

Apr 22nd, 12:00 PM

Screen Memories

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Piper, Aidan, "Screen Memories" (2021). *NEIU Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium*. 5.
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SCREEN MEMORIES

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My presentation for the 2021 NEIU Annual Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium will be a 12 minute artist's talk about the work in my upcoming solo show, *Screen Memories*. *Screen Memories* reimagines the since-demolished Edgewater Medical Center through a series of three-dimensional collages made using printed photographs taken inside the building from 2014-2017. Throughout my adolescence, the abandoned hospital acted as a hangout, a photographic subject, and the bewitching setting of recurring dreams. When the building was demolished in 2018, I felt unresolved - the building, which for years had acted as my defacto studio and inanimate muse, was gone. In *Screen Memories*, I have combed my photographic archive from the hospital and printed, cut, and reassembled them in order to reassess the space as it intersects with my personal history. The resulting pieces combine collage and diorama, allowing me to return to the building in spirit. In a product which is half reality and half fiction, I use components of photographs to create new and unique spaces. Although the collages are carefully assembled to resemble reality, the visual language of the cut and torn paper on a small scale is jarring and dreamlike. The physicality of the medium allows for a process of tactile immersion that recreates the sensation of being present in vacant spaces; the resulting fractured visual language emphasizes the rift between past and present. The final photographs of the sculpturettes are carefully composed to emphasize the contradictory nature of the missing place becoming real again for a fleeting moment - after the diorama is photographed, it is disassembled and recycled. Reality and imagination are briefly blended in an exploration of what could have been.