

ESCAPING REALITY

AND FIGHTING LONELINESS THROUGH ART

THESIS DOCUMENT

An abstract painting of a face, rendered in shades of brown and tan. The brushstrokes are thick and expressive, creating a textured, almost sculptural quality. The face is centered and occupies most of the frame. The background is a dark, muted greenish-brown, also with visible brushwork.

Peter Weiler

POSED

POSED

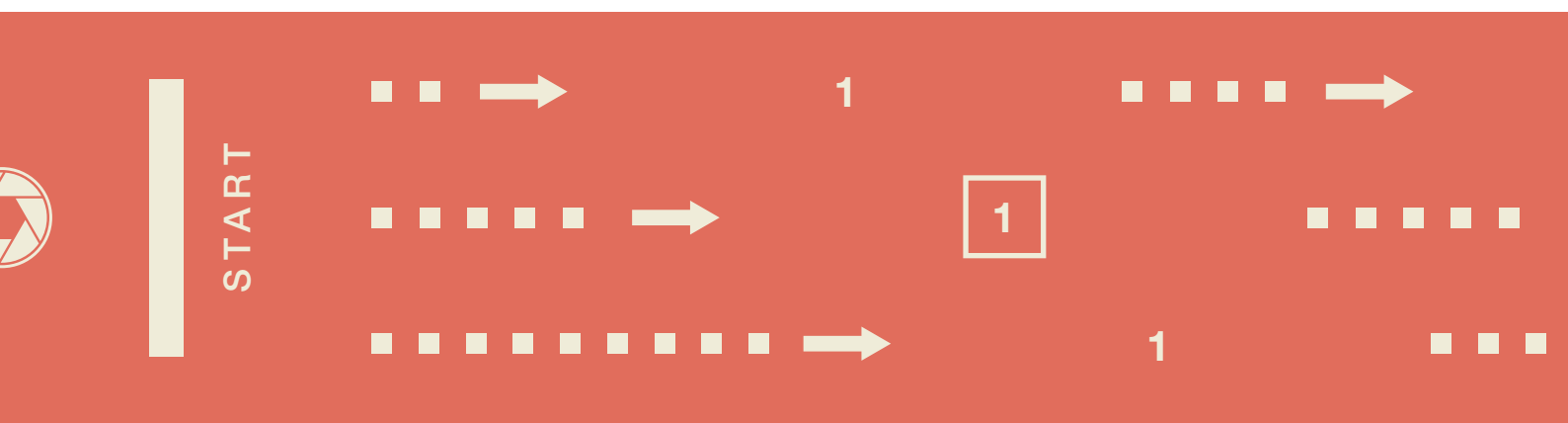
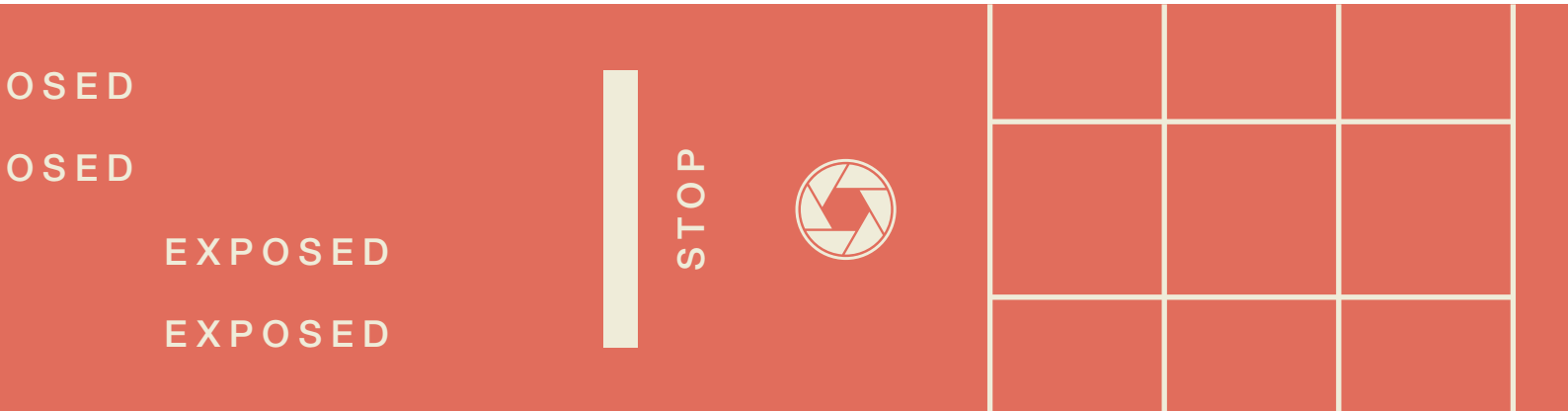
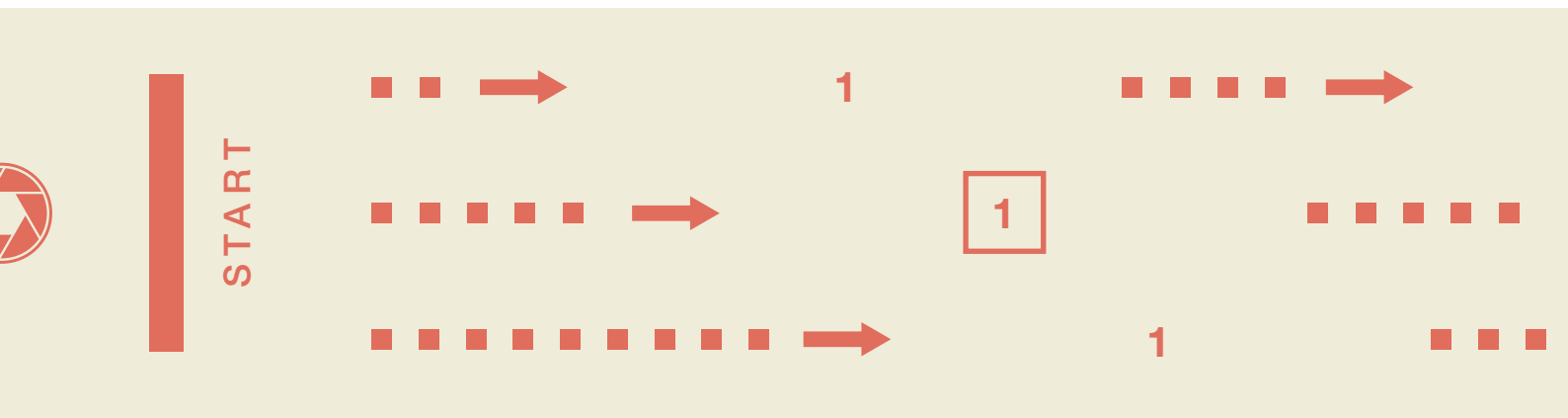
EXPOSED

