

Minimal Animal:

Fauxtographic Memories

Time

45-90 minutes

Supplies

Pen or pencil, paper, scissors, glue stick, magazines, a few copies of a photograph

Prepare

This act takes a little extra preparation, and an openness to tinkering with nostalgia. You need a few copies of a photo from your life. Find one that is evocative for you. A moment you recall well, or think you recall. Take the photo to a copy center and have a few copies made. I usually enlarge so I can see detail better, and it's easier to cut around edges of things.

Cut to Create

When you have all your supplies, browse through your magazines, looking for words and images that interest you. Cut them out. Now you are going to change one element in the photo. Cut something out of your photo and replace it with an image from the magazine. Play with moving new elements in and out of the photo until you find one you like. With a giant purple arm reaching down from the sky, my childhood home is transformed into a space of magical realism.

Write

Use your new image, a mix of memory and the imagination, and write about/from it.

Share Your Discoveries & Reflect

Want to share your thoughts and creations? Add your findings to the [Forum](#), where you'll connect with others who have explored this act.