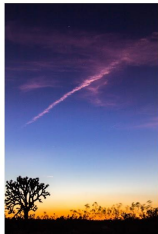




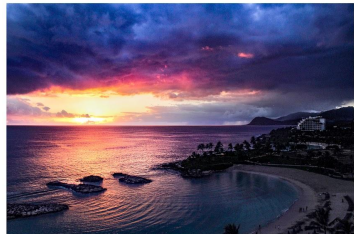
A Sunset Without Color.jpg



Calm Before the Storm.jpg



Joshua Tree.jpg



Ko Olina.jpg



Shadows Over Vegas.jpg



Silver Strand Stars.jpg



Thomas Fire.jpg

Exhibition SL

Curatorial Rationale

My work is centered on encroachment of humanity into nature. I did this in hopes of paying attention to something that I find is so often overlooked as people have become increasingly complacent to the world around them. I wished that the audience will use this as an opportunity to reflect on and appreciate the beauty of nature. In addition, that they would realize how much of an impact we have made.

Using photography as my medium, I was able to capture moments and utilize photoshop to enhance their impact on the audience. For many images I juxtaposed time and place by photographing similar landscapes with completely different tones. All images featured a dramatic sky as it was one constant that tied them together. Common elements of symbolism included evidence of human interaction such as buildings, docks, a contrail or chopped tree. However, there were also symbols of purity such as the woman, fire and the untouched trees.

Curatorial Rationale

The fire in Ventura County was, for many, the first real natural disaster of their lifetime. Not until the skies were covered in smoke did we become fearful and realize that we had taken our safety for granted. In “Thomas Fire” the audience was able to recollect their memories of a shared communal event and could feel the pain of those who lost so much. Personally, taking the picture allowed me to understand what was happening and re-evaluate my perspective. Since a boy started the fire, it also made me realize that our actions have consequences and we should appreciate what we have while we still have it.

My exhibit was shown in the school Art Show among other selected student works. I placed my images against white backing to make them pop which were then hung on a blackboard. When hanging my images, I wanted to help convey my story and chose to place them in chronological order, meaning from day to night. Many people commented that they had never seen things the way they were portrayed in my images and it altered the way saw things; especially prevalent with “Thomas Fire.”

Word Count: 351

My Exhibition Space

My exhibition was located in the front of the cafeteria, where the art show took place. It was displayed among other students' images as shown to the right. The were hung in order of night to day, to draw the viewer's eye down.



Calm Before the Storm
Photograph
12x18 in



I kept a cool tone to this image to bring a sense of isolation amid the empty docks. Keeping to this tone, it reflects the eerie mood of Tahoe just before a storm arrived the next day. It is apparent man has left his mark on this space as the tree was cut down and the dock extends into the water, physically “encroaching on nature.” I increased the clarity of the tree to introduce more texture and illuminate it in comparison to the large mountains behind. I specifically chose this angle to focus on the symbols of destruction of the image and diminish the majesty of the mountains.

Shadows Over Vegas
Photograph
12x18 in



Normally Las Vegas is recognized for its large casinos and bright lights. Here the city outline reflects computer circuitry which is symbolic of the automation of today's society. The ominous clouds surrounding the city counteracts the bright lights and denotes their own importance because in reality the Vegas experience consists of disposable goods and immediate gratification. By removing its glimmer, the shadows reveal the true structure behind Vegas's appeal. All opportunity for connection with nature has been lost. To achieve this effect, I desaturated overwhelming yellow tones and increased contrast, which created the vignette and make the city appear more structured.

Joshua Tree
Photograph
18x12 in



I placed this in the middle of my collection to represent a moment of innocence. Unlike the rest of the photos, the ground beneath remains untouched while the sky is tainted with a contrail. I chose to make it horizontal to stand out from the other images, capture the ombre element to the sky, and mirror the upright tree. In addition, this contrasts “Shadows Over Vegas” as these two images were taken in the desert but reflect two different lifestyles. Often the desert is so widely available that people seek the fun that Vegas offers. Here lies an opportunity to connect with nature and appreciate its vibrancy which is contrasted by the dark outline of the joshua tree, a key symbol in understanding the location of the image.

Ko Olina
Photograph
12x18 in



In this scene we have the integration of the natural beauty from the sunset, with the man-made lagoons and the encroaching hotels in the distance. There is a natural comparison between this image and “Thomas Fire.” One of my biggest struggles was to subdue the sunset because its brightness appeared overexposed and overpowered the image. I darkened it in hopes of maintaining its warm glow amid the clouds which framed it. I also struggled with warmer and cooler tones, but eventually found a balance that preserved the tropical and stormy mood.

A Sunset Without Color
Photograph
12x18 in



Although the photo is in black and white, it originally had a beautiful sunset. However, I wanted to show the beauty of the sky even without its color and highlight the woman wearing the hijab. Also, decolorizing the photo created more depth and contrast. Using photoshop, I layer two images to preserve the dramatic sky, the detail in the rocks, and dock post. Then, I digitally colorized the hijab and fire she is holding; not only to add color the image, but elucidate that nature is not prejudice and it is anyone's right to enjoy. This is in spite of the fact that the most precious areas are often also the most monopolized and hard to access. The fire acts as an offering to the woman's surroundings in appreciation of it.

Silver Strand Stars

Photograph

12x18 in



This image contrasts “Calm Before the Storm” as the both feature docks, but this one has a sense of warmth to the image from the city lights emanating off it. As there is a greater abundance of people at this beach, the bright lights yet again drown out the beauty of the stars. To focus on this, I blurred out the aesthetic shack in the foreground. The lights emanating from the shack are welcoming.

Thomas Fire
Photograph
12x18 in



The Thomas Fire destroyed over 100,000 acres of land and many homes. I hoped to document it by capturing its beauty among the destruction. The luminescence of the fire is juxtaposed by the coolness of the night sky. I framed it using the untouched palm trees to give a sense of depth to the photo and life. To capture the detail of the sky amid the brightness of the fire, I overlap two photos; using a long shutter speed with high ISO on one, and low ISO on the other.