

“THE JOURNEY IS THE DESTINATION”

– DAN ELDON

Using Artistic Expression to Understand Genocide and Survival

A collaboration between the History Department, Art Department and the Dan Eldon Education Group

In class, we have discussed the incredible life of the young photojournalist, Dan Eldon. Although he was hired for a major news wire while still a teenager and made famous by his news photos, his most famous and enduring work of all was hidden away in his personal journals.

On the surface Dan's pages are explosive, colourful, and even chaotic! Yet, when we really look at his pages we understand his perspective through the very rawness of his expression.



If you haven't yet, please explore Dan's journals at: www.daneldon.org

Expression is the most important part of being a human being. We express ourselves in many different ways – through music, dress, words, paintings, behaviour, and attitudes. This is what your journal should become.

Using Dan's journals as a model, this activity asks you to create a journal that expresses your feelings around what you will learn about genocide, as well as the remarkable efforts by survivors and families to heal.

This portfolio will represent you, however you wish to express that. How will you design your portfolio? What will be your starting point? What colours will you use? Bright? Dark? Saturated or de-saturated? Any images? Words? Photos? Certificates? Letters? Objects? Will your journal be neat? messy? ripped? crumpled? Abstract?

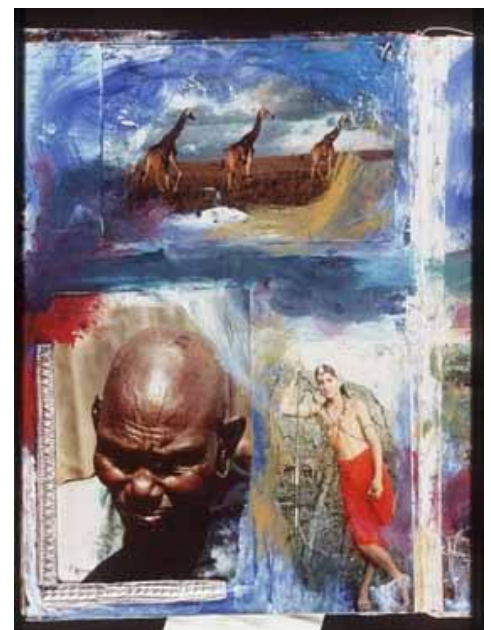
Some things to keep in mind:

1. Starting is the hardest part – pick the moment where this class “came alive” for you, or a specific topic that caught your interest.

2. Be messy! Don't be afraid to include “things” on your pages, such as:

- collages representing a specific historic event, or an abstract feeling related to something we have been exposed to in class;
- photographs, and even photo-essays;
- a journal entry for every week of our class that captures events, ideas, discussions, and your thoughts from the past five days.
- any artistic medium you chose – make sure to consult with Ms. Jeppesen or Mr. Kraemer;

3. Make this assignment something that you and be able to explain verbally. I will assess your portfolio in an informal meeting with you while you will explain each page to me. Please have fun with this! Explore.



This assignment is being executed in partnership with the Dan Eldon Education Group and:

