# WORKING WITH IMAGE AND TEXT
Kelli Connell & Special Guests

Session 3 - Zoom Chat

10:03:48 From Richard Klein : Dallas
10:03:50 From Elvia Mendoza : Hi everyone! Zooming in from Chicago!
10:03:52 From carolynknorr : Hello from Middleton, WI
10:03:58 From Julia Martin : Good morning from Phoenix 🌵
10:03:59 From Yvette Meltzer : Durham NC
10:04:04 From joanbenney : Hi from sf !
10:04:05 From Eric McCollum : Goode morning from Santa Fe!
10:04:15 From Eric Atie : Hello from Tucson!
10:04:15 From Eri Bakkum : Chicago!
10:04:26 From Tracy Barbutes : Good morning from California
10:04:45 From Anne Houang : Good morning! Anne from sunny Austin.
10:05:06 From bethberolzheimer : Hi Everyone!
10:09:27 From Brian Jones : Hello from Sarasota
10:09:48 From Akilah : Hi hello from Atlanta Ga
10:13:47 From Lauren Crew : Are we writing to this and the photo we brought?
10:14:42 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Yes please use the photo you brought
10:17:04 From Anson Koch-Rein : I had to restart reading the Kuhn text several times because I got flooded by memories of family photos and family stories – eventually, the only way to focus on Kuhn's writing was to read it aloud. A very interesting experience of how evocative what she was saying was experientially to the point that I had to trick myself into absorbing it intellectually.
10:24:41 From Akilah : Reacted to "I had to restart reading the Kuhn text several times because I got flooded by memories of family photos and family stories – eventually, the only way to focus on Kuhn's writing was to read it aloud. A very interesting experience of how evocative what she was saying was experientially to the point that I had to trick myself into absorbing it intellectually." with ❤️
10:24:53 From Akilah : These are so bizarre in the best way.
10:28:18 From Tracy Barbutes : Reacted to "Hello from Sarasota" with 👋🏻
10:28:22 From Tracy Barbutes : Reacted to "I had to restart rea..." with ❤️
10:28:25 From Tracy Barbutes : Removed a ❤️ reaction from "I had to restart rea..."
10:29:33 From Vikesh : Wow!
10:29:38 From alfredo : Reacted to "I had to restart rea..." with 👍
10:29:59 From Akilah : what was that residency again?
10:30:14 From Ella Baum : Women's Studio Workshop
10:30:16 From sarahstellino : Replying to "what was that reside..."

Women’s studio workshop

10:30:19 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Reacted to "Women's Studio Workshop" with 👍🏼

10:30:32 From Akilah : Reacted to "Women's Studio Workshop" with 👍🏼

10:30:32 From Selma Fernandez Richter : https://wsworkshop.org

10:30:36 From Akilah : Reacted to "https://wsworkshop.org" with ❤️

10:32:01 From Ella Baum : What was the artist's full name of the book shaped like a house?

10:33:14 From Michael Prais : Clarissa Sligh?

10:33:21 From Ella Baum : Reacted to "Clarissa Sligh?" with 👍

10:34:21 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Replying to "Clarissa Sligh?"
yes

10:34:24 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Please be sure check out the resource document on our course homepage which includes all the resources mentioned during class

10:34:30 From Ella Baum : Reacted to "Please check out t..." with 👍

10:35:44 From Elvia Mendoza : I missed the name of this  one.

10:35:55 From Vikesh : Nox by Anne Carson

10:36:35 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Anne Carson
Nox - New Directions, 2010
Hardcover, accordion-fold book in a box, 192 pages

10:39:09 From Richard Klein : Just ordered Nox, $55.00

10:39:16 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Reacted to "Just ordered Nox, $55.00" with ❤️

10:39:51 From Melissa Schelling : Reacted to "Just ordered Nox, $55.00" with ❤️

10:41:14 From Akilah Callahan : The golfing photo lives rent free in my mind

10:41:38 From Jennifer N. Fish : Reacted to "The golfing photo li..." with ❤️

10:42:51 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Reacted to "The golfing photo lives rent free in my mind" with ❤️

10:44:03 From Jane Messinger : Reacted to "The golfing photo lives rent free in my mind" with ❤️

10:47:32 From Anson Koch-Rein : Reacted to "The golfing photo lives rent free in my mind" with 😂

10:52:13 From Anson Koch-Rein : eggs poached in beer?!?!?!?!!?!?

