

Memorial to the Pigeon

The inspiration came from my mother's grief of losing her mother, and 2 siblings who lived in the mainland China within just a year. For several times, panic attack kicked in whenever I imagined what if I had to live all alone without family members.

In order to visualize a mournful atmosphere, and loneliness, I deliberated on some compositions and lighting effects for photo shooting. The big problem is, all I could use was just still images, I struggled to stitch them together just to bring up a chronological sequence which tells story. The overall concept of what I wanted to create already took shape but to construct them effectively was hard. So, I moved on to developing the narrative thickness by vertical narrative. I arranged some environment description to amplify the hollowness of this character. I used wide angle lens to exaggerate how tall and cramped the buildings look, to make the audience feel unsettled. Most shots of the character were taken from a far distance with a normal lens to mimic a subjective perspective, like you are guarding this old lady but don't want to disrupt her at the same time. I also used reddish lighting that is out of the frame to let people grab an idea of her seeking for comfort from religious belief.

This montage presents a looping story of a character who keeps recalling her lovely grandchild. I used leaf and pigeon as a metaphor of the deceased. When the dead pigeon shows up, I kept the frame small to create a sense of distance from the audience because as the metaphor gets more realistic, it would be hard to accept the loss of life. This story happens from the first day time to the next day time. Her remembrance of past things repeats.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/a8V5OhHJIAA>