

JANE SMITH

These past three weeks have pushed me to think more conceptually about the photographs I take. I believe that a consistent theme throughout each of my photo essays is how I connect to my Japanese heritage and its effects on who I am today. I explored this through my “flâneur” project by deconstructing a tree and connecting to the Japanese art form of Ikebana (flower arrangement). Also, for my “Self/Reveal” project, I really had to push myself to open up how I feel being an Asian minority in a majority white neighborhood; I had to reflect generally about racism in America. I realized my love for black and white photography through our “Inspired By” project, pushing me to focus on not only the storyline, but also the technique of shadows, lighting, and contrast to create a composition.

Selections from Series: Self / Reveal

East Village, NY. Digital Archival Prints, 2018

Trapped, 24" x 36"

ASIAN, 36" x 24"

Selections from Series: Flâneur

Central Park, NY. Digital Archival Prints, 2018.

12" x 18"

Earth.

Growth.

Focus.

Flowing.

Reaching.

Heaven.

Selections from Series: Inspired by André Kertész

New York City, NY. Digital Archival Prints, 2018

Peace, Grand Central Station, NY, 20" x 12"

Waiting, Washington Square Park, NY, 11" x 17"

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This summer, I focused on capturing both public policy issues and personal issues alike. When a recent controversy regarding plastic straws surfaced, I was inspired to capture the struggle through my camera lens: Where I'm from, frosty Starbucks cups with their emblematic green straws poking out are a symbol of tween independence, a fashion statement being made en masse in malls and trendy thoroughfares across the U.S. that says, "look at me, I grew up!" But like the dreaded plastic grocery bag, plastic straws are well-known to cause harm to marine life and add to the towers of plastic that crowd toward our cities from our landfills and clog our oceans. However, many public policy issues have two sides. Disabled activists and their advocates have spoken out against plastic straw bans, asserting that they unfairly discriminate against the disabled, especially those with hindered motor skills for whom drinking from a cup without a straw is not an option.

The other more personal issues I tackled in my work this summer were about my fear of being on stage. In this photo essay, I attempt to illustrate the physical distress I feel when I am asked to perform, as well as how I'm beginning to overcome it.

Selections from the Series: Flâneur

Digital Archival Prints, 2018

Assorted Sizes

Selections from the Series: Self/Reveal

Digital Archival Prints, 2018

Assorted Sizes

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Every touch across my body was dirt I had to wash off. All I wanted to do was detach my body from someone else's power. I wanted control. Shower after shower, I attempted to wash away the vulnerability which sprouted from the night my nos were ignored. Little did I know, a million showers couldn't wash away this pain. I now turn to my camera to heal the wounds of sexual assault, sharing my story in hopes of finding closure.

Selections from the Series: Self / Reveal

New York, NY. 2018

Digital Archival Prints, 12" x 18"

Selections from the Series: Coney Island

New York, NY. 2018

Digital Archival Prints, 16" x 20"

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I am kind of obsessed with faces—that is, people in general. I enjoy photographing humans. During my time at Parsons, I was able to completely embody all aspects of portrait photography. I did an emulation of a famous Alfred Eisenstaedt work and modeled my black and white photographs after him. Some of the new and amazing friends I have made here asked me to photograph pieces that they made for their classes. I played the role of a flâneur and took over the “get closer” mentality with close up photos of facial features that make you ask, “what is that?” Finally, I embraced my scars and my body as I sequenced photos that explored my journey to self-love. I very much enjoyed my time here at Parsons, and I hope to come back to New York City sometime soon.

Digital Archival Prints. Assorted Sizes.

New York, NY, 2018

Creases (Deep Travels)

Inspired By: Alfred Eisenstaedt

To My Scars...

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In the past three weeks, I have produced multiple photo essays where I used varying photographic techniques in order to tell a story. In my Self/Reveal essay, I was challenged to reveal something about myself that is not commonly known. In order to do this, I explored the reasoning behind my failed relationships, where I found that my fear of being a burden causes me to detach from those to whom I become emotionally connected. I used the technique of long shutter speeds to emphasize my inability to maintain stable, consistent relationships. In the flâneur essay, I examined and photographed a pack of birth control pills in order to begin a conversation about a woman's control of her reproductive health. In my 'Inspired by' series I emulated the photographic style of Vivian Maier. I photographed my reflection as well as people and children, from the hip and close up, in the same unapologetic style of Vivian Maier. As a whole, I worked on narrative techniques and composition in all of my series in order to create more impactful and visually interesting images.

Selections from the Self/Reveal "A Brief Inquiry Into My Failed Relationships"
Digital Archival Prints, 2018, Assorted Sizes

burdening
have me/lose me
don't love me, I need it

Selections from the Series: the Flâneur "The Pill's Power"
Digital Archival Prints, 2018, 11" x 17"

Selections from the Series: Inspired by Vivian Maier
Digital Archival Prints, 2018, 18" x 24"