

Junior Project Oral Presentation

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For me, artistically my favorite thing to do is to shoot photos of people's faces. To me these are the most beautiful things. They show real emotion, raw feeling and are a link into people's personality. Not only the subject's personality but the photographer's as well. You can take a subject, say a dying man and show him at peace, calm and accepting. Or you can take the very same subject and show him in pain and agony, scared and alone.

In research I have found that most everyone's opinion on the camera is that it is objective. It sees what is happening in that moment and freezes it in time. The human eye on the other hand is subjective, it is linked to the brain and therefore sees what you want it to see, it is selective.

Reading this is one thing, understanding it is another. It sounds fairly basic enough but once you are in the field holding a camera and shooting pictures you either begin to forget. Or you do a poor job of composition and framing so your picture, while the subject matter is what you want, does not have the feeling that you saw through your eye. When I started to photograph I had to take this all into account. The typical process for me before pressing the shutter release button and freezing that image in time is this: walk through the woods for a short time, waiting until I enter an area that is captivating to my eye. Once I have chosen the general area I look for something, a distinguishing detail like a dying tree or a bend in the stream or the way trees stand

symmetrically. I would then narrow it down and set my tripod up with the camera mounted on top. Once I have the camera in the general area I will pull my journal out and start to write. Letting out my emotions and trying to find something that will portray what I am feeling for that picture. Once I have written for a short time I'll then look into the viewfinder until I have found an image that both represents those emotions I wrote or that represents the emotions I am feeling in that moment. After I took the photo it was a gamble as to whether or not it would result in a thoughtful provocative image of the woods. The other portion of my project was to figure out why the arts can be such a release mechanism for me of emotions and things I have pent up inside of me.

I realized while working on my project, sitting in the woods with my journal trying to channel out of me what I was feeling that it was incredibly hard for me to write something that actually had merit. That when it came out it was pretentious and rigid.

And didn't convey anything that I had intended it to. Art of the other hand is easier for me. I can pick up a pencil, some magazines, water colors and a glue stick and create a haunting visual that I believe more accurately states what I was thinking better than any writing I have ever done. The reason for this I believe is because of how much of a visual learner I am. But I believe it is also a skill to be able to take complex thoughts and portray them through imagery without text.

Can photographs that are not portraits, give the same feeling as portraits?

Why is art a release of emotions?

1. really know what I was investigating, there is a question and I really know the answer.
2. that you can talk about the project.