

IB Visual Arts Exhibition (SL)

Rationale

My selected works seek to freeze the transience of the world to capture a dream or imagination for people to consider and relate to. Thus, the purpose of my exhibition relates to the medium of photography in its ability to preserve life for human interaction.

As a photographer, I document my surroundings, but not in a matter-of-fact way. From the experiences of my travels (such as Las Vegas) and school life, I see scenes of friends, family, and even complete unfamiliarity that become the basis of my imagination. In my mind, I then augment the scene with color, light, and memories. Movies such as Christopher Nolan's *Inception* add evocations of place that I manifest in my own works.

The exhibition encourages people of the audience to apply their own lives into the photo. Several of the photos place the camera (and thus the observer) directly in the action. The contrast of the size of clouds and horses in *Under Heaven* reaffirms the notion of the insignificance of humans in the face of nature. *Blue Mountain* and *Believe* incorporate people into nature, showing that man and nature can coexist.

To accomplish my concept of slowing evanescence, I played with various settings of lighting, landscapes, and human poses. For example, creating elongated light trails in *Plein de Lumières* conveys wonder and spirit in a bustling city center.

Rationale

The exhibition takes place in the cafeteria, which is packed with many black panels to hang the pictures for my school's art show. Along with the panels are a few tables along the side of the room. People can enter the room from three sides, and the cafeteria's lighting is from sparse sunlight that filters in through windows and large lamps above.

From the remaining panels available, I chose one that was not heavily scratched and flanked a 2-panel exhibit of another student. I arranged my photos in two columns of three photos each, alternating panel backgrounds of black and white to achieve inclusion and balance. All the photos should be seen by the mind as a whole, hence the alternating color panels.

The exhibition panel is arranged so that there are multiple interpretations of the works based on the direction that you look. For example, looking down the left column presents a relaxed mood. In contrast, the warm colors and motion of the right column conveys a more kinetic mood.

Word Count: 396

Supplementary Photo of Exhibit



Supplementary Photo of Exhibit



Selection 1: Plein de Lumières



Size: 27.94 cm x 43.18 cm

Medium:

Printed Digital Photograph

This piece relates to human influence on the world. The bustling, vibrant city of Las Vegas is a man-made construct, the joining of architecture and imagination. Fictional cities from *Brave New World* or *Star Wars* drew me to this urban landscape. The light trails of the cars are elongated through a multi-second exposure to show movement, even as cameras usually capture a single moment in time.

Selection 2: Room 1483



Size: 27.94 cm x 43.18 cm

Medium:
Printed Digital Photograph

In this photo, I used a unique angle and warm colors to evoke intrigue and empathy in the viewer. The concept of room interiors contribute to these emotions as well. I was influenced by the cinematography of films such as *Inception* and *The Shining* in portraying a hotel hallway as a familiar location that is also unnerving.

Selection 3: Under Heaven



Size: 27.94 cm x 43.18 cm

Medium:
Printed Digital Photograph

This photograph was the best of a series of these horses crossing along a hill, and the frantic motion of them shows the rapid movement of life. The work captures the relationship between nature and man in that the approaching clouds tower over the trees, horses, and people. I named the picture as such based on the theological and ecological appeal of human minutia compared to the world around us.

Selection 4: Blue Mountain

Size: 22.86 cm x 33.02 cm

Medium: Printed Digital
Photograph



This work serves as a slight contrast to the previous photo because the subject's upturned leg appears to be as large as the mountains, showing that people do not always have to be humbled by nature. As pertains to my theme, the subject is in a relaxed pose that slows time and also suggests our imaginations transporting ourselves to new places.

Selection 5: Winter in Temecula



Size: 27.94 cm x 43.18 cm

Medium:
Printed Digital Photograph

In this photo, I played with depth/perspective to draw the viewer's interest into the detail of the frame. Placing the camera close to a bush and directing it outwards across the vineyard captures the eye, and the created depth shows the landscape of California agriculture. The title is ironic in that winter is not typically associated with fertile and verdant farmland, but the irony exemplifies the idealism that dreams and imagination construct for our memories.

Selection 6: Believe

Size: 43.18 cm x 27.94 cm

Medium: Printed Digital Photograph



When I captured this spontaneous interaction between two of my friends, I was surprised by how calm they appeared. The extended hand appeared to be reaching into the mind, so I changed the background to add the “magical” imagination that defines my theme. I placed the outdoor landscape at the entrance of the hallway to connote the boundary between dream and reality.