

AP Final Portfolio

Juliana Sada and 2026

Sustained Investigation

Written Evidence

My sustained investigation explores how and why people idolize celebrities, social figures, and material objects. Society tends to perceive tangible things as god-like figures. I examine how media, social platforms, and public attention shape this behavior. I questioned the impact this culture has on both individuals and society as a whole. Identity, value, and perception become a product of external validation rather than internal understanding. I also consider how attention and public perception influence behavior, reinforcing this cycle.

I explored this by compositing portraits with concert stages, stadiums, social media interfaces, and symbols like money. I used double exposure, selective color, and glow to emphasize hierarchy and attention, and added likes/comments to represent validation. Through revision, I refined contrast, scale, and layering to guide focus and strengthen how external influences shape identity.











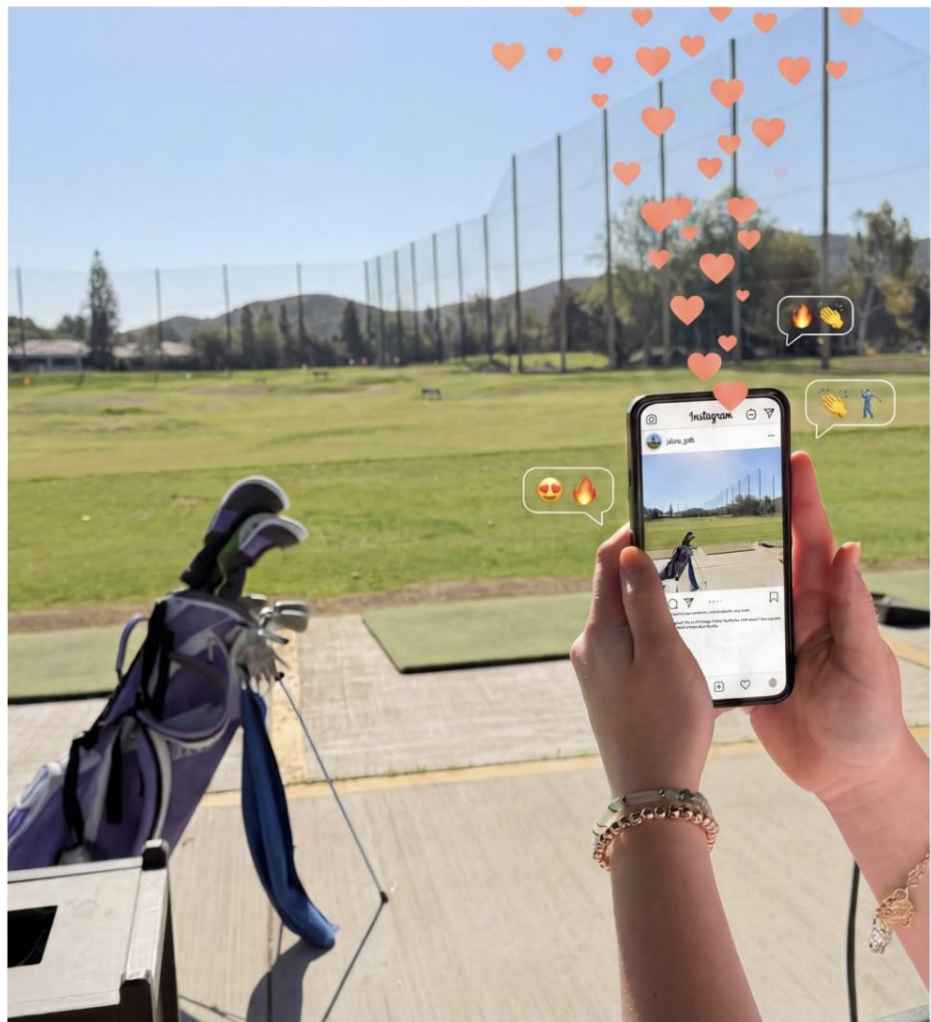










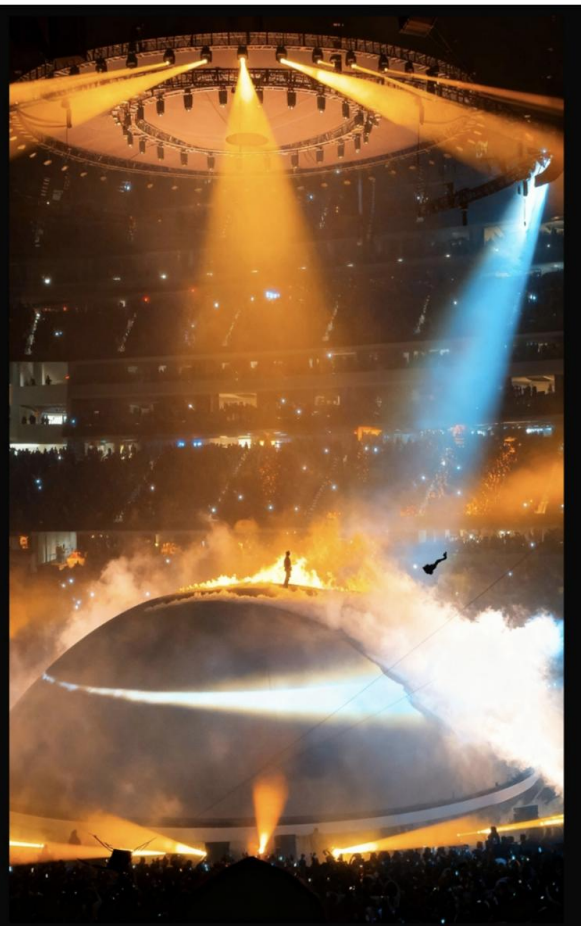






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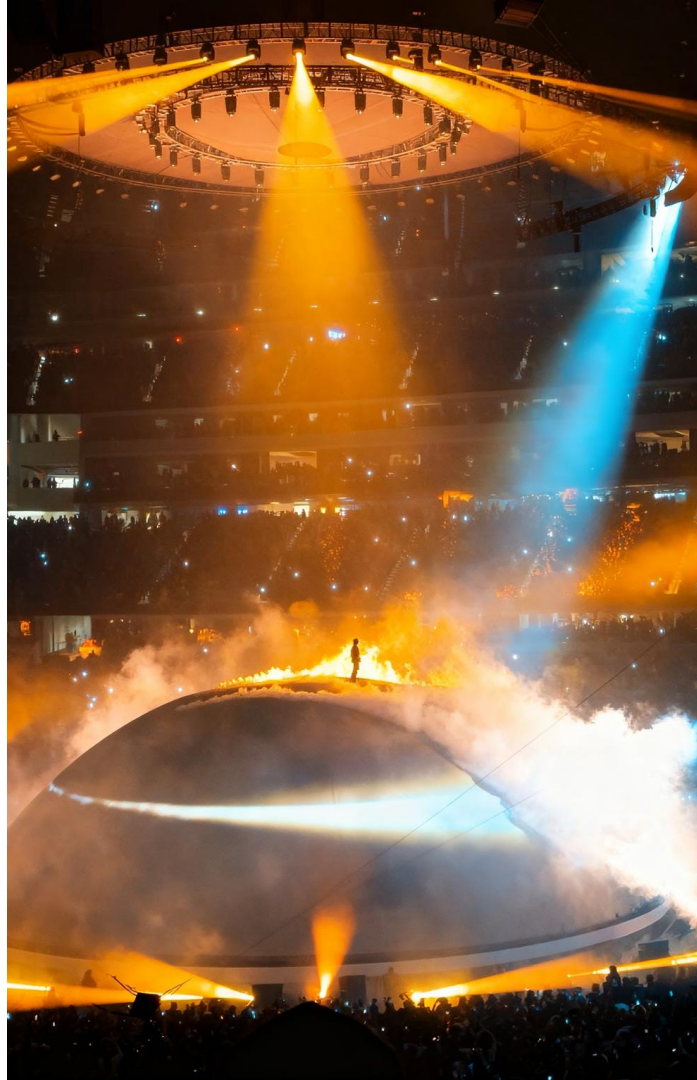
Select Works











