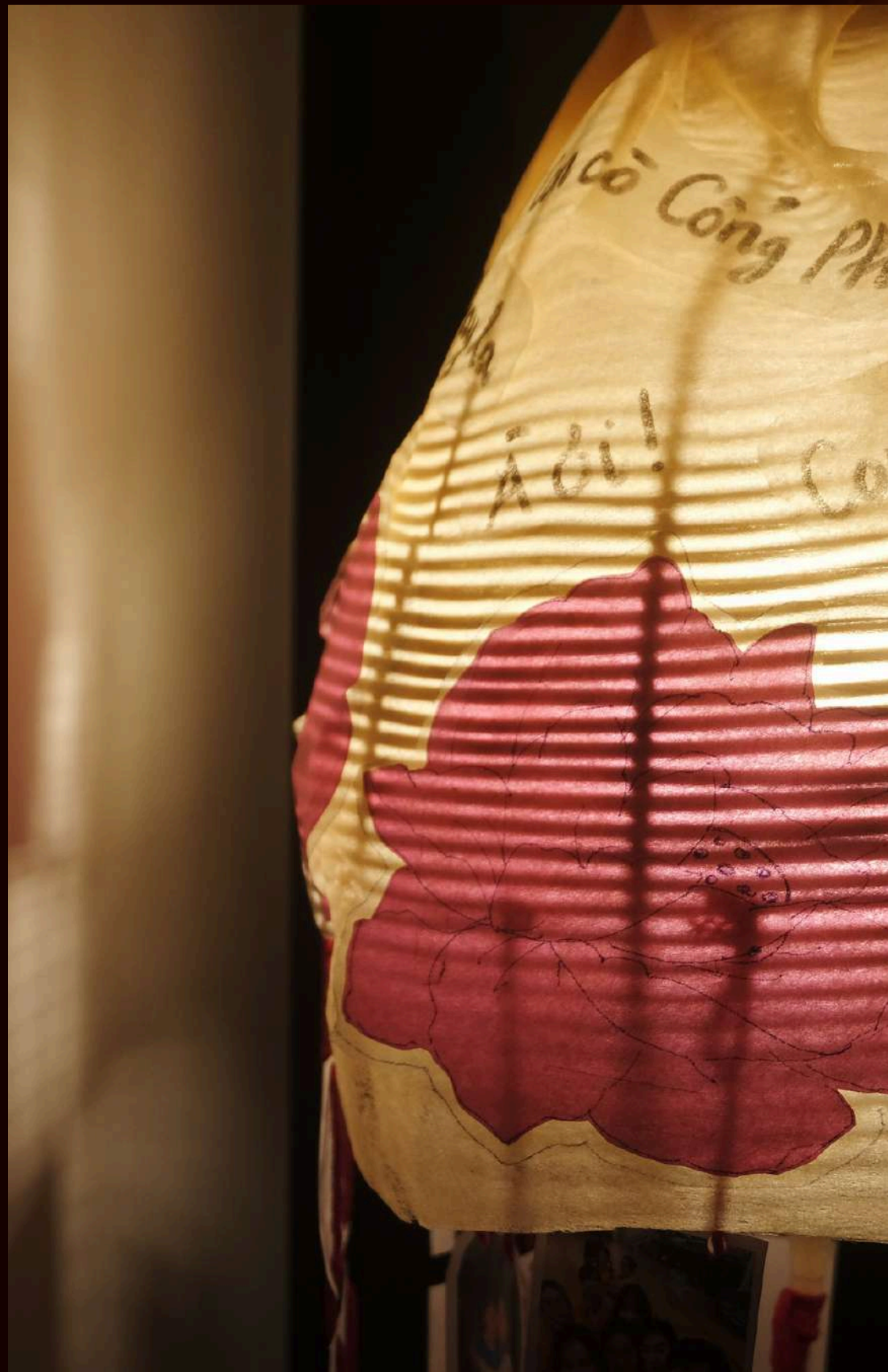


ARTS 101 - Introduction to Visual Studies
Professor Linda Zhang

I WAS HERS

A visual essay by:
Phan Dang Quynh Mai - 210090
Ha Thi Thao My - 230039
Pham Ha Phuong Anh - 230186

