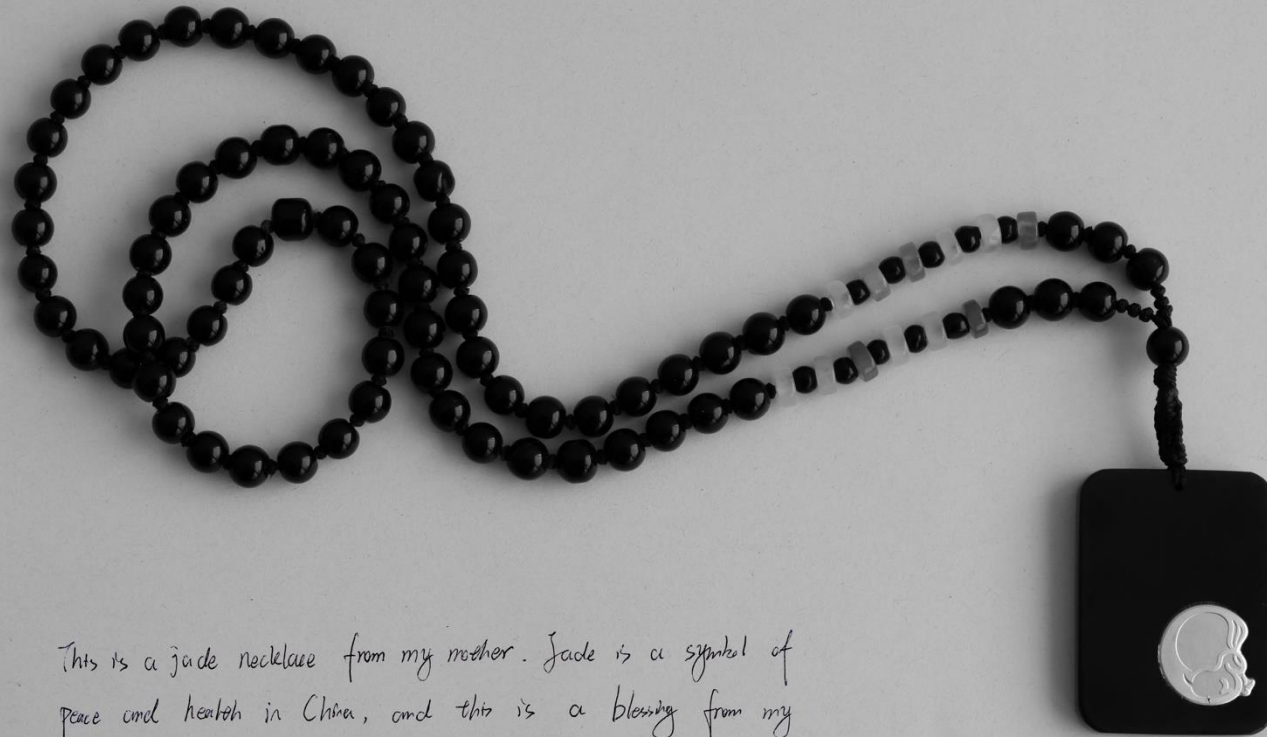
So, discover the stories waiting to be read and reveal their memento's story. Please gently lift the tracing paper.

Mementoes capture deep human connections, each holding a story that breathes life into the object. This project presents photos of these mementoes and narrating the memories of those far from their loved ones and homeland.

Samarnaz Alishahi Karakani  
MA Photography

My grandma made me this little pillow before I went away from Malaysia.  
I had one since born but she threw that. I cherish this new one like my old one.  
The familiar smell and soft touch. I don't care if I looked immature,  
I'm taking it everywhere I go.





This is a jade necklace from my mother. Jade is a symbol of peace and health in China, and this is a blessing from my mother. Also this blessing is a force to help me move forward.

This Dreamcatcher has a special place in my heart as i bought it while on a trip with my mother and brought it here with me to keep the good memories of the trip with me.



