

Hi there,

Thank you for
taking the time
to see my ideas
and process for
this project
—here's how
I started:

BROCKHAMPTON

ARTIST

SATURATION III

ALBUM

15

OF TRACKS

BOOGIE
ZIPPER
JOHNNY
LIQUID
CINEMA 1
STUPID
BLEACH
ALASKA
HOTTIE
CINEMA 2
SISTER/NATION
RENTAL
STAINS
CINEMA 3
TEAM

TRACKLIST

My mind immediately went to BROCKHAMPTON and their trilogy of albums that they released throughout 2017: SATURATION.

However, I just as quickly realized that this was a combined total of 48 tracks and that was just way too much (maybe I'll do the other two albums another time).

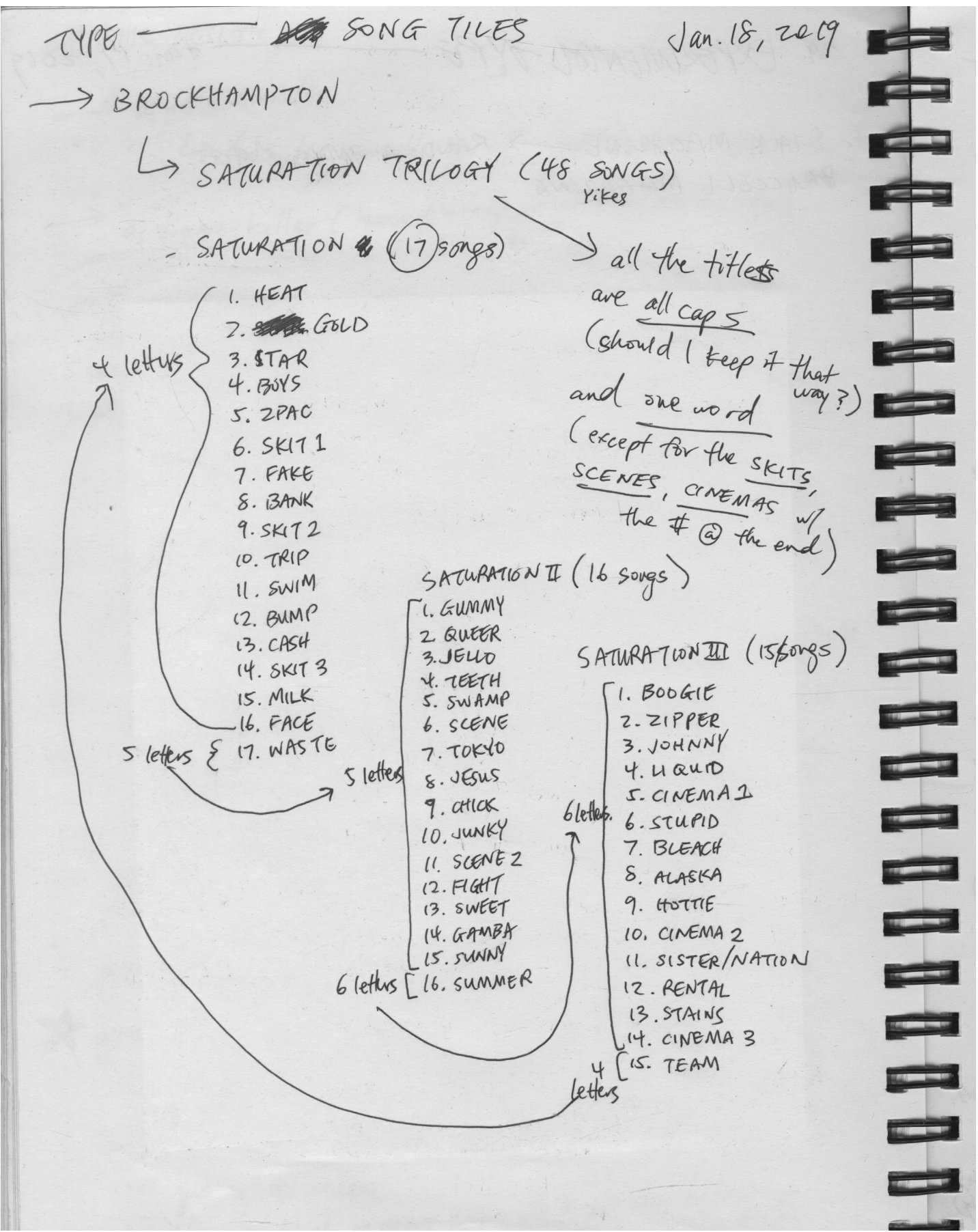
THOUGHTS

The titles of each track is generally 6 letters each (except for the numbered skits—CINEMA 1, 2, and 3—a two-part track—SISTER/NATION—and the final track—TEAM.

All the titles are also officially written in all caps, so I feel that I'll also need to keep my type all caps.

The titling of the SATURATION trilogy also follows a pattern, and reflects the way that each of the albums are connected to one another through the number of letters of each track. The first album is all 4 letters, except the last which is 5; the second is all 5 letters except the last which is 6; and the third is all 6 letters except the last which is 4, linking it back to the first album. The last song of the trilogy—TEAM—also ends on a sound sample that's used at the beginning of the first song of the trilogy—HEAT.

Not totally related, but interesting.



→ 48 songs is WAY too much and as much as I really want to do it, I don't think 4 weeks is enough time.

→ TOP CHOICE — SATURATION III

- 14 members / 15 (~~was~~ Ameer was still in the group) 15 ~~songs~~ ^{tracks} (12 songs, 3 skits)
↓
II. SISTER/NATION (2 in 1)

BOOGIE — - strong start a - energy level → 5/5
- chaotic - aggressive but positive? — BANGER
- brass/horn (maybe not the right word)
- deep synth [Kevin, Matt, Joba, Marilyn, Dom]

ZIPPER — - still keeping up high energy - energy level → 4/5
- distorted horn/whistle sound
- siren in bg of chorus
- high-pitched shout [Kevin, Joba, Matt, Marilyn]

JOHNNY — - high-pitched voice - scratch record - energy level → 3.5/5
- synth + ~~rich~~ rich beat - 90s sounds, digital, distorted
- trumpet/horn [Kevin, Dom, Ameer, Matt, Joba] has ~~2~~ 2 distinct halves, (2nd = Joba)
↳ I just want space w/ my new best friend (in a shithead sense)

LIQUID — - dark - energy level → 3/5
- moody - high-pitched (I was playing rock paper scissors w/ imaginary friends)
- squeaking? shouts, disjointed [Ameer, Dom, Marilyn, Matt]

CINEMA 1 — - Robert speaking in Spanish about - energy level 4.5/5
- soft music, birds + kids in bg.
- melancholic, missing family, kinda violent imagery

STUPID — - mood restart - distorted high synth sounds - energy level → 4/5
- upbeat, not happy though - high-pitched keyboard + buzzes
[Marilyn, Ameer, Matt, Kevin, Dom]