EXPOSED



STOP







ESCAPING REALITY

AND FIGHTING
LONELINESS
THROUGH
ART

THESIS DOCUMENT

Peter Weiler

SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS - NEW YORK
ART PRACTICE MFA
CLASS 2021



Me and my younger brothers with the first paper airplane we made

I dedicate this thesis

to the loving memory of my two grandmothers
who showed me how tragic and wonderful life can be.

I would like to thank

Thyrza Goodeve and Stefan Saffer
for their support and guidance in my quest to find my voice.

Special thanks

to Eszter Wolf who led me back to the joy of painting.

Me and my younger brother with all four of our grandparents



”

**It is what one
takes into solitude
that grows there,
the beast within
included.**

”

NIETZSCHE
Thus Spoke Zarathustra



Contents



PREFACE	11
BIOGRAPHY	13
BURNING PAST	17
MY LONELINESS	19
THE FIRST CAMERA THAT CAPTURED ME AS A CHILD	23
RETURNING TO PÉCS ON NOVEMBER 7TH, 2020	27
LONELINESS, SHYNESS, DEPRESSION AND SOLITUDE	37
HEALTH AND LONELINESS – CHILDHOOD LONELINESS AND ABANDONMENT	47
FREEDOM AND ISOLATION	55
SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT	61
LONELY IN HUNGARY	67
LONELY ARTIST: HENRY DARGER AND VIVIAN MAIER	73
PLACES OF LONELINESS IN MY PERSONAL LIMINAL LIFE	85
CONCLUSION	101
BIBLIOGRAPHY	107



Preface

In this thesis document I place myself, my experiences and my own life story under the microscope. My quest is to understand isolation and loneliness, how it affects people and how it affected me to make art. I will intertwine my own autobiography into this work in order to create my personal context with the body of research.

All my life I wanted one thing only, to become an artist. To live like an artist. To create, to inspire, to influence, to engage and to be part of a discussion. To me art means that I am alive, I am part of my community.

Without making art I feel like I am drifting. Not steering my life. I need to make art every day, to feel that I am using my time in this world. It is an inner pressure that stems from the idea that I will belong to the outside world if I make art. I will be part of something bigger than myself.

11