10:52:57 From Jennifer N. Fish : We will begin the Q&A in 10 minutes. Feel free to share your questions and comments here.

10:56:44 From joanbenney : Amazing use of a cookbook

10:57:00 From Michael Prais : Replying to "Amazing use of a cookbook"
👌

11:00:23 From Vikesh : Thank you, Kelli!

11:00:35 From amara higuera | she/her : Reacted to "The golfing photo ..." with ❤️

11:01:00 From Nikka Randhawa : I guess I'm hoping to see the process of working through image and text relationships developing.

11:01:03 From carolyn sherer : can you post the assignment

11:01:45 From Michael Prais : What was the theme today? (I joined late.)

11:03:02 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Family, and the use of family archives. And we will cover living with a disability during the second part

11:03:17 From Akilah Callahan : Reacted to "Family, and the use of family archives. And we will cover living with a disability during the second part" with ❤️

11:03:18 From Michael Prais : Replying to "Family, and the use of family archives. And we will cover living with a disability during the second part"
Thx

11:03:24 From Jill Holslin : I work with a lot of historical documents, and I notice that I sometimes treat these texts as images. I do pull out specific phrases and play with them as poetry, but for the most part, the text becomes image…. including typography and 19th century layout conventions. Do you have any ideas about how to work with these kinds of historical texts "as" text?

11:03:38 From Akilah Callahan : Reacted to "I work with a lot of historical documents, and I notice that I sometimes treat these texts as images. I do pull out specific phrases and play with them as poetry, but for the most part, the text becomes image…. including typography and 19th century layout conventions. Do you have any ideas about how to work with these kinds of historical texts "as" text?" with ❤️

11:03:48 From Vikesh : My question: One challenge I am having as I work on my maquette is finding that balance of text with image. That is, how does one find the balance of elucidating the pictures without turning them into captions? My concern lies with allowing viewers to find their own interpretations and not making a book that is ultimately too prescriptive. Text is important to my project as it's personal and explores my family. A good comparison would be Pictures from Home or La Toya Ruby Frazier's "The Notion of Family."
How do you approach finding the balance so that the photographs do not become too "fixed" by the text that accompanies them?

11:04:28 From joanbenney : Exciting !

11:05:35 From Akilah Callahan : Reacted to "My question: One challenge I am having as I work on my maquette is finding that balance of text with image. That is, how does one find the balance of elucidating the pictures without turning them into captions? My concern lies with allowing viewers to find their own interpretations and not making a book that is ultimately too prescriptive. Text is important to my project as it's personal and explores my family. A good comparison would be Pictures from Home or La Toya Ruby Frazier's "The Notion of Family."
How do you approach finding the balance so that the photographs do not become too "fixed" by the text that accompanies them?" with ❤️

11:06:21 From Ella Baum : As an amerging photographer I am curious if Kelli could speak quickly to the trajectory of her career as a photographer and as an image-text artist? How did she arrive here, how did she find her audience for the work?

11:06:39 From Jane Messinger : Reacted to "My question: One challenge I am having as I work on my maquette is finding that balance of text with image. That is, how does one find the balance of elucidating the pictures without turning them into captions? My concern lies with allowing viewers to find their own interpretations and not making a book that is ultimately too prescriptive. Text is important to my project as it's personal and explores my family. A good comparison would be Pictures from Home or La Toya Ruby Frazier's "The Notion of Family."
How do you approach finding the balance so that the photographs do not become too "fixed" by the text that accompanies them?" with ❤️

11:07:24 From Ella Baum : Reacted to "Family, and the us..." with 👍

11:07:46 From Akilah Callahan : What are you reading? What have you read recently that you're still thinking about?

11:07:48 From alfredo : I 'amcurrently finishing a photobook where I've been gradually removing text because I feel the images are stronger without it. Do you think there's a risk of overusing text in photographic work? How do you recognize when text adds another dimension versus when it starts limiting the interpretation of the images?

11:08:58 From Akilah Callahan : Body doubling!

11:09:09 From Jane Messinger : Replying to "My question: One cha..."
I like your question. I've been thinking about this too. And I felt that something Parlato alluded to last session was the idea of giving the text it's own space - that it's not necessarily a caption, unless you intend it that way?