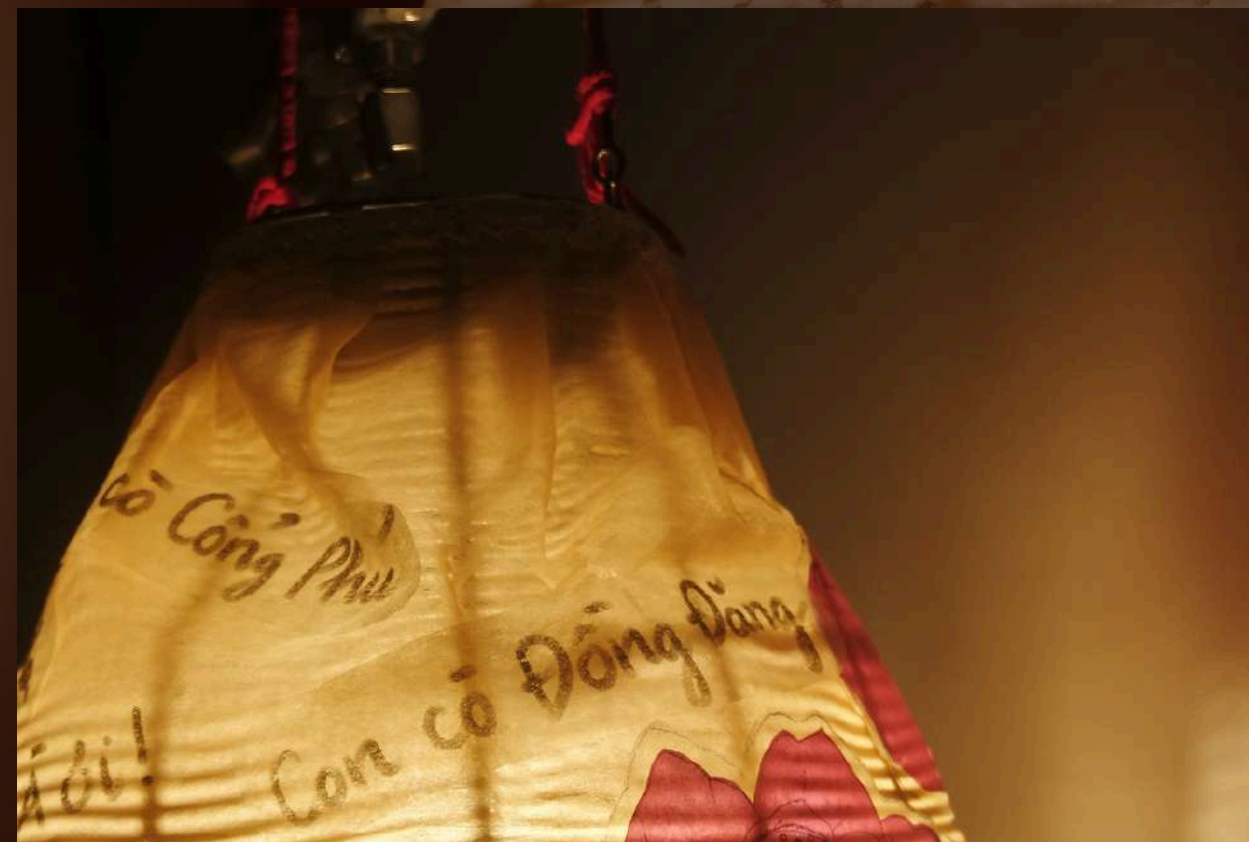








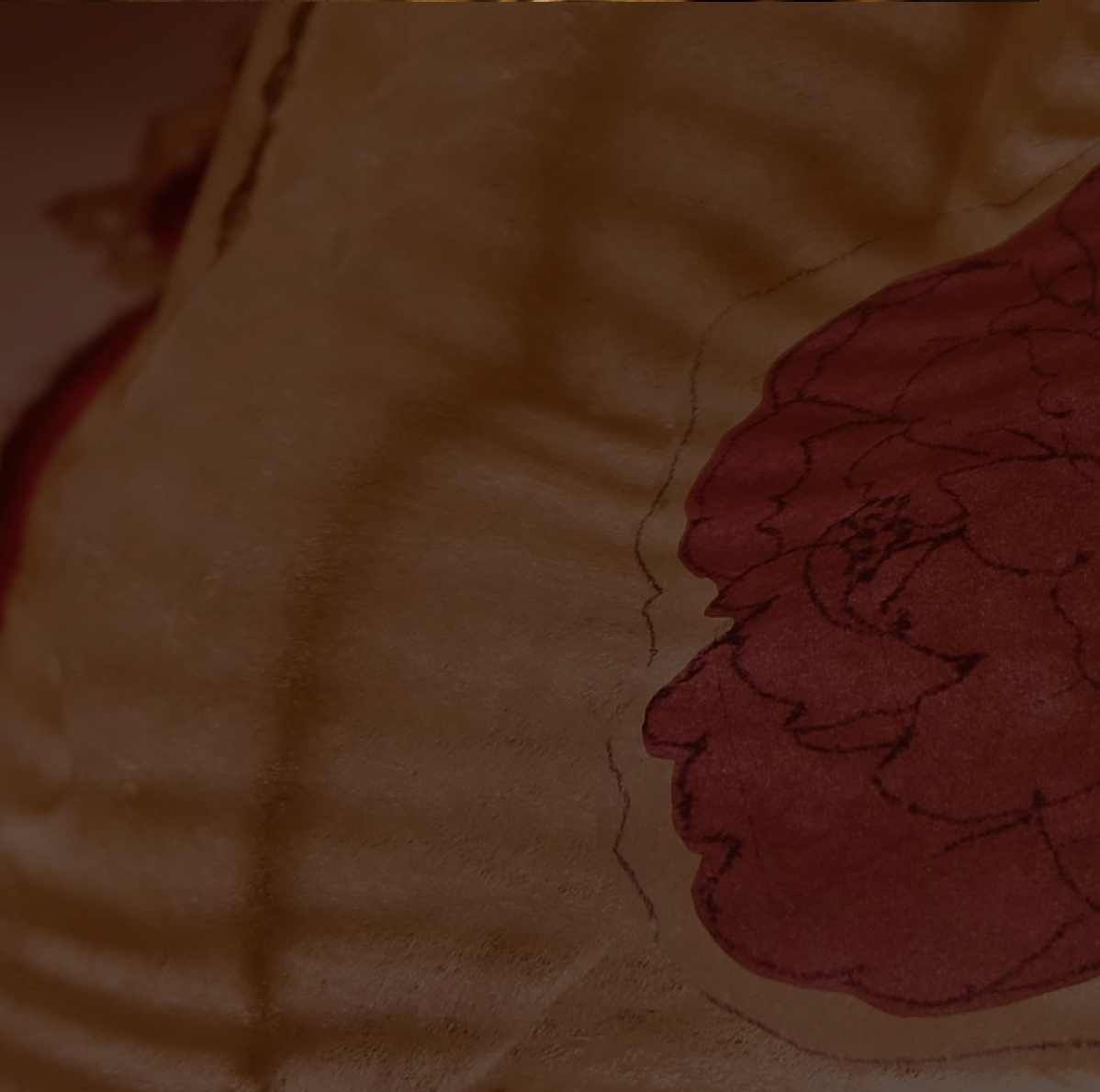
“Con cò bay lả
Con cò bay lả
Con cò cống phủ
Con cò Đồng Đăng...”



“Con cò ăn đêm
Con cò xa tổ
Cò gặp cành mềm
Cò sợ xáo măng...”

“À ơi!
Một con cò thôi
Con cò mẹ hát
Cũng là cuộc đời
Vỗ cánh qua nôi...”





Đinh nhà Cua
4 tháng vãn



the broken payment bill
The connection
was me
and her...

linger
Christmas
celebrate



the trust...

when we are no longer



I - We...
are fortunate children



And even when we are no longer
children, we still feel fortunate
in our own ways



Because...



I - We...
are fortunate children



And even when we are no longer
children, we still feel fortunate
in our own ways



Because...

I - We...
are fortunate children

And even when we are no longer
children, we still feel fortunate
in our own ways



Now, we are empowered to choose to study and do whatever we want



Now, we are empowered to choose to study and do whatever we want



We are free to cook the food we like to eat



We are free to cook the food we like to eat



Birthdays spent late into the night with friends



Birthdays spent late into the night with friends

Study and do whatever we want

We are free to cook the food we like to eat



We are beautiful and graceful girls



We are free to travel to the places we like



We are free to shop and wear the clothes we like



We are beautiful and graceful girls



We are free to travel to the places we like



We are free to shop and wear the clothes we like



We enthusiastically connect and expand our networks



We also connect with nature and community



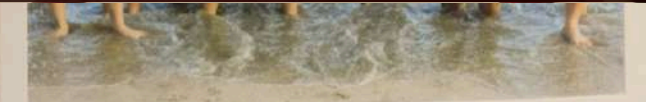
And of course...