BLEACH — - record scratch - smooth - energy level → 3/5
- groovy as fuck - sharp snare
- sad, melancholic - doorbell-sounding
- but the beat is bittersweet - the high pitched humming
- Ryan Beatty doing the hook [Matt, Marilyn, Ameer, Joba, Kevin]

ALASKA — - heavier beat - energy level → 2.5/5
- darker - slow beat
- high-pitched synth - ramps up into HOTTIE
[Ameer, Kevin, Joba, Matt]

HOTTIE — - cheery - energy level → 4/5
- faster, snappy beat - shimmering - Joba sings in bridge
- weird whistle sound (kind of shaky) "I just wanna know where the party @"
[Kevin, Dom, Joba, Marilyn] ↳ contrast between Joba's singing & other voice

CINEMA 2 — Robert talks about... depression? through a metaphor of missing out on his summer → reclusive

SISTER/NATION — - goes HARD - Joba talks about mood stabilizers. - energy level → 4/5
- dark, deep synth - ramps up to high pitched - fast, loud, abrasive, verse. chaotic digital noises
[~~Ameer~~, Joba, (Robert) Kevin, Matt, Dom, Ameer] ↳ But transitions from SISTER → NATION (beep)
- slower, "emptier", echo-y
- more atmospheric, dreamy

RENTAL — - opens w/ white noise - fades out 3.5
- groovy, bumping beat - energy level → 4/5
- synth bass - happier than most songs
- Matt's ~~drums~~ → singing (beautiful!) - record scratch and (like BLEACH)
[Kevin, Dom, Matt]

STAINS — - Matt is singing (again) → also Joba's - energy level → 3/5
- whining synth, slower beat
- "rounder"/softer beat
- "be there any minute I'd be on it in it baby"
↳ moves into higher energy w/ share
[Ameer, ~~Ashlan~~ Ashlan, Matt, Joba, Dom]

CINEMA 3 — Robert prays to God for guidance
→ feels/signifies the conclusion of the album and trilogy

TEAM — - BEARFACE: another ballad to end
- also a break, 2 sections (technically there are 2 songs — TEAM/EVANIE)

small medium large
2 3

iPhone
→ iTunes/Apple Music

I started by listening to the full album and writing down some quick thoughts about the sounds and the band members that perform on each of the tracks.

I still hadn't made any good connections between the songs and any visuals, so I continued brainstorming, picking at the lyrics.

DESCRIPTION

EXPERIMENTAL TYPE

Jan 19, 2019

→ sad, depressed, reclusive, summer shmoos. An apologetic
Repent^{Summer}

"Summer, lo siento" → CINEMA 2

↓
Summer, I'm sorry

↓
Summer was also the name of "Helmet Boy's" boyfriend
in the "Billy Star" 22-min visuals video

Kevin Abstract / Ian Simpson

→ what ~~am~~ I sorry for? what are people sorry for

→ collective energy (chaotic production energy)

→ "grungy" → they recorded everything in just one of the rooms in the house they were all living in

Being in the shadows? off to the side?

ALSO: All the titles are 6 letters except for TEAM (and the "CINEMA"s b/c they're numbered)

BL
EA
CH

→ looking @ all skits, including outside of SATURATION II

SC2
• Robert prays to God → wellness for his family
(Amen) → to get out of his darkness

C2 • Summer, I'm sorry / Lo siento

C1 • we're almost done guys, we're almost done

C1 • "blast" — "Gunpowder (and accidents)"
— "planes that fly over my house" — "cigarette"

C3 • "humble servant" — "feel weak" "feel powerless"
"pray for hope"

→ "better future" "better life" "love and kindness"

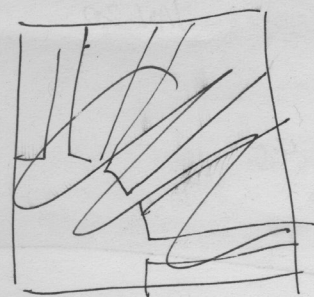
C3 • "Some say that the sky gets dark just before the light"

→ the light + shadow of the surface of water

↓
summer + reclusiveness

water { pool?
lake?
beach?

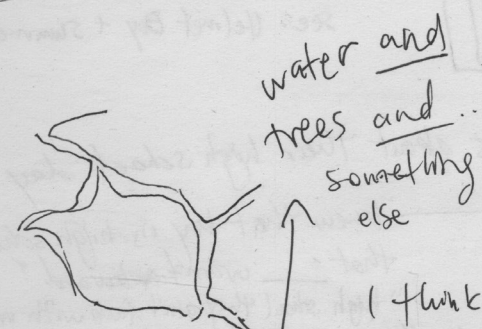
↓
living in the shadows
(but also still looking for light)
↓
hope



→ something radiating?
↓
bringing religious symbolism
from Christianity
↓
halos, light around heads
to show importance.

the tiles in a pool give a
good modular structure,
water distortion disrupts it.

→ distorting letter
forms to mimic the
pattern in water



maybe use the chlorine
pool blue? But
maybe that's overkill

*** maybe find a
way to use
multiple kinds/styles
of light/shadow
to distort the letters

I think using the usual motif(s)
of the water reflection/distortion
(and possibly the rays of light)
and changing the colour to reflect
the energy/mood/tone of the song
will be both individual + cohesive

→ also light/dark → the way that light shines
through tree leaves,
the shape of the shadows + light
on the ground
↓
patterned spots of light when there's
an eclipse ☾ (crescent light)

After going through some tracks—mainly the skits, including the ones from the other albums—I started latching onto some visual motifs and themes. Everything mostly came down to "Summer", and being a recluse, sad, and wanting to redeem oneself. I started looking at pool water and water in general to capture this. Being at the pool with your friends in summer is fun and social, but water also fits in with some religious symbolism, being baptized; rebirth.

DESCRIPTION

HOUSTON, TEXAS

JAN 20

- not caring about what's good or bad, just trying
- WATCHING THE SATURATION DOCUMENTARY
- all songs recorded in Romil's small room

→ "see the [roadside/wrong side] of the 45"

→ RENTAL, Matt Champion

→ American Road sign fonts:

- Clearview
- Highway Gothic

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

trucks + bumper stickers

→ head lights at night

→ SPORTS JERSEY FONTS

SPORT

→ jokes

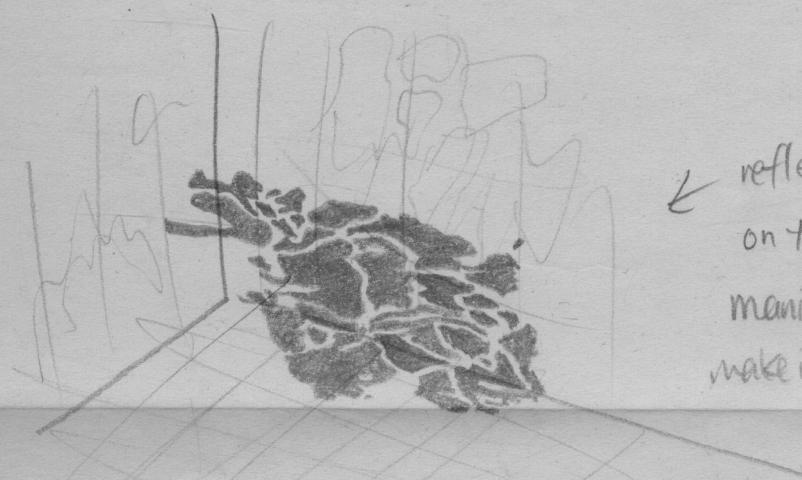
see: Helmet Boy + Summer

→ always making songs about their high school day
(esp. Kevin Abstract — "knew that boy in high school, man
that _____ wasn't awkward"
"high school they ain't fuck with me")

→ all the members were in their very early 20s, many
starting their careers in their teens.