11:09:39 From sarahstellino : Reacted to "My question: One challenge I am having as I work on my maquette is finding that balance of text with image. That is, how does one find the balance of elucidating the pictures without turning them into captions? My concern lies with allowing viewers to find their own interpretations and not making a book that is ultimately too prescriptive. Text is important to my project as it's personal and explores my family. A good comparison would be Pictures from Home or La Toya Ruby Frazier's "The Notion of Family."
How do you approach finding the balance so that the photographs do not become too "fixed" by the text that accompanies them?" with ❤️

11:10:13 From Michael Prais : @Vikesh. Kelli, how do your examples divide between writing about photos and writing then connecting (Sontag, On Interpretation)

11:11:22 From Richard Klein : I love the structure of a ritual as it the only way I can be consistent

11:11:31 From Jane Messinger : Reacted to "I love the structure of a ritual as it the only way I can be consistent" with ❤️

11:12:19 From alfredo : Kelli, the photobooks are fascinating, but I'm curious about the decisions behind using text. How does it expand or transform the meaning of the images, and when might the photographs be stronger without it? at least from your opinion

11:14:14 From Vikesh : Replying to "My question: One challenge I am having as I work on my maquette is finding that balance of text with image. That is, how does one find the balance of elucidating the pictures without turning them into captions? My concern lies with allowing viewers to find their own interpretations and not making a book that is ultimately too prescriptive. Text is important to my project as it's personal and explores my family. A good comparison would be Pictures from Home or La Toya Ruby Frazier's "The Notion of Family."
How do you approach finding the balance so that the photographs do not become too "fixed" by the text that accompanies them?"
Thank you for answering my question and providing practical steps, Kelli!

11:14:39 From Akilah Callahan : On advice of a friend, I had a bunch of my pictures printed at the drug store and it works perfectly for that application

11:16:07 From joanbenney : I love how she notes her mother has placed it in a completely different time ....

11:16:43 From alfredo : Reacted to "My question: One cha..." with 👍

11:17:10 From alfredo : Thanks Kelli

11:18:15 From Jane Messinger : Reacted to "I 'amcurrently finishing a photobook where I've been gradually removing text because I feel the images are stronger without it. Do you think there's a risk of overusing text in photographic work? How do you recognize when text adds another dimension versus when it starts limiting the interpretation of the images?" with ❤️

11:18:46 From bethberolzheimer : Reacted to "I love the structure of a ritual as it the only way I can be consistent" with ❤️

11:19:46 From bethberolzheimer : Reacted to "Kelli, the photobooks are fascinating, but I'm curious about the decisions behind using text. How does it expand or transform the meaning of the images, and when might the photographs be stronger without it? at least from your opinion" with ❤️

11:44:38 From Akilah Callahan : Oh wow, I got Homesick many years ago at the Atlanta Photo Book festival. Gorgeous book.

11:49:05 From Lesly Deschler Canossi : Gorgeous work of love

11:49:13 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Reacted to "Gorgeous work of love" with ❤️

11:49:57 From joanbenney : Reacted to "Gorgeous work of love" with ❤️

11:50:06 From Akilah Callahan : Reacted to "Gorgeous work of love" with ❤️

11:50:43 From Jane Messinger : Reacted to "Gorgeous work of love" with ❤️

11:51:13 From Jenne Hsien Patrick : RISOgraph prints!❤️

11:51:19 From Akilah Callahan : Reacted to "RISOgraph prints!" with ❤️

11:55:13 From Akilah Callahan : How much did you talk with your parents about what you were doing/your process? Did they have any say over the images of them that went into the world? I think my first instinct when photographing family is to protect their  image of themselves, even if that image is in conflict with what I'm wanting to do with my pictures or how I see them.

11:55:30 From Anne Houang : Reacted to "How much did you talk with your parents about what you were doing/your process? Did they have any say over the images of them that went into the world? I think my first instinct when photographing family is to protect their  image of themselves, even if that image is in conflict with what I'm wanting to do with my pictures or how I see them." with ❤️

11:59:15 From bethberolzheimer : Gorgeous display!

12:06:14 From Danae Renieri : 1. Your work explores deeply personal themes of care and chronic illness. For creators navigating these narratives, how do you find the boundary between what to share and what must remain private to protect the rights of children or those we care for? Especially when the story belongs not just to the one being taken care of, but also to the caregiver?
2. As a caregiver, time is scarce, and there is a real anxiety about not having enough time to make the work we want to leave behind. Given your own experiences, how do you build a meaningful creative practice when your time and energy are severely limited?
Thank you so much for your openness!

12:06:22 From Julia Martin : You talked about how you weren't comfortable writing for your first book. What changed with later work? How did you develop your writing style?