We enthusiastically connect and expand our networks



We also connect with nature and community

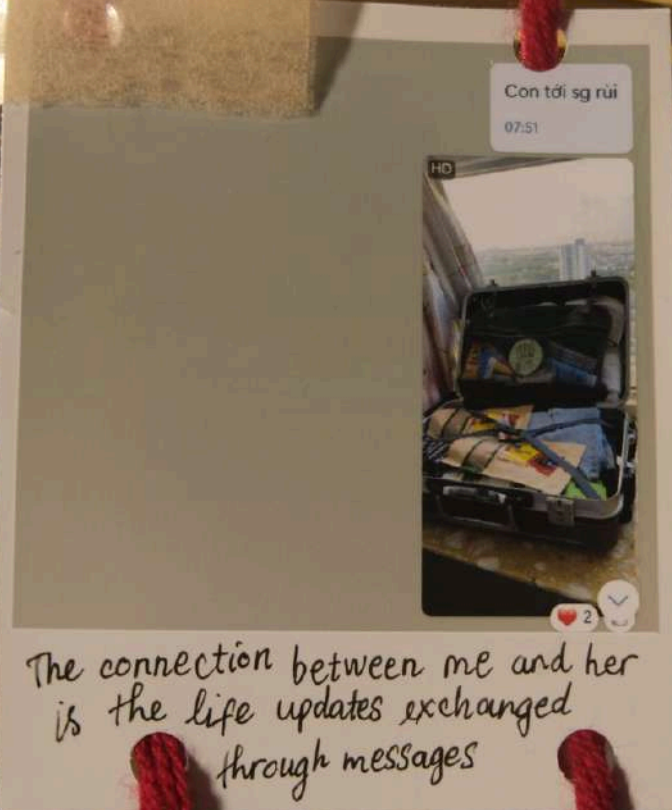


We also connect with nature and community



And of course...





The connection between me and her is the life updates exchanged through messages

is the life updates exchanged through messages

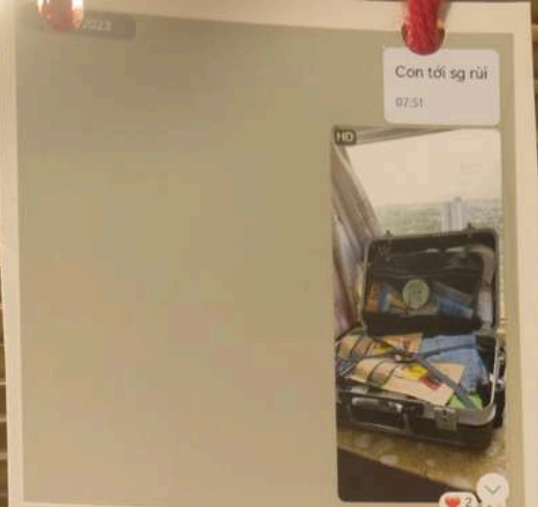


... is taking pictures and sending meals back and forth

... is taking pictures and sending meals back and forth



... is reminding each other to eat enough to stay healthy



The connection between me and her is the life updates exchanged through messages



... is taking pictures and sending meals back and forth

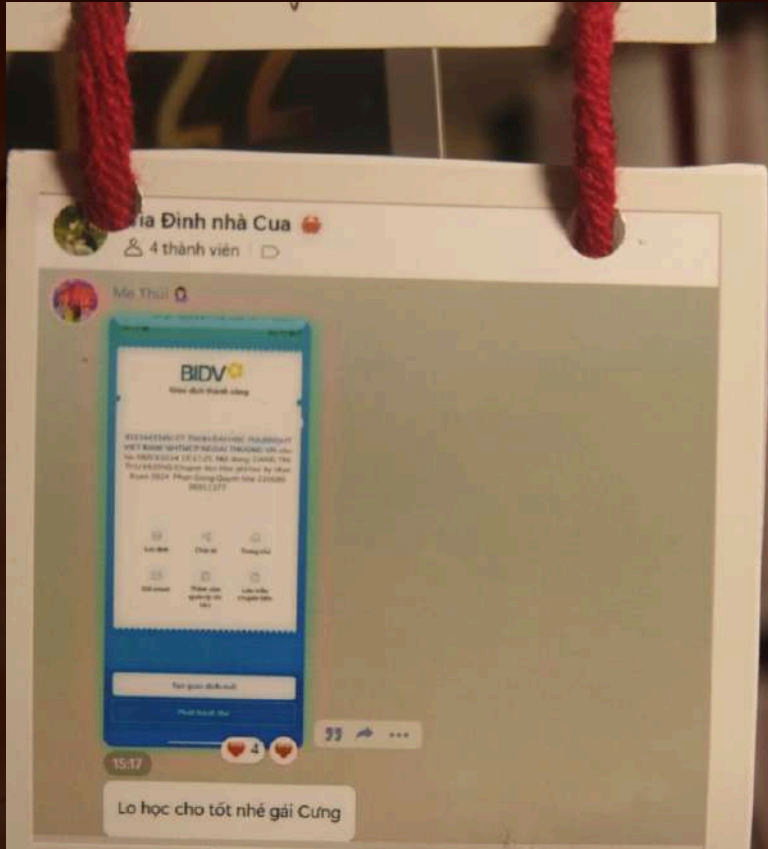


... is reminding each other to eat enough to stay healthy

HUYỆN KHOẢN THÀNH CÔNG
2,000,000 VND
 08:32 Chủ Nhật 05/11/2023

Tên người thụ hưởng	PHAN DANG QUYNH MAI
Tài khoản thụ hưởng	1015893863
Mã giao dịch	4559654808
Nội dung	DANG THI THU HUONG chuc mung sinh nhat con gai