TWO OPTIONS: 1. Same font + different light/form distortions
2. Different fonts + same light/form distortions.

→ might resolve the concerns I have about
being too repetitive BUT I'll have to play
around w/ the distortions to see if I'll even
preserve the letterforms enough to identify diff.
typefaces.



← reflections/light
on the tiles,
manipulate to
make it... isometric

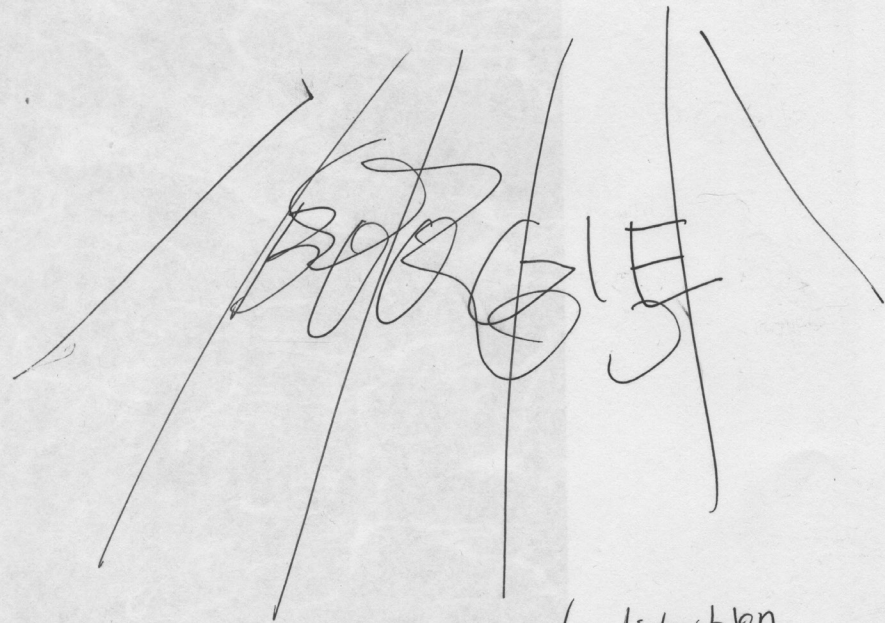
I thought about some other options: road signs, high school sports/varsity fonts, bumper stickers. In the end, I felt most attached to the idea of distorting letterforms with water, or maybe capturing that feeling digitally.

I knew that I'd be somewhat limited because I wouldn't be able to do this in an actual pool at a large scale, and at a small scale water tension is too high to get the more highly textured look of pool water.

DESCRIPTION

* look for imagery in the lyrics of each song that
relate to light/dark

↳ same font, diff. distortions/manipulations



perspective w/ distortion



~~THE~~ EXPERIMENTAL TYPE

Jan 22, ~~20~~19

BOOGIE

↳ look @ / for light / dark motifs in each song

ZIPPER

- joba - monocle, telescope

JOHNNY

- Kevin - "when I imagine myself on acid"

PROBLEM: on the songs w/
many of the boys their
verses are usually about
diff. topics

So how to
extract ONE visual
motif for each song

KEY WORDS / KEY... THINGS

- unaccepted - growth

- isolated
- (drinking? → necessary to get to work but also leisure)

- redemption
- reputation

- depression
- resilience

- Houston + Brockhampton factory

-new-found success

- boys being boys

- boys loving boys

- boys being introspective on their actions, feelings, + personalities.

AIN'T IT CHIEF!!!

$$A \mid B$$

make an
A/B list

There were two main options I was considering for how I would approach the idea of distorting letterforms: the first was to use the same distortion (probably water) for all the tiles but use different fonts and/or colours, and the second was using different kinds of distortions (maybe emulating the shadow and light of tree leaves, car headlights, etc.) but use the same font and possibly colour.

However, once I started to look for different motifs

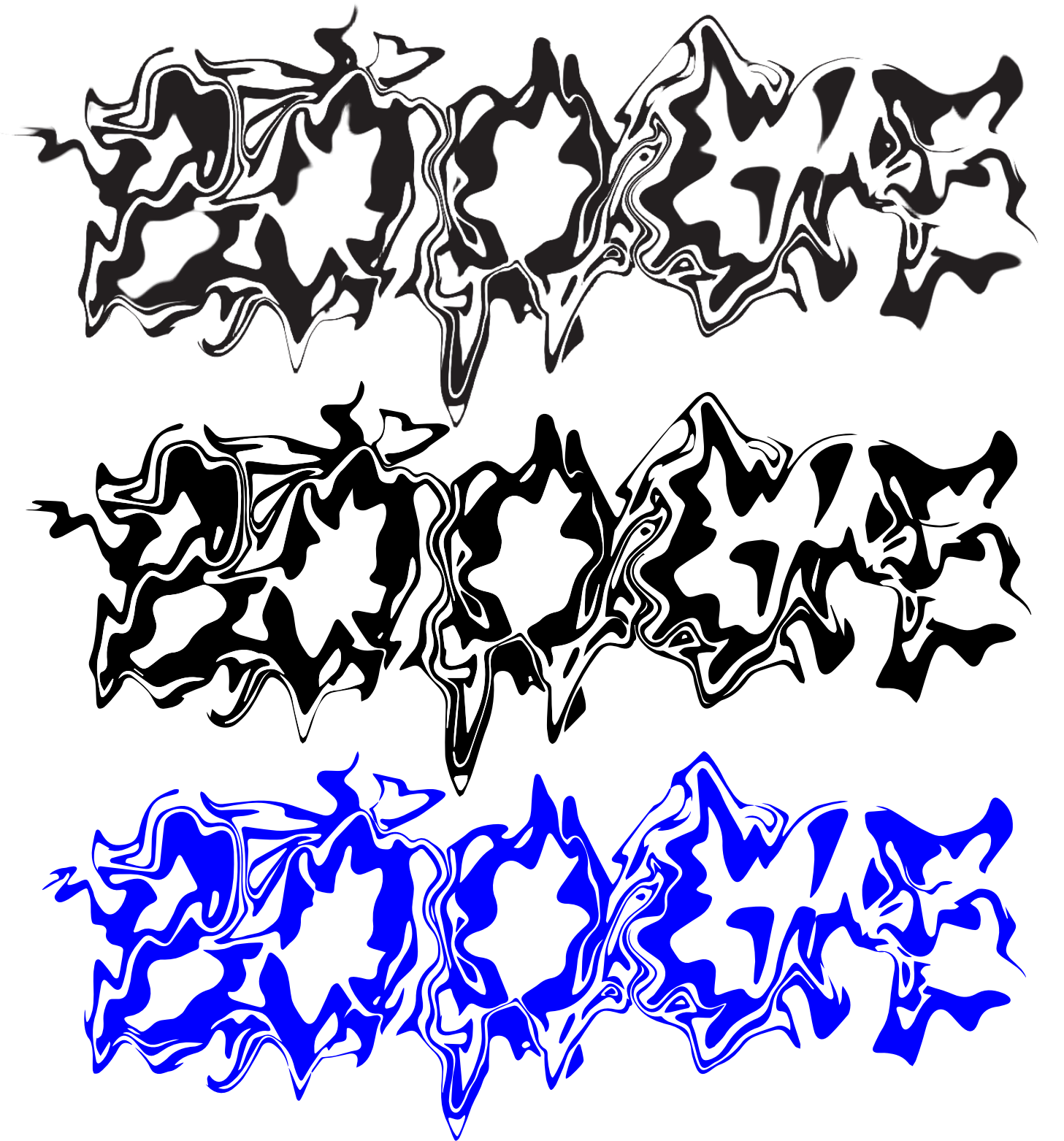
within the lyrics of each song that related to light and dark, I quickly realized that there weren't always strong themes that led through each track. Especially because there are usually many performers on each song, it's hard to summarize all their diverse verses through one person's lyrics. So, I decided to just start exploring what I could do with water and type.

