

MEET THE ARTIST

Alisha Francis



Alisha Francis *Oudem* (still) 2019. Comet Bay College.

ABOUT THE ARTWORK

What motivated you to produce your artwork?

I wanted to create something that was not only important to me but also reflected an issue that is often pushed aside in society.

Did your initial idea change during the art making process?

My ideas of how it was going to look did change but the meaning stayed the same. My original idea was to have it based on one subject, doing a contemporary dance, but I realised I didn't have much time to choreograph the dance.

When I first heard the spoken word poem, *A Safe Place*, I instantly changed my mind, and knew that I wanted to base the video off that audio instead.

If you were to choose one artist that had the greatest influence on your piece, who would it be and why?

In terms of the aesthetic, my artwork was heavily influenced by Canadian photographer Petra Collins. When viewing her work, I fell in love with her short film, *A Love Story*, with Selena Gomez. It was both beautiful and uncomfortable at the same time.

I really wanted that for *Oudem* in a way; something that was visually engaging but emotionally confronting. A lot of Petra Collins' work also uses old

Seeing my artwork in an exhibition is great, but knowing that I am able to share such an important message that means a lot to many is what matters more.



mediums of film and photography, which I honestly adore.

How did you decide on your choice of materials?

I had been practising with 35mm film photography a lot and playing around with my friends' old cameras. Film and photography are the two things I enjoy most, and it seemed like the best way to communicate the message.

What advice would you give future Art students who are keen to exhibit their work in shows like *Pulse Perspectives*? What advice do you have for teachers?

My advice is to just create something that means a lot to you. Seeing my

artwork in an exhibition is great, but knowing that I am able to share such an important message that means a lot to many is what matters more.

My advice to teachers is to support your students. Producing an artwork while doing things like ATAR or having other commitments outside of school is not easy. I was so lucky to have a teacher who supported me, pushed me and encouraged me throughout my journey of *Oudem*.

[Learn more](#) about Petra Collins

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ABOUT THE ARTS

Why is art and creativity important at times of uncertainty and change?

It gives a voice to those who don't have one. It positions viewers to look at things in a new way, as well as, opens our eyes to things that are happening around us.

In what ways do you think art influences how you feel about yourself, and how you connect to others?

Art brings me comfort in a way. It's my way of showing how I feel or what I have experienced.

Being able to express that has had an immense impact on my mental health. It's also an amazing way to connect with people as they find ways to relate to you. You begin to realise you aren't alone and there are people in this world who could be going through the same things as you.

What career path are you embarking on, and has The Arts impacted your choice?

I want to be a journalist, and hopefully have my own magazine one day. The Arts have definitely impacted that

What do you feel young people need from AGWA at this time of rapid change while galleries are physically closed?

The sudden change is definitely hard but being able to still stay connected

to other artists is so important. We all need to know we aren't alone and continue to inspire each other. I think it would be cool to allow all young artists to share their "Isolation Art" with each other somehow.

Is there a song, book, memory, feeling, artist or state of mind that inspires

your practice that might support other artists to create at home?

What always gets me in the mood to create is classical music or French music. I also love to just place myself in a calm setting, whether that be on my bedroom floor or outside in the garden. It surprisingly helps and gets the creative juices flowing!

You begin to realise you aren't alone and there are people in this world who could be going through the same things as you.

choice because I not only want to voice my experiences and emotions but give others a voice too. I love supporting and working with other creatives in Perth, so it's my dream to start a magazine that features a wide range of artists and small businesses. To know that what I create, capture, and write about can inspire people one day brings me so much joy.



Test shots for Alisha Francis *Oudem* 2019. Comet Bay College.

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Oudem

Single channel video.

In the Bible, the Hebrew word for red is 'oudem'. This can also mean flesh.

The intention of *Oudem* is to comment on the issues of domestic violence perpetrated by parents and caregivers within what should be a safe home setting. I wish to represent the feeling of being unsafe in the one place a person should feel safe.