... is the birthday gift sent through bank transfer



... is the tuition payment bills

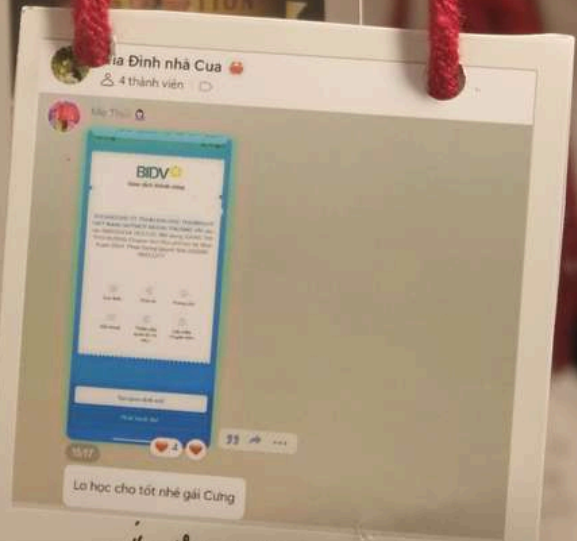


... is the food box sent from the hometown

HUYỆN KHOẢN THÀNH CÔNG
2,000,000 VND
 08:32 Chủ Nhật 05/11/2023

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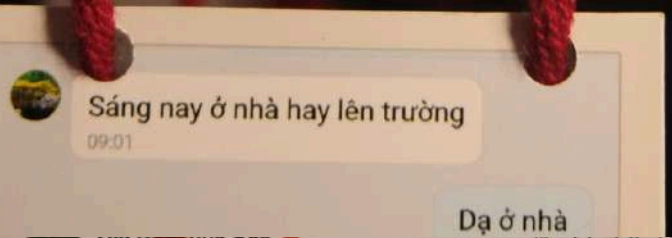
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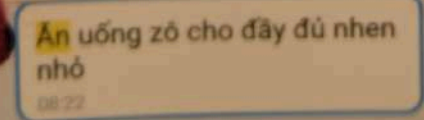
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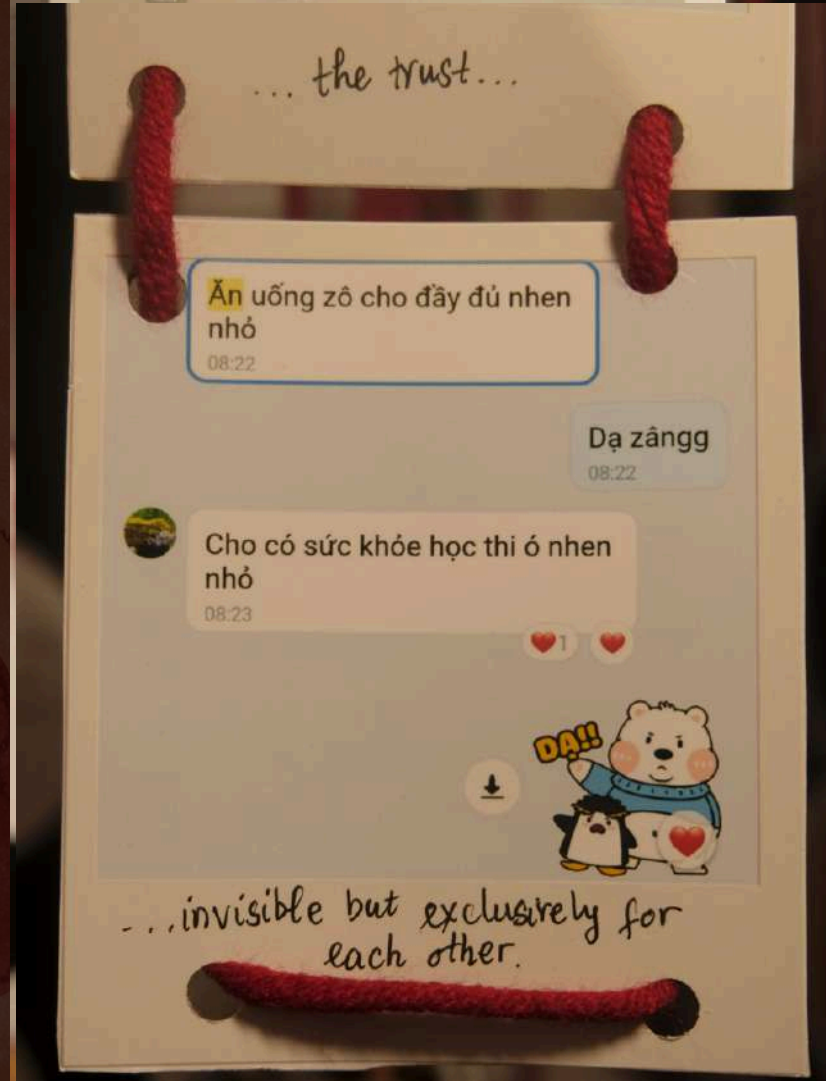
The connection between me and her is the congrats



... the trust...



