AN EXPLORATION OF PHOTOGRAPHY
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PART I: DIGITAL
Digital Introduction

Digital photography was really my first introduction to photography. I really started to pay attention to detail and composition in photography after taking a photography related class in high school. The class allowed for a quick learning experience with Photoshop and Lightroom and eventually led to me purchasing my first DSLR camera. From then on, I began molding my own personal style and figuring out what kinds of photographs I like to take.

At The College at Brockport I have been able to learn about other artists which has influenced my own work. I have started to create multiple series of work that pushed me out of my comfort zone but also enhanced my skills. Although I find much enjoyment in digital photography and it’s ease of creation, I eventually challenge myself with new processes within digital photography as well as outside of it.
Fall Series

For this series, I interpreted the word “Fall” as the season “Fall,” and photographed a few nature scenes since it was during the autumn season. These three images were taken at Cobbs Hill, Corbett’s Glen Nature Park, and Tinker Nature Park in Rochester, NY. This series allowed me to focus on the composition of my landscape photography and enhance my camera settings skills.
African Lioness

Featured in The College at Brockport student art show, Meraki (2019)

This photograph of an African Lioness was taken at Seneca Park Zoo during my first semester at Brockport. At the time, I was very interested in photographing animals and creating good composition by having everything in focus and following the rule of thirds which can be difficult when an animal moves unexpectedly. For this shot, I was able to get a sharp in-focus photograph of the Lioness looking directly at the camera. The background being very minimalistic helped keep the Lioness as the main subject.
Deteriorating

This piece is a composite that illustrates the spreading impact of climate change and its growing threat to ecosystems. It features two lumen prints of fallen leaves divided into four quadrants to represent the different ways ecosystems are being altered by this phenomenon. The leaves were layered onto a photograph taken in Letchworth State Park in Photoshop, and printed as a 24x24 inch print.
USAF Thunderbirds

For this photograph of the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, shutter speed was a major factor in capturing this shot. With the airplanes flying around 500 mph at their airshows, it was difficult to capture the action and have it be in focus. A lot of testing of settings went into play to find what would be perfect for this situation, and the final piece allowed me to fix any colors that were blown out by exposure. What I like about this photograph is that it shows how close the planes get during their maneuvers.
PART II: FILM
Film Introduction

Film has always been an interest of mine ever since I started taking photography seriously. I have always been interested in the process that went into creating an image and the fact that it forced you to slow down and plan each shot. I started shooting film during my second semester at Brockport, and eventually created my first artists’ book out of the first roll of film that I took.

I find film rewarding in that there is a long process to go through in order to get your final photograph. You may not get your images right away, but the wait is always worth it. Each exposure is important, and you have one chance to get it right. It is a great way to step back from our current ability to overshoot and just focus on your composition and camera settings.
PART III: PHOTOGRA M S
Photograms

An alternative photographic process I have been able to explore in college involves photography without a camera. Known as photograms, this method of photography involves placing objects directly onto the surface of photographic paper and then exposing it to light.

Cameraless photography allowed me to experiment with several aspects of photography such as the placement of objects on the paper to compose a composition, learning about how the type of photographic paper affects the final composition, and the editing that allowed for unique creations.