12:06:58 From Akilah Callahan : Reacted to "1. Your work explores deeply personal themes of care and chronic illness. For creators navigating these narratives, how do you find the boundary between what to share and what must remain private to protect the rights of children or those we care for? Especially when the story belongs not just to the one being taken care of, but also to the caregiver?
2. As a caregiver, time is scarce, and there is a real anxiety about not having enough time to make the work we want to leave behind. Given your own experiences, how do you build a meaningful creative practice when your time and energy are severely limited?
Thank you so much for your openness!" with ❤️

12:20:10 From Michael Prais : Do you have a procedure for imaging your self portraits to set them up?

12:24:49 From Luis Baeza : Beautiful work. Thanks for sharing Sara.

12:25:24 From Jill Holslin : Thank you so much!

12:25:25 From carolynknorr : Thank you, Sara.

12:25:25 From Michael Prais : Thank you!

12:25:25 From Jane Messinger : Thank you so much Sara, amazing work.

12:25:32 From joanbenney : Profound . . . Thank you so much Sara !

12:25:37 From Allison Knight : Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful work and journey!

12:26:04 From Lynne Breitfeller : Thank you

12:26:06 From Vikesh : Thank you, Sara.

12:26:42 From Anne Houang : Thank you Sara for sharing your images and words.

12:27:38 From Jill Holslin : I love your reflections on the "intrusion" of the camera and tripod into this very policed space of the hospital. Were you considering specific visual strategies  or strategies and genres in the history of photography to recontextualize the hospital scene? You recode the family portrait and the mother daughter portrait beautifully within this space.

12:28:02 From Larry Wolf (he/him) : How wonderful to have had the images with the text read to us.. the voice of the photographer along with their photographs... given current tech, perhaps the "book" includes/accesses an audio file? ... thanks for the experience on this webcast

12:28:12 From amara higuera | she/her : Thank you Sara, I have not found a way to make work about my chronic illness but we need stories like yours, amazing.

12:28:17 From Michael Prais : Replying to "How wonderful to have had the images with the text read to us.. the voice of the photographer along with their photographs... given current tech, perhaps the "book" includes/accesses an audio file? ... thanks for the experience on this webcast"
❤️

12:28:20 From yvette meltzer : Remarkable, Sara!  In awe of the quantity of impressive work that you have produced while in treatment for MS...Thank you for sharing with us.

12:28:27 From bethberolzheimer : Reacted to "How wonderful to have had the images with the text read to us.. the voice of the photographer along with their photographs... given current tech, perhaps the "book" includes/accesses an audio file? ... thanks for the experience on this webcast" with
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12:28:36 From joanbenney : Reacted to "Remarkable, Sara!  In awe of the quantity of impressive work that you have produced while in treatment for MS... Thank you for sharing with us." with ❤️

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12:29:00 From Janice Koskey : The nurse speaking about Nostradamus really cut into my mind. People don't realize how their words can affect people.

12:29:27 From Susan kae Grant : Beautiful, honest, courageous, and authentic text.. Thank you Sara. The text and images feel equally balanced in that they each provide a significant contribution to the project/book. I loved hearing you read your texts and can't wait to see your book as it all comes together. Adding an audio component could be be a powerful and captivating contribution to your project.

12:29:46 From bethberolzheimer : Thank you Sara,

12:29:46 From Vikesh : Reacted to "Beautiful, honest, courageous, and authentic text.. Thank you Sara. The text and images feel equally balanced in that they each provide a significant contribution to the project/book. I loved hearing you read your texts and can't wait to see your book as it all comes together. Adding an audio component could be be a powerful and captivating contribution to your project." with ❤️

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12:30:10 From Melissa Schelling : Reacted to "Beautiful, honest, courageous, and authentic text.. Thank you Sara. The text and images feel equally balanced in that they each provide a significant contribution to the project/book. I loved hearing you read your texts and can't wait to see your book as it all comes together. Adding an audio component could be be a powerful and captivating contribution to your project." with ❤️

12:30:20 From Richard Klein : This project is so revealing and personal, thanks for your courage

12:30:25 From Janice Koskey : Good idea to read our texts aloud

12:30:47 From Jill Holslin : I love the interplay between the different voices and types of texts here—it becomes more powerful as one speaker's words make meaning in light of others.

12:31:07 From bethberolzheimer : Appreciated your playfulness with the chronology. For instance showing your child and then later questioning if you would ever have a family.