DESCRIPTION

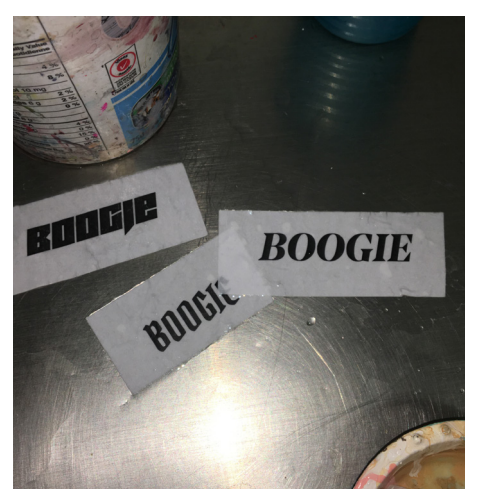
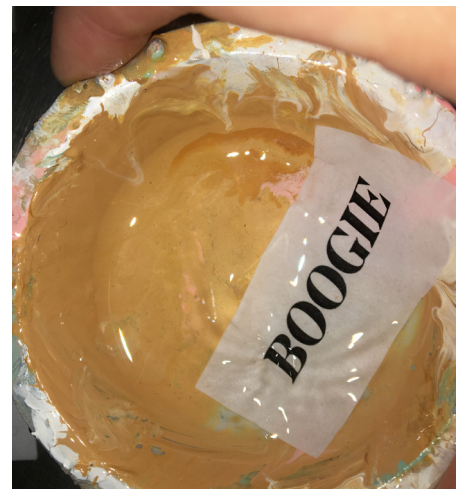
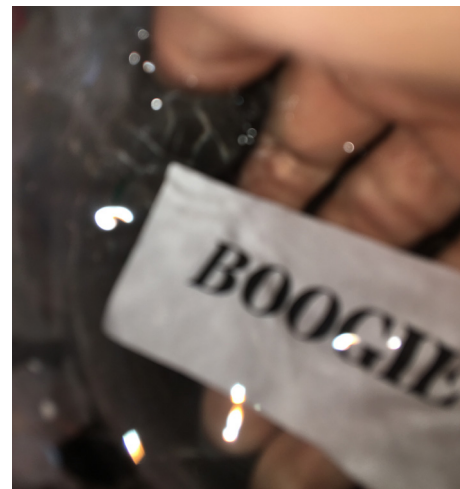
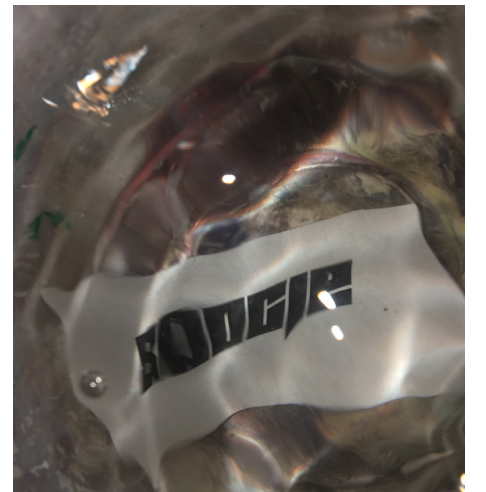
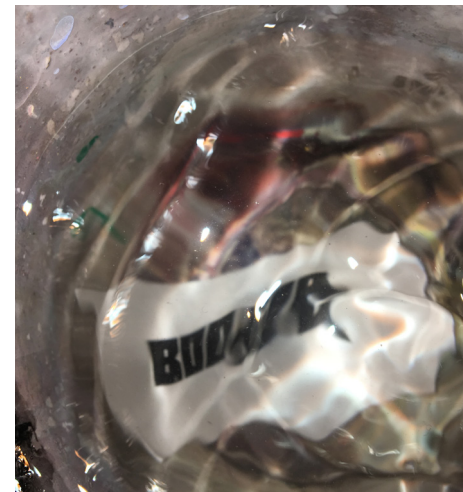


