

my first year

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In my younger years, my family often commented on my seemingly exceptional ability to create and retain memories. As my personal capabilities have increased over time, I've become more interested in the nature of human memory development. Through researching topics such as childhood amnesia and autobiographical memory, I have gained insight into my own formation of memories and how these memories greatly affect my identity in the present. I found that in understanding the reasoning behind my retention of certain memories I have learned more about emotional responses I have to events in the present.

My personal research included documentation of my past; because of this, my piece is not an original creation, but rather a sort of "time capsule," a compilation of tangible recollections that tell stories of my past. To do this, I collected pictures, videos, journal entries, and letters from my past that highlight my perception of events more than the events themselves. I have created a sort of experiential memoir out of these pieces of my past that provides viewers with an intimate insight into my life. The movie, a compilation of home videos recorded by various family members and nannies, displays the joy of my infantile and toddler years. The two side walls include pictures that span the course of my life. I exclusively chose pictures that include me as the subject, rather than my usual role of photographer to highlight my personal change over time. The stars hanging from the ceiling are made from letters sent to me by people who are no longer in my life, but have a lasting impact on me. Finally, the journals on the coffee table are the most intimate piece of my work, as they are the only documentation created by me.

In creating this installation, I have provided myself with an answer to the question, "*How does my notion of the past affect my present?*" It is my wish that, in experiencing this piece, I provide others, and especially those closest to me, with answers as well.

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