Dạ zângg



... the trust...

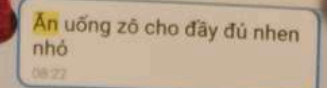
...invisible but exclusively for each other.



The connection between me and her is the congrats



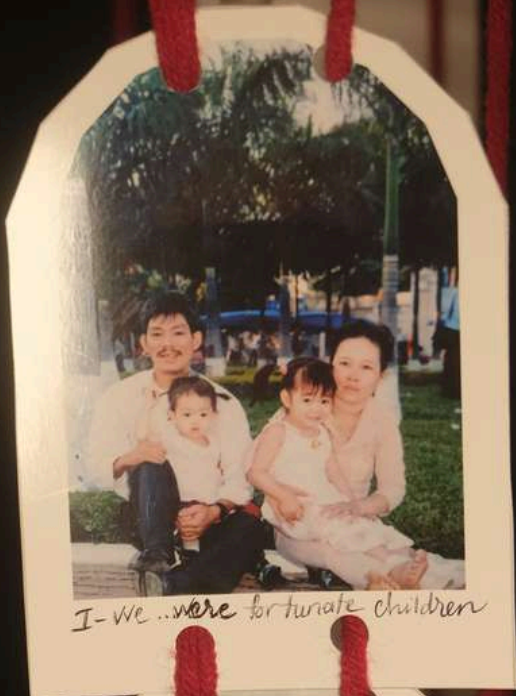
... the trust...



Dạ zângg



...invisible but exclusively for each other.



I- we ...were fortunate children



We were belonging to the family



She used to accompany me every step of the way--



I- we ...were fortunate children



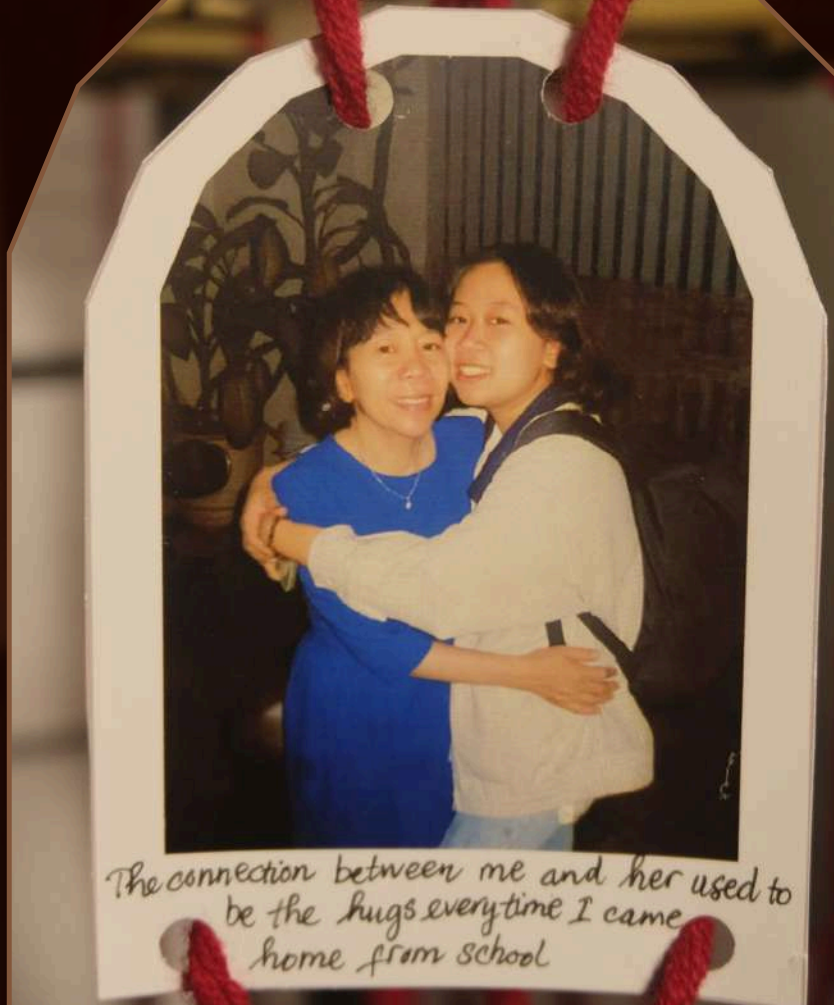
We were belonging to the family



She used to accompany me every step of the way--



The connection between me and her used to be the hugs everytime I came home from school



The connection between me and her used to be the hugs everytime I came home from school



... used to be kisses exchanged everyday without reason



... used to be kisses exchanged everyday without reason



... used to be posing together in front of the camera



... used to be posing together in front of the camera



The connection between me and her used to be appearing together at every important event



The connection between me and her used to be appearing together at every important event



used to be the gift she handed to me personally



used to be her companionship, and encouragement to help me achieve the best results ...