BOOGIE

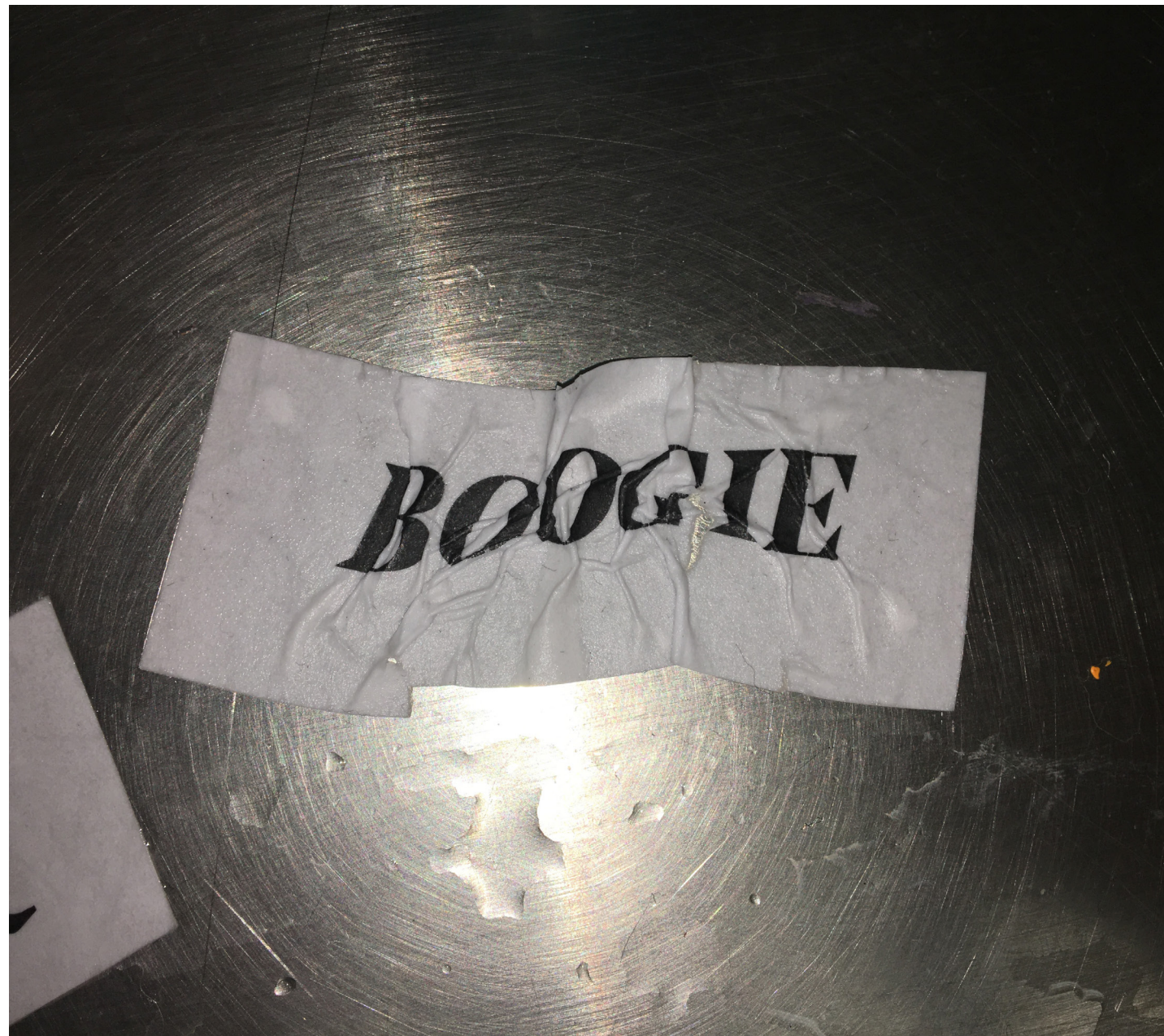
NOT LOVING IT



1. TRIED TO DISTORT IT IN PHOTOSHOP
2. HATED IT
3. MADE A MESS WITH THE LIQUIFY TOOL IN FRUSTRATION
4. STARTED TO MORPH SOME NEW LETTERFORMS WITH THE MESS
5. INTERESTING? BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS "IT" FOR THIS PROJECT

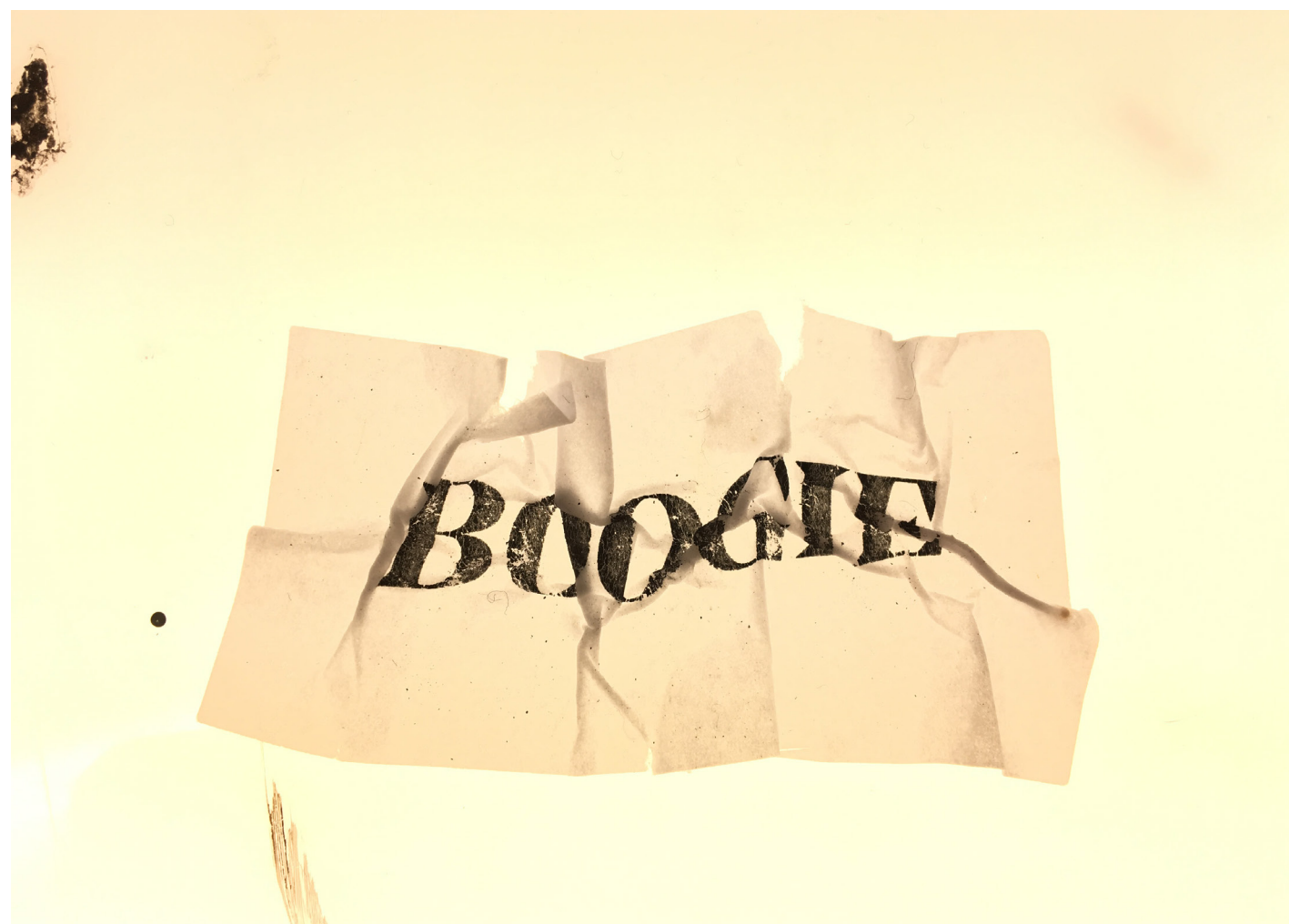


TOOK A BUNCH OF PICS (THERE WERE A LOT MORE
THAN THIS, BUT HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS)



As I was taking my photos, I realized that the soggy papers also made some interesting distortions when crumpled.

