
Rachel Grennan

AP Photo 2018

Breadth



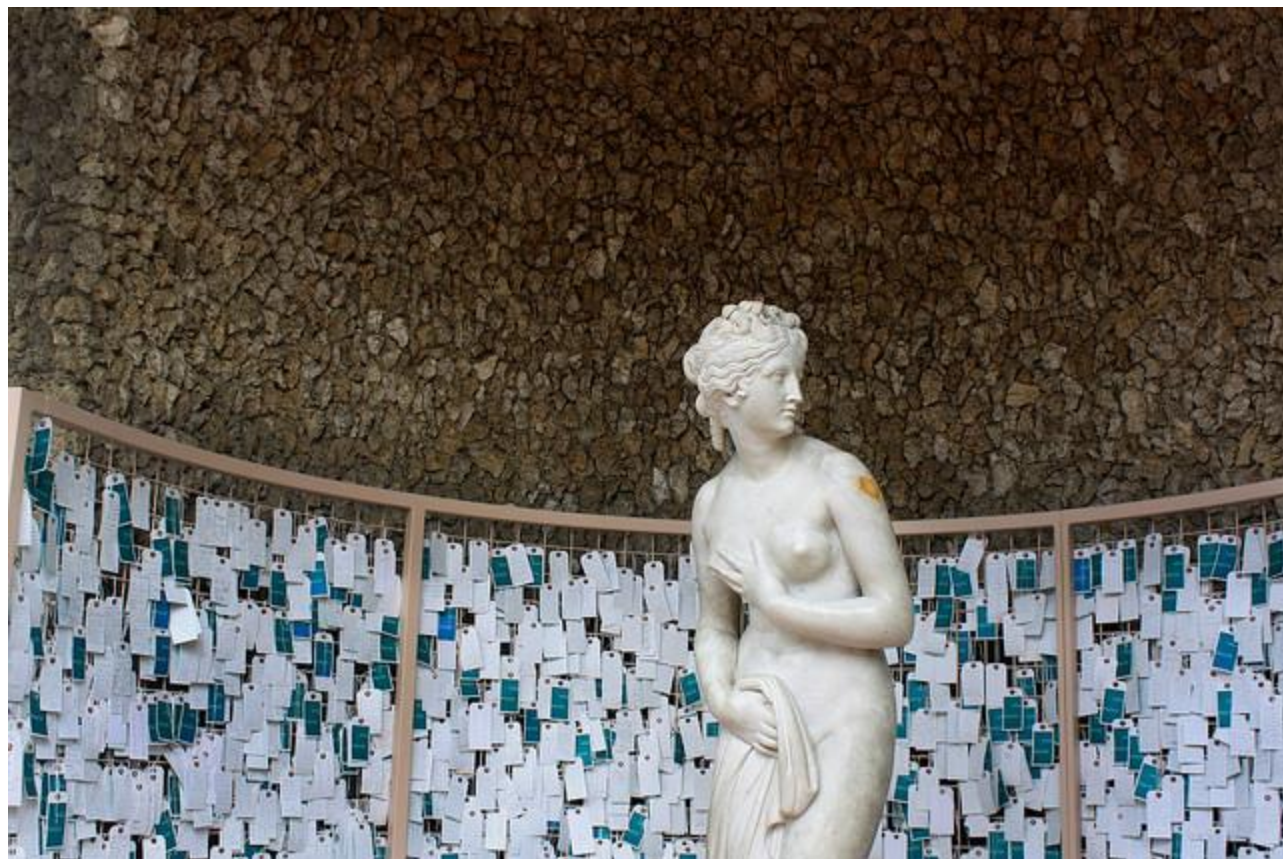


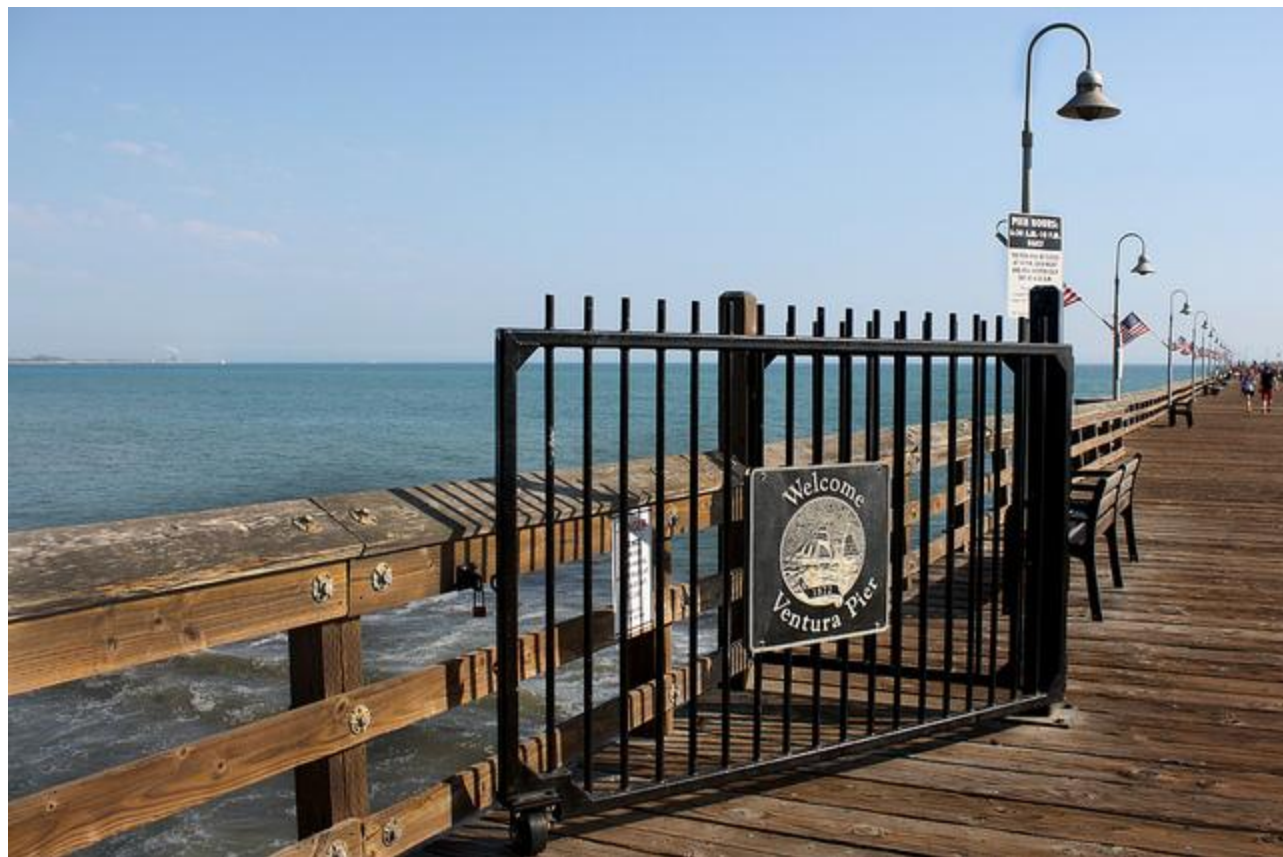




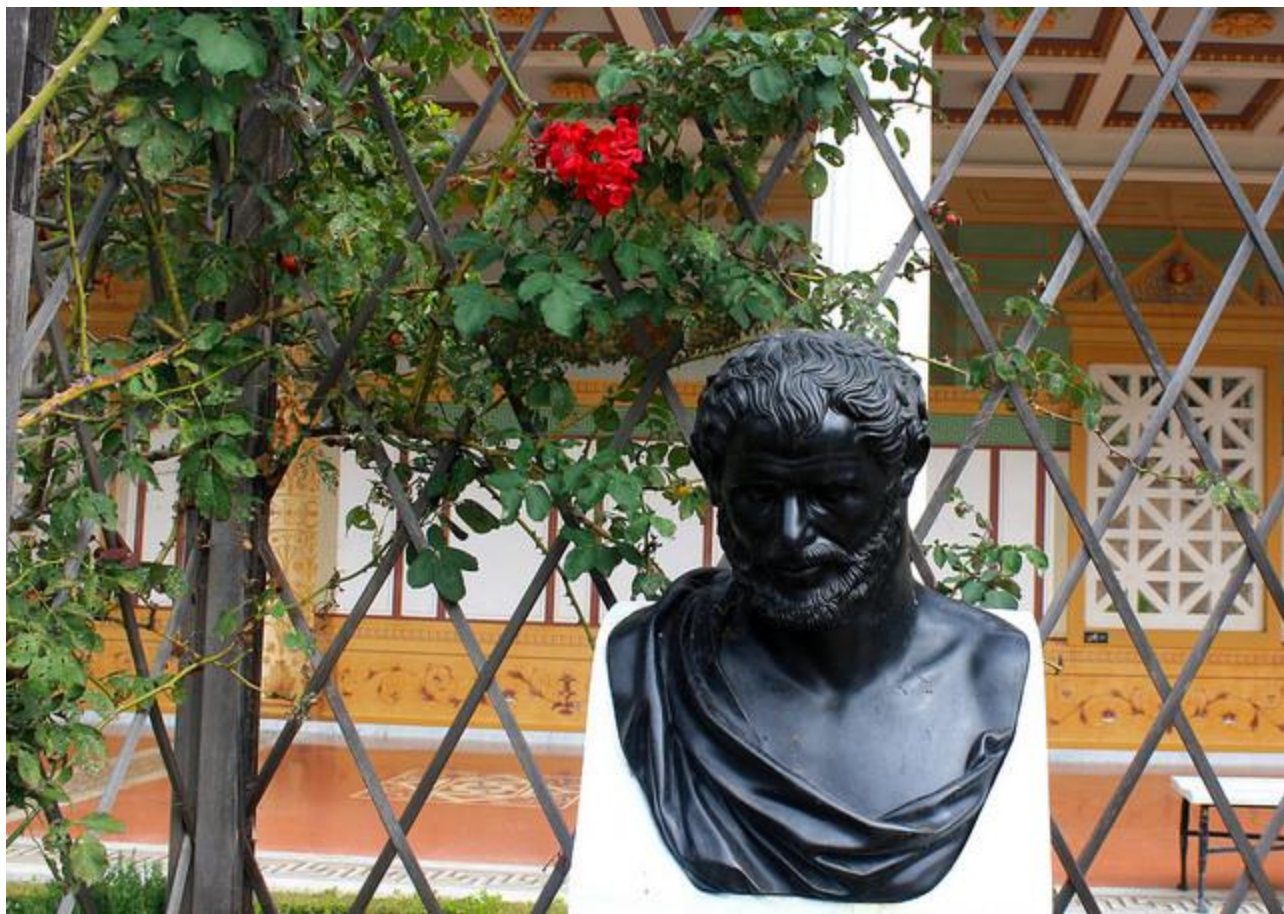




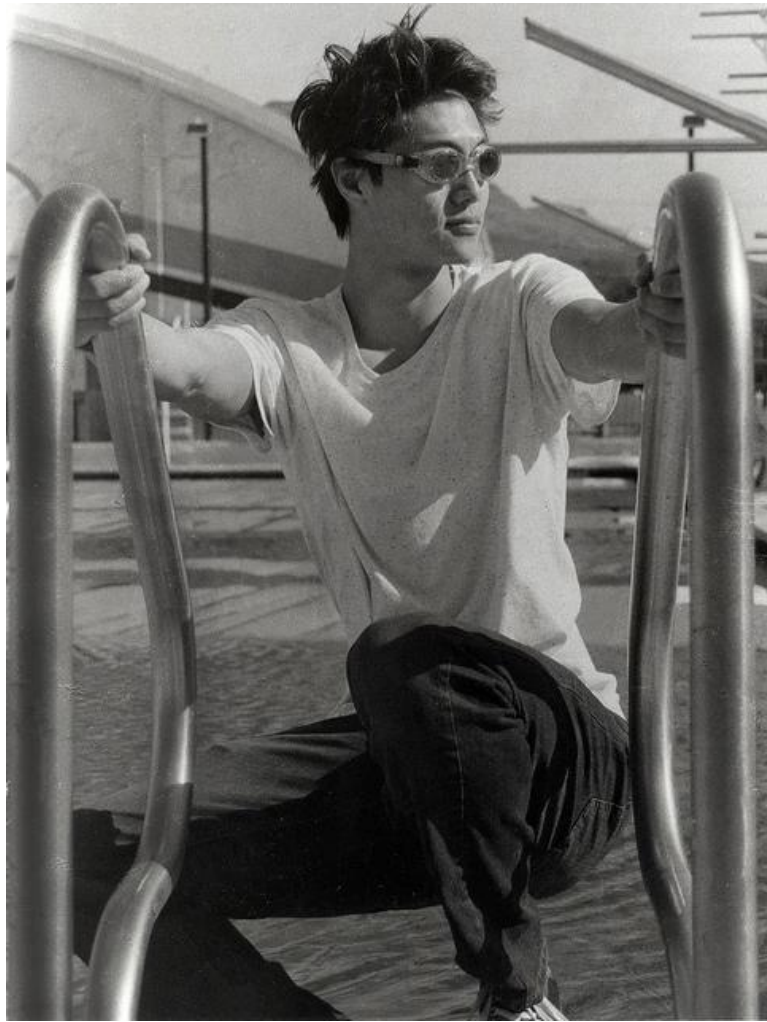












Concentration

Concentration Statement

I chose to focus on signs, and I maintained a loose concept of the word throughout my work. I photographed street signs, a rather literal definition of the word, but also graffiti and art. I think that signs are anything we use to communicate a message to others, which can range from a warning to an expression of ourselves. I also find signs interesting because they often reflect the culture of their location.

Concentration Statement

The street signs I chose to photograph are located in places I frequent, and so the culture of the location is clear to me in their content. For example, image 3 was taken in Hidden Valley, a large expanse of backroads and ranches on the way to Malibu. The deer crossing is not common in the area where I live, which is why it stands out to me. The fluorescent lettering is also relevant to its location, as the roads are windy in Hidden Valley, and the signs are designed to flash in headlights. Image 2 was taken at a Hindu temple, as the sign prepared visitors for their spiritual experience inside.

In addition, I liked road signs that had been graffitied over, because it speaks to the way people ignore the most blatant signs (both on the road and in life). In image 9, the phrase “Next 3 Miles” is covered in spray paint, because the tourists on the PCH choose to disregard that warning. The irony is also apparent in image 12, where a boy is climbing a fence next to the “No Trespassing” sign. Finally, I thought the most important part of signs is that their physical, stationary presence provides a convenient medium for self expression. Whether it is a small declaration of their religious affiliation (image 5) or an unmissable mural in the middle of a city (image 10), people want their voices to be heard, and signs allow them to speak.





