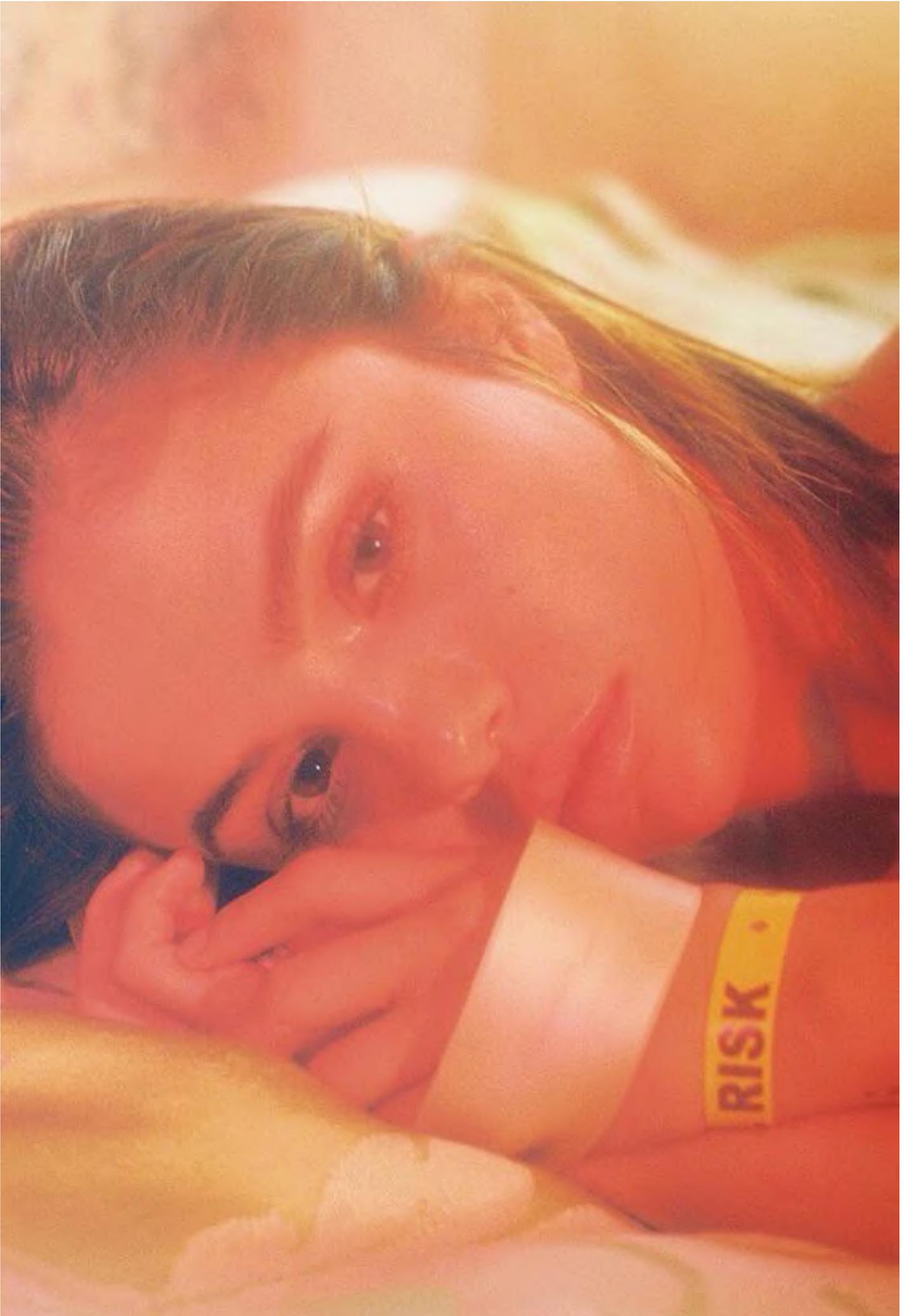
I filmed my work on an old camcorder to give the impression of home videos and overlaid crackling sounds to reinforce this, while the spoken word poem 'A safe place' can be heard in the background.