THOUGHTS



LOOKING AT HOW IT
LOOKS WHEN BACKLIT



SOME SCANS



SOME MORE SCANS

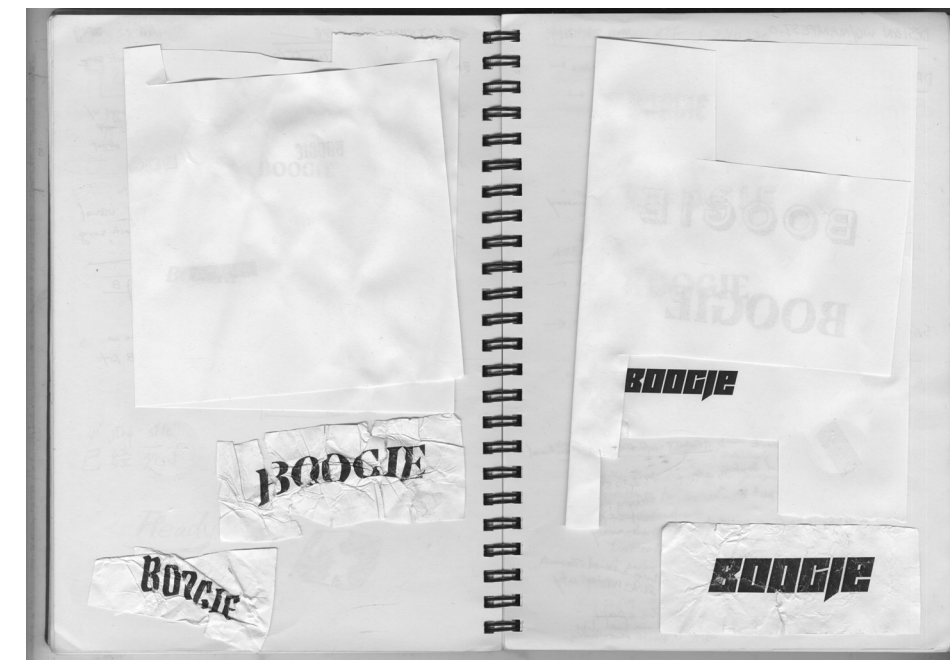
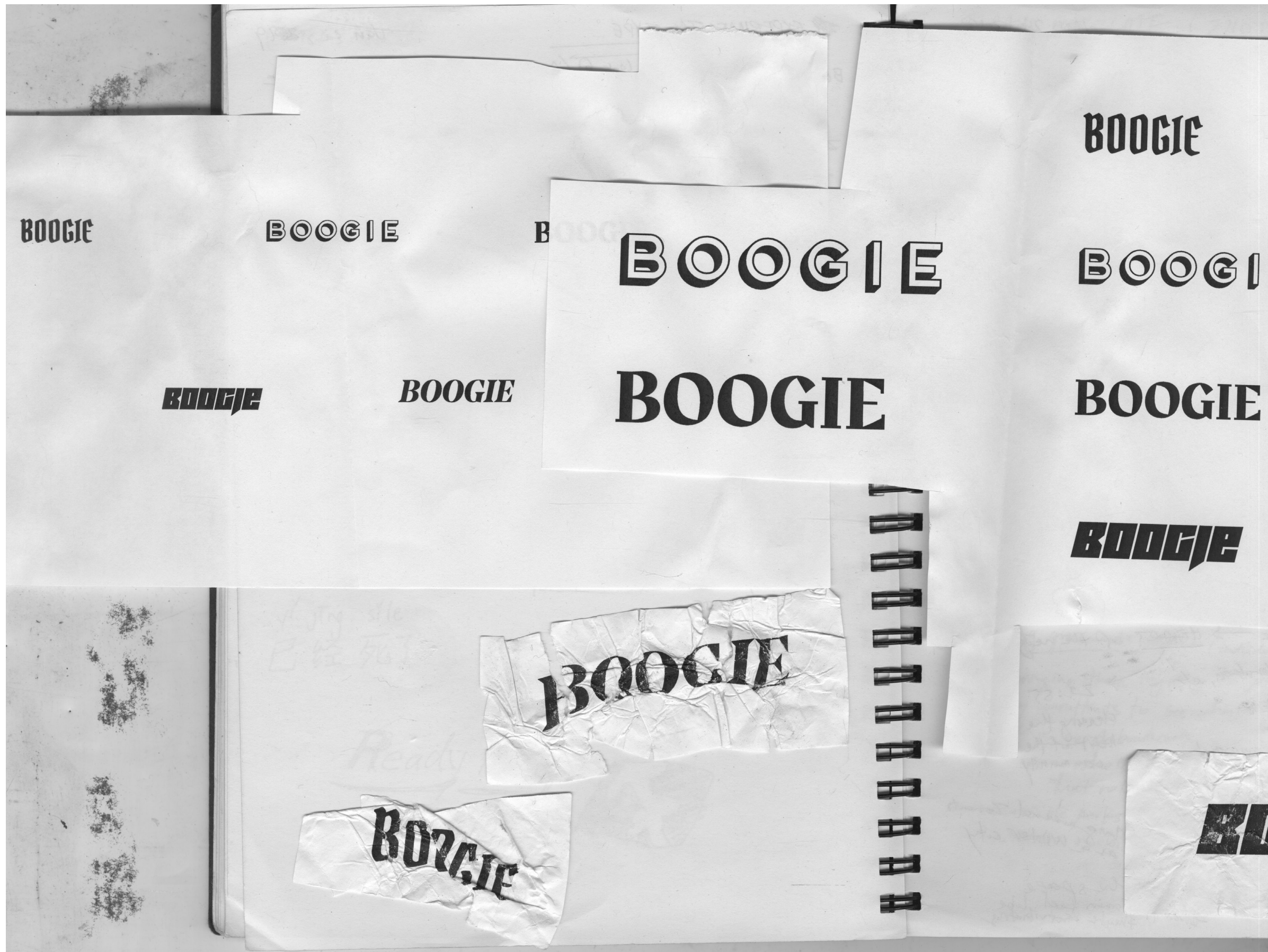


I began drying and rewetting the paper, and as I was doing so I realized that because this was printed with laser, the paper stayed damp while the letters resisted the water.

So, I started to blot my papers with a paper towel to pick up the letterforms.