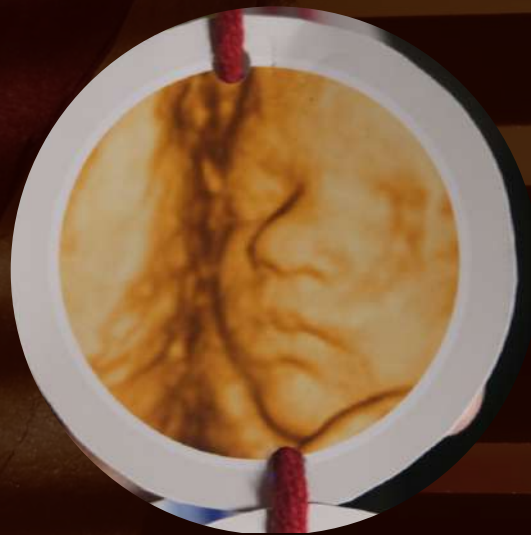
used to be the gift she handed to me personally



used to be her companionship, and encouragement to help me achieve the best results ...



I-We... were fortunate children



I and she... used to be a part of each other



Then one day... I was allowed to become an individual



The connection between me and her... was lullabies, stories, and photos...





The connection between me and her...
... used to be the carrying in her arms



The connection between me and her...
... used to be the embrace in her heart



The connection between me and her...
... used to be her arms around my waist when my legs couldn't stand firm.



The connection between me and her...
... used to be her arms always behind me when I was learning to walk





The connection between me and her... lingered in Christmas celebrations



The connection between me and her... used to be the most beautiful red dress she bought for me on my first birthday



The connection between me and her... used to be the parties she organized



The connection between me and her... used to be her worrying about everything for me...



my life began...



my beautiful moments...





Before... my life began...



Before... every beautiful memories existed...