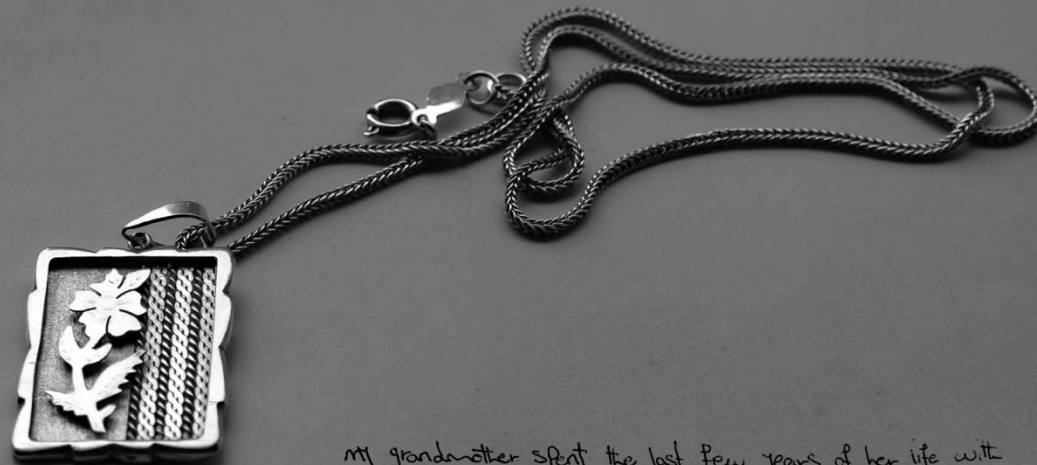


Regarding my memories with the photo-frame -

The first ever family photo was taken during a family card. It was my only photo of my family as we never got a chance to gather around and take a picture. At the same time, it was my nana who had a good photo in that frame which I requested her to give to me, and she very kindly gave it, as she ~~was~~ has passed away now and it has been 15 years and that's how old is the photo frame.

I used to keep childhood photos as memories. Before I moved to the UK, I kept one of my favorite photos taken by my dad. In this picture, I remember seeing the beaches for the first time, even though my parents had taken me before. This time, I remember it clearly. My sister and I were so excited. I keep this photo when I feel homesick because I love and miss my family. Whenever I miss them, I look at the old photos I have.





my grandmother spent the last few years of her life with Alzheimer's, which was the most painful for me, as I had shared many moments with her from childhood to adulthood.

The dearest thing I have with me after her death is her necklace. It gives me a comforting feeling to have her necklace with me, in memory of her, especially while I am far from anything related to her.



This is the second time I came to UK by myself.  
The first time was that I studying BA in VCA. I brought them  
with me each time. It was a rabbit toy given to me by my boyfriend  
at that time, which was the first Valentine's Day gift from him.  
Because I was alone in UK at that time. With their company, I felt  
I was no longer lonely, as if he was with me. Everyday when I go bed  
I put them aside and hold them. I feel healed. ^^





This face in this ring denotes the face of the god 'Bhairab' which is powerful manifestation of Lord Shiva.

Wearing my Bhairab ring means a lot to me because Bhairab stands for strength and protection, helping me feel like I can handle whatever life throws at me. It's a constant reminder to stay strong and grounded, especially when things get tough. Beyond that, it connects me to my spiritual beliefs and gives me a sense of guidance and safety. It's not just a piece of jewelry - it's a symbol of my persona journey, growth, and the resilience I try to carry with me every day.