THOUGHTS





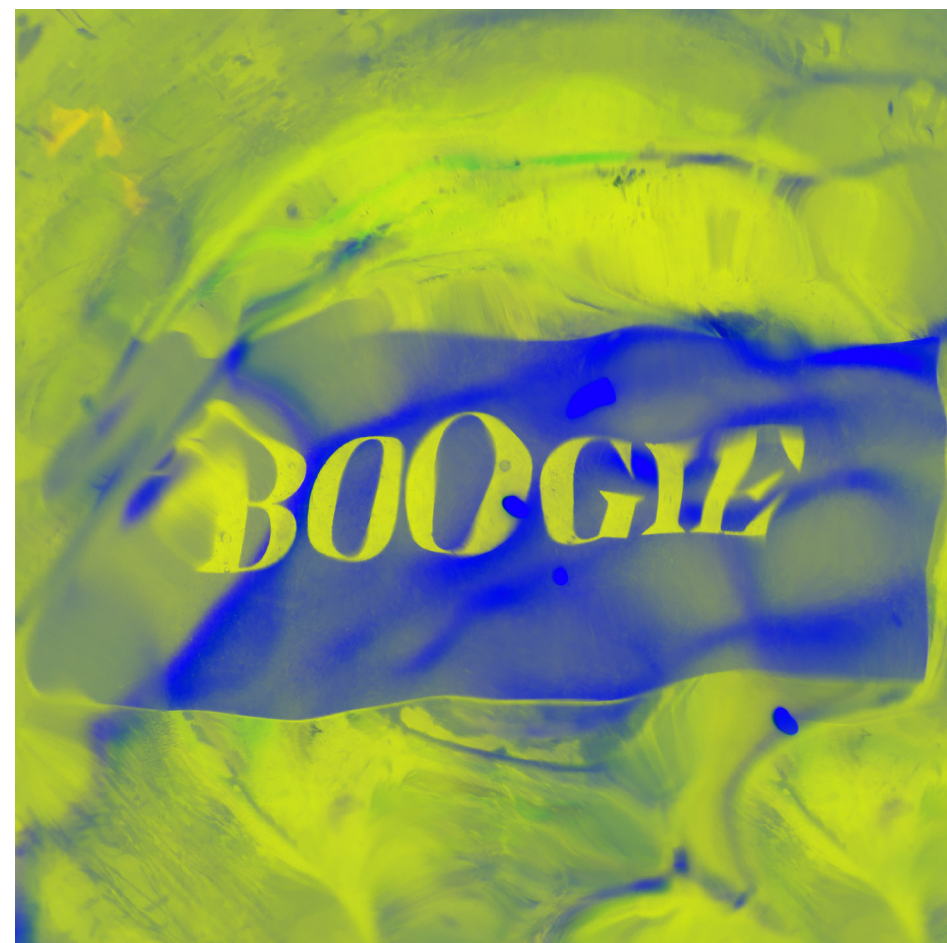
The leftovers from my
analog experiments with
type and water.

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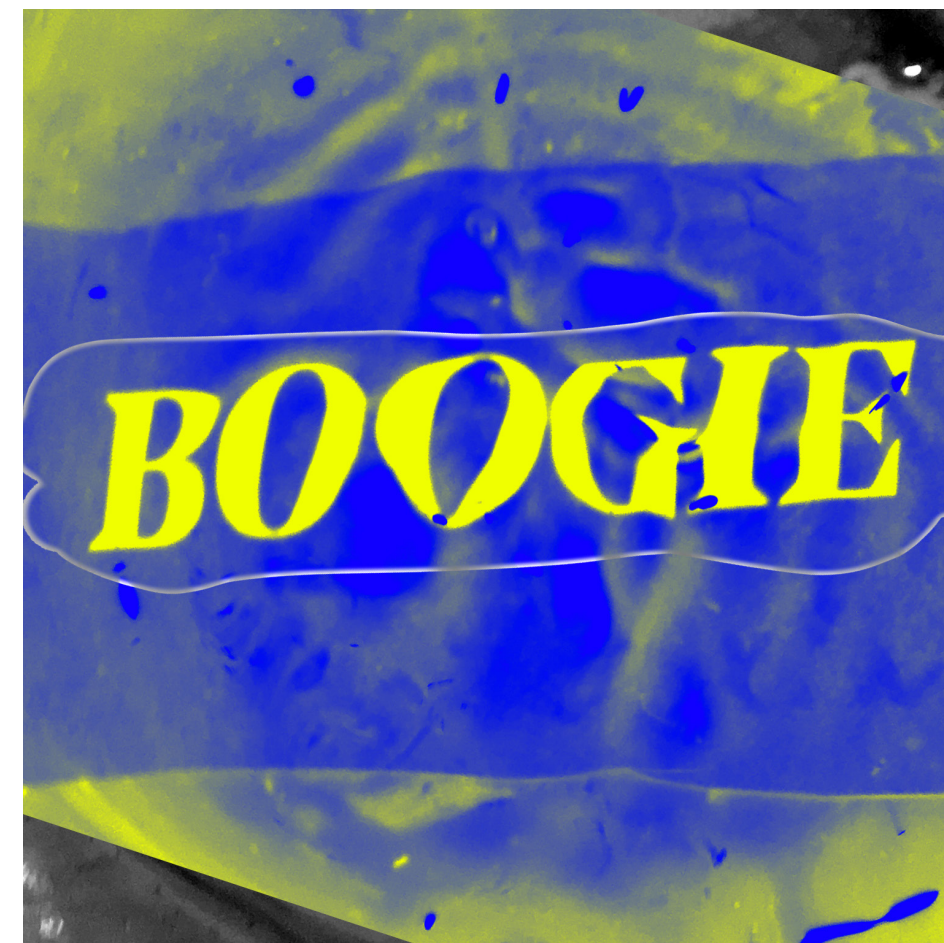


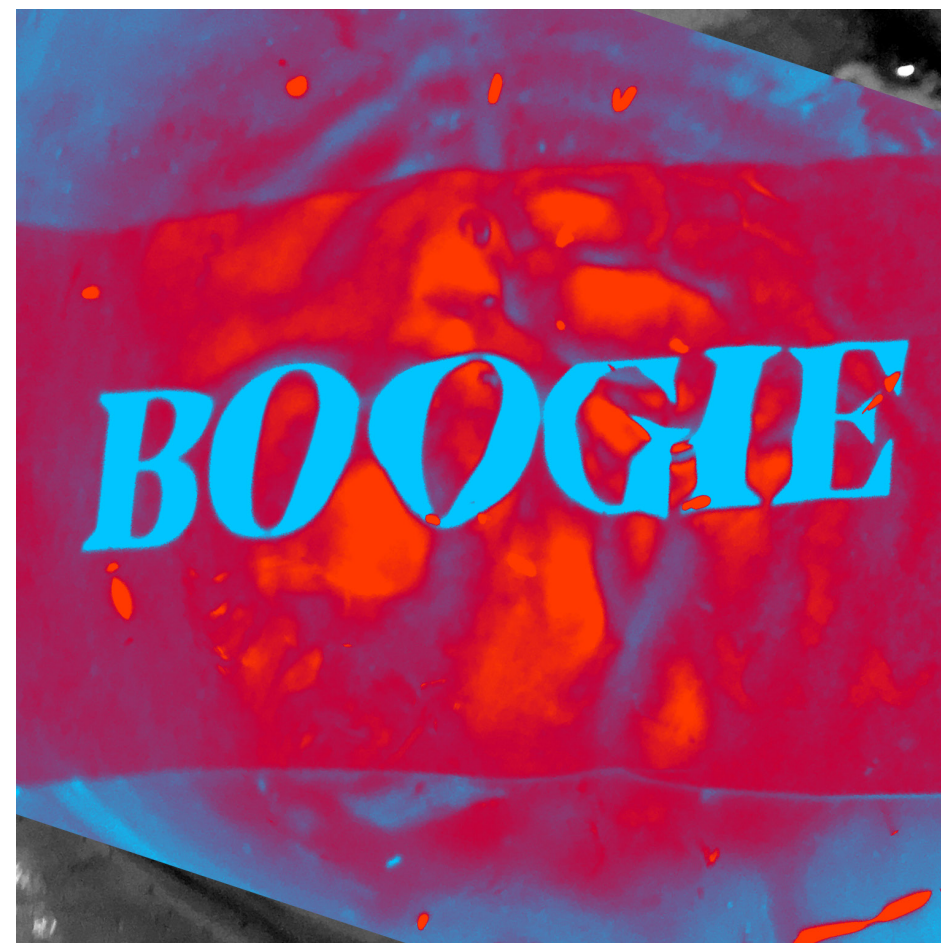
Finally, I brought over some images from these tests and here are the things I've made so far. I mostly played around with colours and have yet to tackle composition, but I tried exploring with an RGB colourspace since the format is digital and won't be made for print.

