

Artist Statement Student A

If this semester of photography has taught me anything about who I am as a photographer, then I would like to think that it showed me how opportunistic I am while capturing shots. Meaning that I don't have set goals for photos before actually shooting them. I walk around and let myself be vulnerable to whatever images are willing to be taken. I am unable to visualize what a finished shot will look like but when I see it in reality, I know that I want a picture of that moment. For example, this past thanksgiving break I was trapped in the car on a trip for 30 straight hours. I knew that I had a deadline for the photos so I looked around at what I could use as a subject I looked out the window, and saw a flash of car lights driving by. I knew that capturing that stream would be the perfect addition to my portfolio. So I opened the shutter as long as it would go and captured car light movement in a really cool way. This example demonstrates my style very clearly seeing as I saw the opportunity to seize a moment and took it. The long dreary car ride provided the perfect environment for a photographer of my sort to thrive.

“I Didn't Choose to Become a Photographer, I Just Happened to Fall Into it.” This quote by Berenice Abbott describes perfectly the circumstances of my photos. My pictures are not planned, they are a spur of the moment that has an unsure outcome. Another thing about my work is that I appreciate natural beauty. I do enjoy altering things in photoshop, but my really excitement comes from taking a photo without editing it. “I just happened to fall into it” is the main piece of the quote that I relate to. I love the chance to find something drastically that I can take a picture of, an opportunity that could not happen again. That's why I don't like editing things, because anyone can make something look cool and unique in photoshop, but capturing it, and not having to change it for it to fulfill something great, is really what I strive for.

I assume that, after looking at my pictures, the audience would have some questions about the origin of my ideas? Where did you come up with something like this? What does it mean to you? And the majority of the answers can be found in the previous writing. My ideas come from pointing my camera in a direction and shooting. If I like it then i'll continue on that path. If I don't appreciate the photo then i'll snap another, and another until I decide that I like it. A perfect example of a visual answer to this question is my group of photos around the christmas lights in my neighborhood. There were a lot of photos i didn't upload because they didn't really “work” but you'll also see a lot of repeats because i thought that the specific moment looked good at the time.

Over the entirety of the semester I have grow to love photography. I love capturing moments and reflecting on them. And most of all I love getting out and seeing what kind of everyday items can be perfect subjects for my camera lens.

Artist Statement Student B

Photography is defined as the art or practice of taking and processing photographs. Photography means many different things to different people. To one person, it could just be a boring thing just to waste time. To another person it could be their whole life's work. To me, it's a fun activity that allows me to be creative while making art.

When I signed up for this class, my original thought was, "oh this is gonna be a fun class, and probably an easy A." But when I started learning about how to properly use a camera, how to use photoshop, how to take a really good photo, things started to really get intriguing and interesting. I was especially fascinated with how the camera works and how amazing a photo can really be. I found photography relaxing and a stress reliever. I had my photography class 7th period, so at the end of the day it was nice to just come in and get to work on my stuff. It definitely helped that it was fun too. Actually taking the photos was my favorite part of it all, but Photoshop was a close second. I really enjoyed taking a camera everywhere and seeing things from a whole new perspective. My favorite thing to take photos of is people and singular objects. I liked trying to get all the angles and different perspectives that I could. Overall, I really enjoyed this class, and I would like to take another photography class again.

One of my favorite pieces is a photo of some bright mustard-yellow Vans on a road and the background is black-and-white. My friend had just gotten a pair of new yellow shoes at the thrift store. She was so excited about them. When we went to go take pictures, she really wanted me to take pictures of her new shoes. So I laid down on the road and took pictures of her new kicks. People walking by and cars probably thought I was crazy for laying down in the middle of the road taking pictures. Another of my favorite pieces is four pictures of close up eyes. The eyes are vivid and colorful, but the rest of the face is black and white. I really like how all of the eyes are different and unique, and all of the eyes are of my close family, so it's really interesting how they are all so different. Although these are my favorite, I am very proud of all the work I produced, and I had fun creating them.

I ended up really enjoying this class, so I definitely want to incorporate photography into my life. I don't think I will make it a profession but I

Artist Statement Student C

When I was taking my photos I wanted to capture the most beautiful parts of nature, while also experimenting with my photo editing capabilities. Using Different kinds of flowers and plants, animals and trees, and then combining this with an experimental photoshop idea, made for my kind of artwork.

Looking in nature, I felt that trees, the sky, animals, and plants were the big focus points I would try to hit, and through this. exposing the colors, and shades of light, that could really bring these bits of nature to life. A theme in most of my photos is the sky, instead of it being a background, I try to make it more, a vibrant scene with its own characteristics and color, and life. Flowers, on the other hand, I used as a close up in my portfolio. Getting close to the plant and revealing all the little spectacles.

Another theme I have in my photography work, is bright and almost surrealistic colors, along with experimentation. I personally like photography that has bright colors, or shows off color more. I used photoshop to experiment with the coloring, and how to incorporate it into my photography. One of my favorite photos is a photo of a pigeon, and within the picture of the pigeon, out of the feathers, a sky view is blended in. this represents the mixture of photos, and color experimentation to create an even blend between the bird, and the sky background.

In my future of photography I would like to take my own independent course for my own enjoyment and maybe some kind of income if I can scrap one together. I would love to take photos of travel, or any place that I happen to venture. As well as taking a few photos with my drone, I love the up high pictures of a vast landscape, as well as very close up images of things that enjoy. I would like to think of taking more photos of my instruments and other things I love.

When now, and later on taking my photos, I love to capture the grace of nature, whilst also using the technologies available to me to make them as lovely as I can.