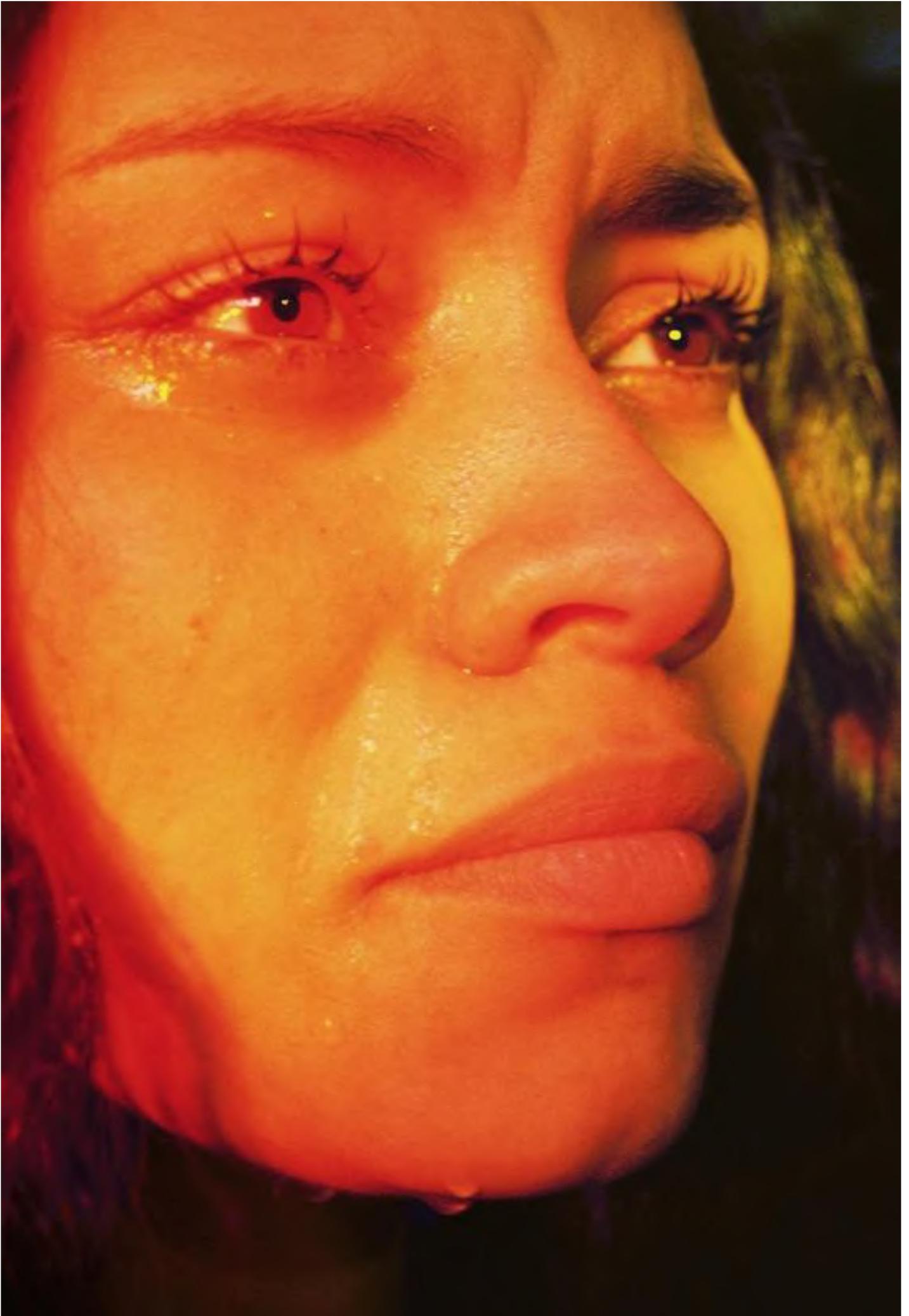
Alisha Francis *Oudem* (still) 2019. Comet Bay College.

