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## Project Info: The Cave of Fancy

The aim of the project is to illustrate the existing chapters of Mary Wollstonecraft's unfinished 1787 novel 'The Cave of Fancy' with a sequence of photographs and then continue the narrative by creating new chapters composed of text and images.

The photographs are being taken in Bristol (primarily the Hotwells and Clifton areas) where much of the novel was originally written.

Three chapters of the novel were completed by Wollstonecraft. The first describes the aftermath of a shipwreck with one survivor - a girl. She is discovered on a corpse-littered beach by an elderly sage who lives in a supernatural cave nearby, and who decides to look after and educate the girl. In the second chapter he returns to the beach to look at the dead and make judgements about their character and what kind of lives they led. The third chapter describes a visit from a spirit whose story is intended to aid the girls education. Other such 'educational' visits were alluded to in a note in the novel but never written.

Character judgment, nature, knowledge, learning, female education, un-fulfilled love, spirits & death are all introduced in the three chapters. It is worth noting that in the late 18th century the word 'Fancy' would have been understood as wonder and knowledge.

The photographic process involves immersion into the existing story by constant re-reading then looking for characters, situations and scenes that fit the existing narrative or might form part of its development.

The project is forming the backbone of an MA in Graphic Arts at UWE and will continue until early 2019.

James A. Hudson  
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