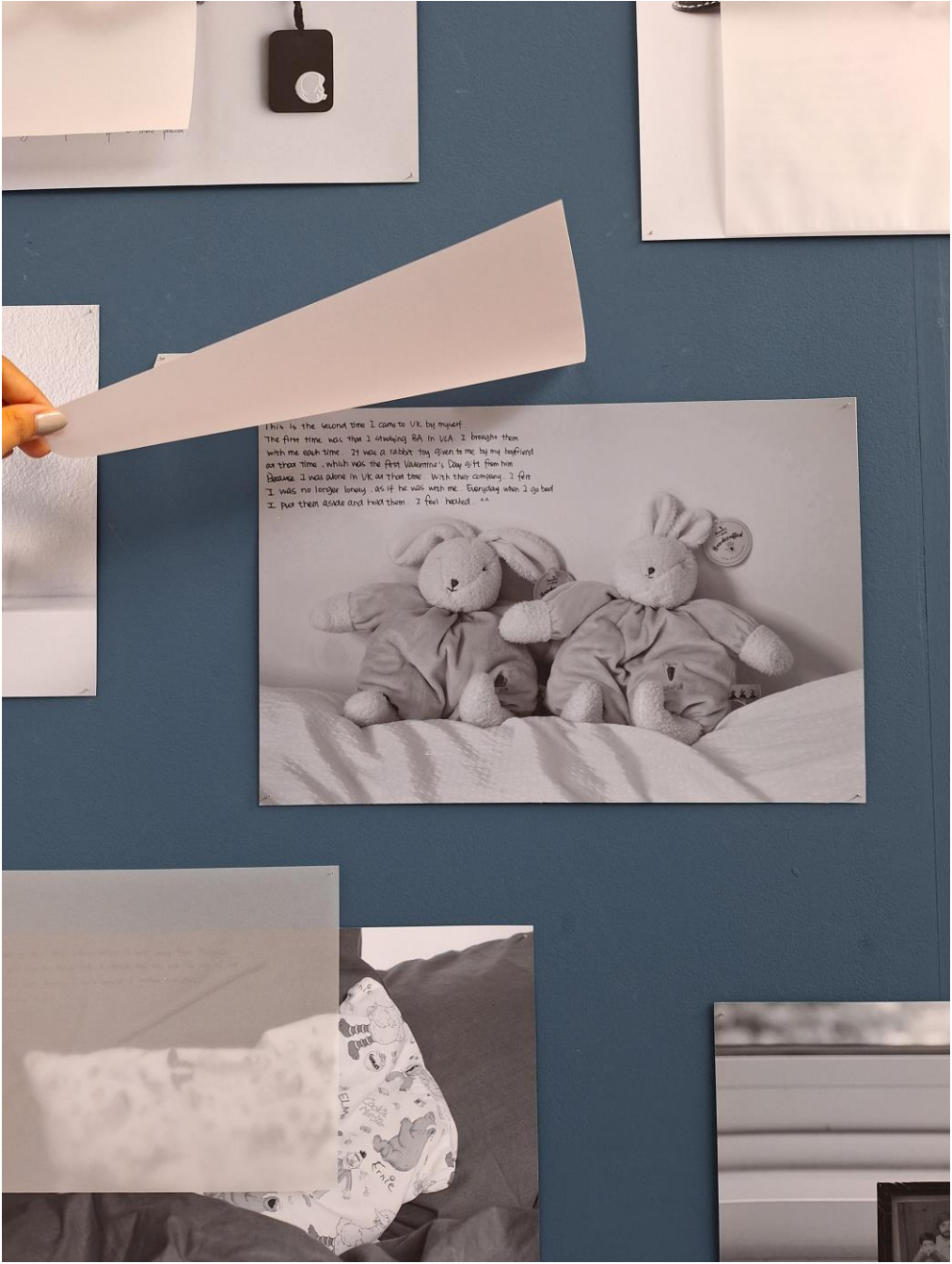


A gift from my mother in 2010, this watch holds an extraordinary sentimental value. Unlike most, I am not particularly attached to material possessions. Yet, this timepiece is an exception. Wearing it feels like carrying a piece of my parents with me, a constant, comforting presence. It's a tangible reminder of their unwavering support, a steadfast companion through life's joys and challenges. Much like parents, it's always there, offering silent encouragement.

My non-biological sister gave me this small perfume bottle and short print of our selfie while I was about to board to work. This small item was so very special to me which eventually reminds me of our time we spent together back in my hometown. So yeah this things are very special and mean to me. And I carry this everywhere and everywhere I go.







This is the second time I came to UK by myself.  
The first time was that I always SA in USA. I brought them  
with me each time. It was a rabbit toy given to me by my boyfriend  
on that time, which was the first Valentines Day gift from him.  
Because I was alone in UK at that time. With this company, I felt  
I was no longer lonely, as if he was with me. Everyday when I go bed  
I put them aside and hug them. I feel healed. ^^