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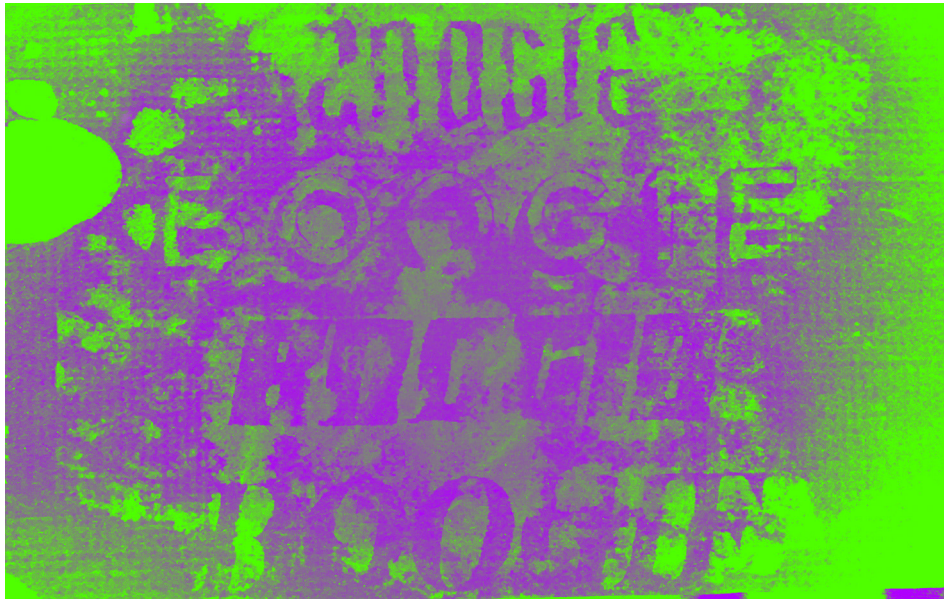
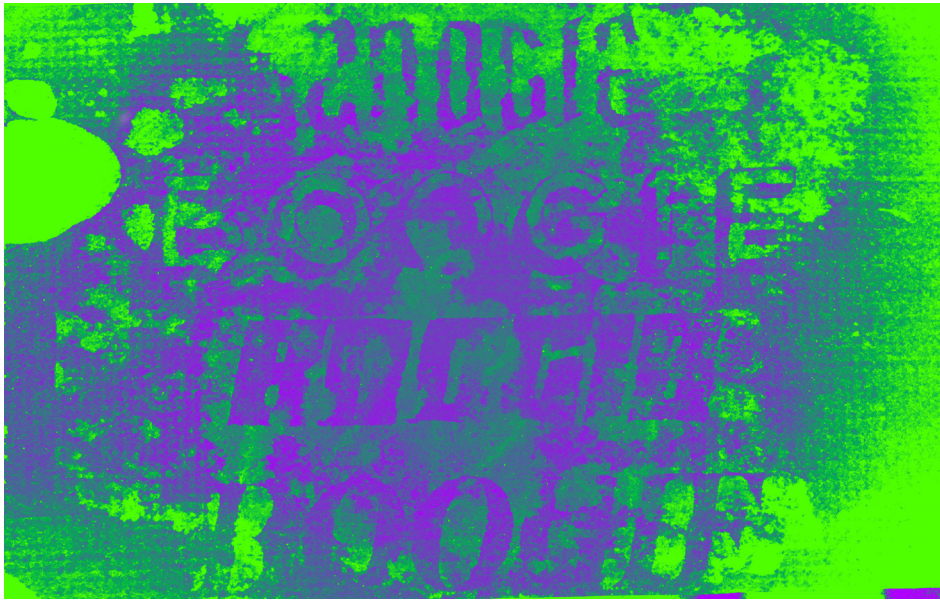


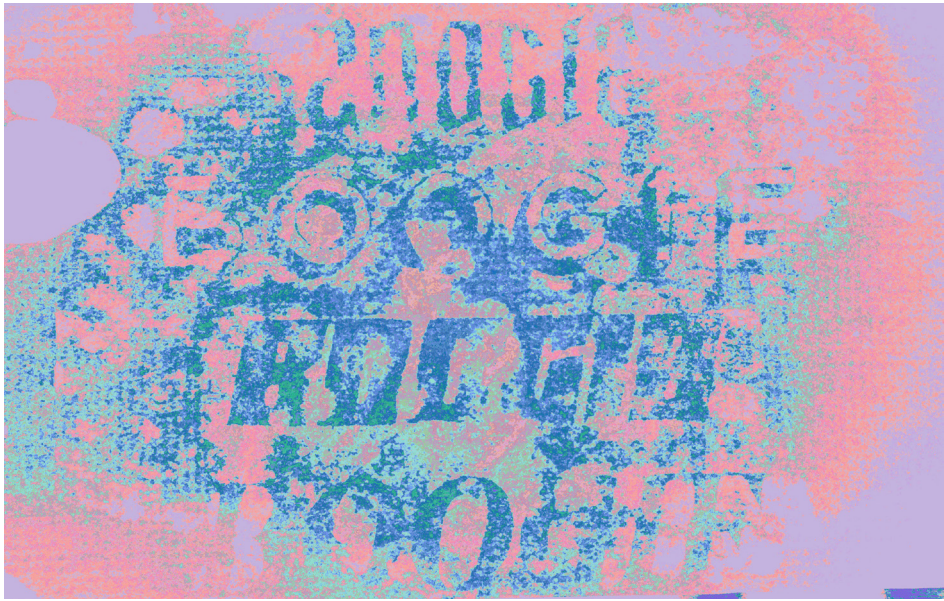












Thank you!