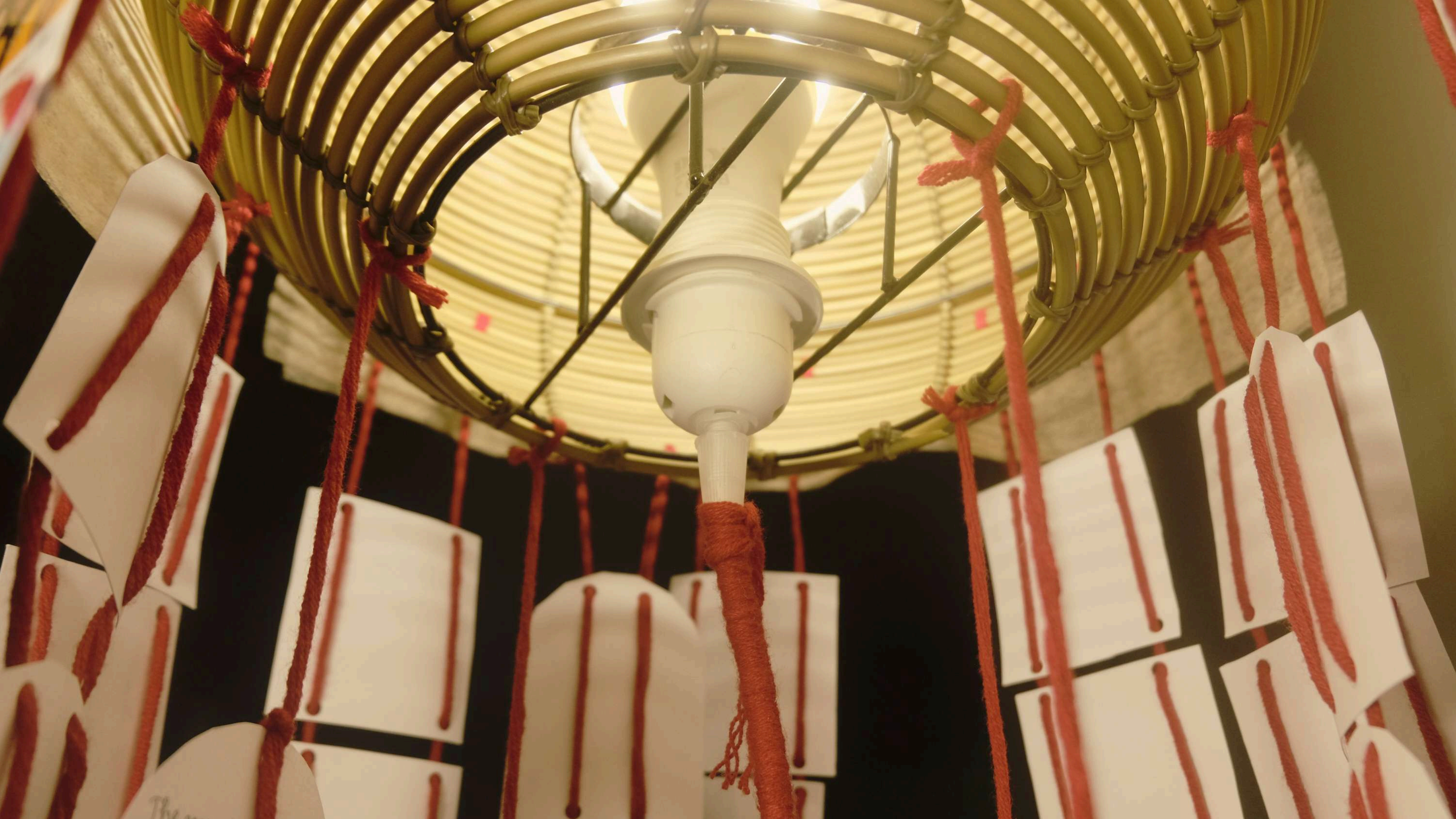


Everything... first in life...



All originated from her! "ME"





... used to be
the embrace
in her heart

used to be
a part of
each other



every beautiful
thing
will



THESIS STATEMENT

Cultural traditions, gender roles reinforced through medians, and long-held beliefs about the "ideal" mother create a powerful foundation that can be difficult to ignore. At the same time, these factors also shape the sense of perception and connection of a child toward the mother. Erving Goffman once argued in his book "The Presence of Self in Everyday Life" that individuals manage their self-presentation to align with social expectations and gain desired benefits from his concept of "presenting face." Both self-identity and social influences shape a mother's connection with her child. Applying this framework elucidates a sense of a mother's connection through the growth and progress of an individual through both self-identity and social influences. By using the concepts of representation and symbolism, this visual essay argues that societal factors lay the groundwork, but an individual self can ultimately transcend prevailing societal stereotypes.



THE LANTERN

This artistic lantern visual essay symbolically captures the eternal mother-child bond as shaped by societal perceptions. The round, pregnant form of the lantern represents the beginnings of this deep connection before birth, and the shining bulb within symbolizes the fragile life that is lovingly nourished in the womb. The hands in the cradle pose suggest a mother's endless, protective hug around her unborn child. Peony decorations represent the sacred beauty of motherhood. The poem "The Stork" by Che Lan Vien, written in Vietnamese, is woven throughout the work. The words poetically compare the unwavering devotion of a mother to her children to the unconditional affection of a stork for its offspring. This poem is a stereotype of a Vietnamese mother, which unintentionally creates intimacy between a mother and children from the beginning of their life. Overall, the lantern metaphorically illuminates both the timeless essence and societal obligations surrounding sacred motherhood.

THE LAYERS

We collected photos taken with our moms from infancy to adulthood and divided them into 3 layers. These layers of photos represent 3 stages of life: in the womb and under 5 years old, while growing up before the age of 18, and currently while studying away from home. This appears as evidence showing the mother's connection between the child and the influence on identity formation over time. In early childhood (0-5 years old) when self-identity has yet to solidify, the mother primarily shapes a child's worldview and actions. There is no self of a child in this period, rather it comes from the identifying of how a mother wants her child to be. During adolescence (5-18 years old), the building self begins exercising independent judgment while still adhering to maternal wisdom on major issues. A child develops a sense of what things should operate but how to do that is still being impacted by the mother. In the end, emerging adulthood entails further autonomy, with the mother assuming an advisory role from a more removed position.

Despite not physically being close to the mother, their maternal connection is still alive and strong, as the core of connection now is based on the internal self instead of social influences. From this explanation, it is inevitable that the feeling of connection between mother and child has developed and gradually transformed from a feeling that comes from external factors into a feeling of connection that comes from oneself.

REFERENCES

Goffman, E. (1990). *The presentation of self in everyday life*. Penguin Books, Limited (UK).

Vien, L. C. (1962). *Bài thơ Con Cò*. NXB Văn học, 2002

THANK YOU!

Today, on Mother's Day, we - Quynh Mai, Thao My, and Phuong Anh want to express our gratitude and love to our mothers through this product and pray for all mothers in the world to be happy with their children.

We also sincerely thank Professor Linda Zhang for supporting us throughout our study in the Introduction to Visual Studies class to complete this visual essay.