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February 12, Openness and Mindfulness in Uelsmann's 1976 Untitled Photo Jerry Uelsmann was born in June 11, 1934 at Detroit, Michigan. He lives and works in Gainesville, Florida. He is known for his photomontages that are surreal and open to subjective interpretations. One of the most interesting photomontage works he has is an Untitled photo in 1976. The photo is purchased by a museum in 2013.

Starting from the right side of the foreground, the photo is set in a library of most likely a rich family. The wealth of the owner is evident from the contents of the room. It has wooden walls that have some designs at the borders. The right side has a fireplace with unburned wood, and on top of it is a designed plate hanged on the wall. This part of the wall has elaborate edges. Moving to the bottom of the picture, the room is well-carpeted. At the left side is a bookshelf filled with books. At the further back, there is an ornately-designed cabinet with a flower vase. A door is beside it with a cherubim carving on top, like an angel guarding its inhabitants. A chair could be near it with fur hanging on it, which seems to have a sinister face. The wall beside it has mirror or a painting. There is another cabinet with a flower vase.

The centerpiece where the light falls is the drawing board. This must be a table for an architect, painter, or engineer. An unlit candle is beside the table. A small book is on it, on top of ruler or a long thin object, with a tiny man on top of it. He goes to the direction of the door. On the top of the room is an open roof with slightly dark clouds. It is a cloudy day, but the sun peeks from the left. It is the sun that provides light for the shadows inside the room.

I chose this work because it shows openness that is critical to mindfulness. The sky and the sun are symbols of openness. Their entrance into the room removes the boundaries of the world. The clouds are a bit dark because to learn is a difficult task. The man coming out of the books means that, through knowledge, he is reborn. He has become more mindful of his identity and mission in life. The sun shines on him because his path is clearer. He goes to the door, where his destiny waits for him. The man is free.

#### Work Cited

Untitled. Jerry Uelsmann. 1976. Photo.