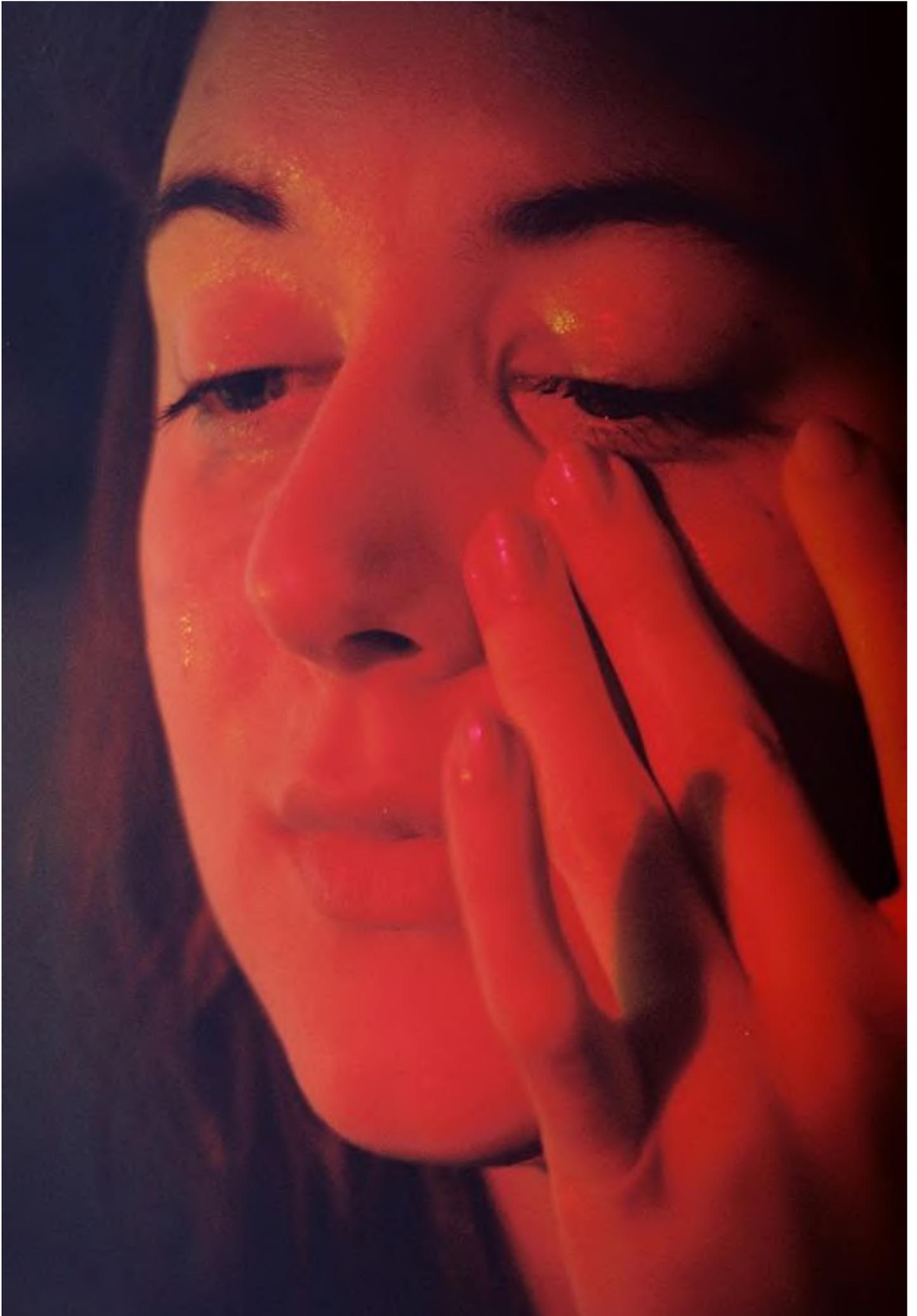


Alisha Francis Oudem (still) 2019. Comet Bay College. Rotate 90° to view.



Mood board image (1) accompanying **Alisha Francis Oudem** 2019. Comet Bay College.





Mood board image (3) accompanying **Alisha Francis Oudem** 2019. Comet Bay College.



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