12:31:27 From Danae Renieri : Reacted to "Appreciated your playfulness with the chronology. For instance showing your child and then later questioning if you would ever have a family." with 👍

12:31:33 From alfredo : Sara, brave and beautiful work, your work is a Poem.

Have you considered separating your texts from the images, as a parallel text that can images and texts read on its own, almost a metalanguage?
Thank you,
it really touched me.

12:31:37 From Janice Koskey : How much of the work were you doing for your own growth or well being and how much for the benefit of others?

12:31:49 From Danae Renieri : Reacted to "How wonderful to have had the images with the text read to us.. the voice of the photographer along with their photographs... given current tech, perhaps the "book" includes/accesses an audio file? ... thanks for the experience on this webcast" with 👍

12:32:32 From bethberolzheimer : Will you be showing the portraits of the nurses?

12:35:45 From Eric McCollum : You speak about reaching a wider audience, an audience of real people - how do you see your work being seen and understood by the medical community - by the nurses and physicians who work in oncology. Are you making specific efforts to reach the medical community?

12:39:16 From amara higuera | she/her : Your reading made me think of this essay about why its hard to write about illness: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/10/12/why-is-illness-so-hard-to-write-about

12:40:13 From Cheryl Van Hooven : Amazing, Sara, and of course very brave and generous. Thank you.

12:40:55 From Janice Koskey : Reacted to "Beautiful, honest, courageous, and authentic text.. Thank you Sara. The text and images feel equally balanced in that they each provide a significant contribution to the project/book. I loved hearing you read your texts and can't wait to see your book as it all comes together. Adding an audio component could be be a powerful and captivating contribution to your project." with ❤️

12:42:35 From alfredo : Reacted to "How wonderful to hav..." with ❤️

12:42:38 From alfredo : Removed a ❤️ reaction from "How wonderful to hav..."

12:52:38 From Mary Farmilant : It was striking to hear that making the images helped you. Are you familiar with the research on art and the brain, like the book Your Brain on Art, or with arts-on-prescription programs? Your project seems like a real-life example of it.

12:58:29 From Michael Prais : Wonderful! Thank you!

12:58:29 From alfredo : Thanks Sara! Hope to see more of your work.

12:58:34 From Eric Atie : Thank you, Sara!

12:58:35 From bethberolzheimer : Thanks for sharing such inspirational Work. Our bodies are always changing!

12:59:04 From Melissa Schelling : Thank you Sara. Captivating. Aloha

12:59:05 From Janice Koskey : Thank you for your authenticity.

12:59:08 From joanbenney : Thank you so much Sara , Kelli , la Luz !!!1....what an amazing way to begin this day ....so much to keep learning about here ...

12:59:15 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Reacted to "Thank you so much Sara , Kelli , la Luz !!!1....what an amazing way to begin this day ....so much to keep learning about here ..." with ❤️

12:59:38 From Susan kae Grant : Powerful and inspiring day - Thank you Kelli & Sara!

13:00:10 From Cheryl Van Hooven : Your voice is as compelling as the images and writing. Would be wonderful for an audio component!

13:00:35 From Jill Holslin : Absolutely inspiring work, and so powerful. Thank you so much!

13:00:40 From Patricia McElroy : Thank you so much Sara I very much appreciate your work and how you also want your work to help others. Very compelling!

13:00:45 From Julia Martin : Thank you, Sara!

13:00:48 From Luis Baeza : Thank you Sara. Very inspiring.

13:00:52 From Jill Holslin : Thank you, Sara!

13:00:53 From Alexander Iglesias : Thank you everyone

13:00:55 From joanbenney : Thank you so much !!!!!

13:01:05 From Allison Knight : Thank you Sara!

13:01:06 From Akilah Callahan : Thanks Sara and Kelli!

13:01:07 From Vikesh : Thank you, Kelli & Sara!

13:01:11 From Anne Houang : Thank you!

13:01:11 From Eric McCollum : Thank you . Sara - such moving work.

13:01:16 From Brian Jones : Thank you

13:01:23 From joanbenney : This class is amazing ❤️

13:01:25 From Tracy Barbutes : Thank you!

13:01:31 From Selma Fernandez Richter : Reacted to "This class is amazing ❤️" with ❤️

13:01:41 From Elvia Mendoza : Thank you! This was wonderful!

13:01:48 From Jane Messinger : Thank you!

13:01:51 From Ella Baum : Thank you! This was truly incredible