Text for Sustained Investigation Images

1. **Materials:** DSLR camera, Lightroom, Photoshop. / **Process(es):** Compositing, color grading, blending modes, warp, opacity, levels/curves adjustment & layer masking. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
2. **Materials:** Digital camera, studio lighting, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom / **Process(es):** Black/white conversion, soft lighting, shallow depth, skin retouching / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** photoshop, lightroom
3. **Materials:** Digital camera, Lightroom, and Photoshop / **Process(es):** Layer masking, double exposure, blending modes, dodge and burn, levels/curves, contrast, & opacity. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
4. **Materials:** Digital camera, Lightroom, and Photoshop / **Process(es):** Layer masking, selective desaturation, dodge & burn, contrast, gaussian blur, and blending modes. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
5. **Materials:** Digital camera, Lightroom, and Photoshop / **Process(es):** Adjusted exposure, contrast, color grading, noise reduction, dodge & burn, and clarity. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
6. **Materials:** Digital camera, Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom / **Process(es):** Color grading, contrast, levels&curves adjustments, clarity, noise reduction, and exposure control. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
7. **Materials:** Digital camera, stage lighting, Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Photoshop / **Process(es):** Compositing, layer masking, transform/warp, blending, color grading, contrast, and opacity control. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom Citation(s): Composite includes externally sourced images from PBS NewsHour articles used as overlays.
8. **Materials:** Digital camera, Lightroom, Photoshop. / **Process(es):** Photographed in low light using flash; adjusted contrast, exposure, shadows, and color. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
9. **Materials:** DSLR camera, personal social media screenshot, Lightroom, and Photoshop / **Process(es):** Compositing, layer masking, blending modes, opacity control, desaturation, levels/curves adjustments / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
10. **Materials:** Digital camera, Photoshop, Lightroom / **Process(es):** Layer masking, compositing, blending, opacity, desaturation, color grading, and contrast adjustments / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom / **Citation(s):** Composite includes externally sourced online imagery (celebrity media images) used for compositing.
11. **Materials:** Digital camera, Lightroom, Photoshop / **Process(es):** Compositing, layer masking, blending modes, color grading, contrast, and opacity control. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
12. **Materials:** Digital camera, Lightroom, and Photoshop. / **Process(es):** Selective desaturation, layer masking, dodge&burn, Gaussian blur, and blending modes (Screen). / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
13. **Materials:** Digital camera, Lightroom, Photoshop. / **Process(es):** Compositing, layer masking, opacity control, color grading, and contrast. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom
14. **Materials:** Digital camera, portrait photo, cityscape image, Lightroom, / **Photoshop Process(es):** Composited using layer masks; adjusted opacity, background removal, contrast, and color / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom Citation(s): Composite includes externally sourced online imagery used for compositing.
15. **Materials:** DSLR camera, Lightroom, Photoshop / **Process(es):** Compositing, color grading, contrast, vibrancy/saturation, levels/curves, cropping, & alignment. / **Use of Digital Tool(s):** Yes / **Digital Tool(s) used:** Photoshop, Lightroom

Text for Selected Works

1. Idea(s): I wanted to represent the vulnerability and identity through direct gaze and expression. / Materials: Digital camera, studio lighting, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom / Process(es): Black/white conversion, soft lighting, shallow depth, skin retouching / Digital Tool(s) used: photoshop, lightroom
2. Idea(s): Shows human scale against vast natural space and open environment. / Materials: Digital camera, natural light, Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Photoshop / Process(es): Rule of thirds, horizon alignment, high aperture, color balancing, vibrancy enhancement. / Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes Digital Tool(s) used: Photoshop, Lightroom
3. Idea(s): Explores perception through reflection of memory within the eye / Materials: Digital camera, macro lens, Adobe Photoshop / Process(es): Close-up framing, selective focus, composite blending, color grading, and layer masking. / Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes Digital Tool(s) used: Photoshop, Lightroom
4. Idea(s): Highlights isolation and idolization of performers under public spotlight. Materials: Digital camera, stage lighting, Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom Process(es): Centered subject, long exposure, light beams as leading lines, contrast boost, dodge & burn. Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes Digital Tool(s) used: Photoshop, Lightroom
5. Idea(s): Shows isolation and chaos of performer within a large scale Materials: Digital camera, stage lighting, Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Photoshop Process(es): Centered subject, haze use, long exposure, high contrast, vibrancy enhancement. Use of Digital Tool(s): Yes Digital Tool(s) used: Lightroom, Photoshop