

**Miranda Finch**

**Artist Statement *Urban Exploration***

*Urban Exploration* was inspired by a fascination and certain appeal to the mysteriousness of abandoned buildings. These vacated structures, Scary Dairy at California State University Channel Islands and an Oil Refinery in Ventura, are all but forgotten. These buildings allured many to explore their insides. Despite being abandoned they have a story to tell; the lost jobs, old sources of income and work rehabilitation area are their past while people come to leave their mark through art.

I wanted to capture these abandoned buildings and their stories, the way they have evolved from solid buildings to dilapidated structures, while noticing the mark they have left in the landscape. A main focus of my images was the artwork people have created on these buildings while showcasing the stark contrast of modern buildings and the continual evolvement this society endures daily. This cycle structures go through is by abandoning old buildings to move on to bigger and better or be discarded, leaving wonderful opportunities to explore.