Artist statement
Student D

I enjoyed photography as a hobby before taking this class, but I had never understood how to give a photograph that special something. I think this class gave me a better understanding of the capabilities of a camera and of Photoshop, as well as opening up a whole world of possibilities for creating and enjoying art at a new level. When I finished with my 7 projects I was asked what I had gotten out of this class, that led me to think about three questions; What type of photographer am I? How did I create the work I did, and Why?

During this class I tried out many different types of photography. All of my objectives covered a wide variety of photography. My first project was a picture of a duck swimming in a book, this photograph was surrealism. In my second project I was a food photographer as I took pictures of different types of food. My 5th project could have either been conceptual photography or surrealism, it was a picture of a chicken flying at a one way sign. My 6th photo was a minimalistic photo and my very last project was a conceptual surrealism photo. Most of my pictures seemed like you were in a dream. The items in them were real but something about the picture was never quite right, but in some of them it was hard to figure out what was wrong, for example in my 4th project I hid a piece of bacon in the flowers. I am a surrealist conceptual photographer.

When I create art first I have to go out and take pictures, I can't set very specific objectives because I know I will not follow them. After I take pictures I might revisit pictures I found on the internet or look for new ones for inspiration before I start editing. A lot of the time I have to find new pictures for my research because the pictures I have taken do not fit my previous criteria. Then I edit my photos, starting with any movement or erasing I might need to do. Then I might blur the edges to assist the Super Feather in making the two images look like one. After that I work with image adjustments and color to fine tune the photograph. After that I make any little changes that I think might help me create the feeling I want with this photograph and I am done.

I get my ideas from the things around me. I have a very hard time sticking to my objectives or going out with a plan about what to take pictures of. For example in the beginning of my 7th and last project I wanted to take a picture of a face and have little shapes falling out of the face, but I ended up making birds fly out of a mural I saw on the wall because the mural was intriguing. On my 5th project I wanted to take pictures of fish then edit them so it looked like they were swimming in the trees, but I took pictures of chickens and put them in roads. On my 3rd project I wanted to take pictures of ink drops in water and on different surfaces, but I took pictures of eyes and fruit instead. My ideas usually connect to my interests because that is what I see around me most of the time. For example in my first project I took pictures at the pool because I spend a lot of time there.

This class has really helped me appreciate how much work it really takes to produce quality artwork and photography. Before I took these pictures I didn't understand why people appreciate artwork the way they do, but I now I know that there is a different person and a unique story behind every piece of art. While thinking about the questions what type of photographer am I? How did I create the work I did, and Why? I gained a good perspective of myself as a photographer.

Artist's Statement Student E

There is something magical about photography. The idea that landscapes, colors, people, parties, animals, patterns, and so much more can be captured just with the click of a button; how cool is that! One of my favorite photography quotes is one by Andy Warhol: "The best thing about a picture is it never changes, even when the people in it do." This really connects to my ideas of photography because my favorite part of photography is the memories created while doing it. All those beautiful structures, humbling feats of nature, and fascinating people that are caught on camera will always be remembered. They are preserved in a tiny 2-D window.

I find myself mostly taking photos of nature, particularly animals. I love animals, and I believe that a photograph taken of an animal can showcase their personality beautifully. To me this is one of the important aspects of photography as well, because it lets viewers get to know each animal in a small way, even if they have never met them. Photographing wild animals and plants is also really interesting because it lets viewers (and frankly the photographer as well) get a glimpse into a more wild life. During this class in particular, I have taken lots of photos of my dog and horses, as you can see in many of my photos, including the portrait of the black and white dog and the horses running. Another thing that I look forward to about these photos is that I can look back at them, and remember the dog or the horse, even long after they have gone.

In the future, I hope to improve in my ability to take landscape pictures. When I was focusing on taking pictures of landscapes, I found myself leaning away from that and taking more pictures of things more close up. At some point I would like to make an effort to only take pictures of landscapes until I feel confident in my ability. I also hope to improve on taking pictures with good light, whether natural or adjusted on the camera. I often find myself taking pictures in bad lighting, and then having to adjust it in Photoshop later.

When editing my photos, I find that I usually work in the Image Adjustments menu. I don't usually do much extreme editing. I like to keep them looking as natural as possible, and similar to the original, as you can see in the photo that I took of the desert plant. The greens and blues are brighter than they were in real life, but it really makes the photo pop. I also implemented this in my landscape photography. I found that converting them into black and white made them much more interesting and dynamic.

Using photography as an outlet for my creativity has really let me get to know myself better and understand the magic that is photography. Looking forward, I am excited to try new things, improve on things, and take more photos of the animals that I love!

Artist Statement Student F

In the mist of an exciting era, there are people who travel and explore the world and bring back photos of what they saw and did. Now you don't have to travel the world to bring back photos. You can do that here just like I did. Although I don't live in a big city there are many things to take pictures of. This semester, I have grown as a photographer. I have learned from my mistakes and made something better out of them. I am proud of the work I did and will continue to do.

Through this semester, I have seen a big growth from the first picture I took to the last. The first picture that I took was at school and it didn't have anything unique or different about it. It did not get edited that much. I didn't know how I wanted my photo to look. One of the main things that I have learned this semester, is that taking a picture is more than just pushing a button; You have to know what the objective is and how it affects the things around it. The picture of the girl and the shadow, sets the mood of the picture and the photo itself captures the mood. Another thing that I have learned is that you have to make your edits with precision, care, and intention. In the first photo I took, the edits I made weren't thought through. I did them in a hurry to try and just get done with the project. The last assignment that I did, my edits were made with way more thought and precision. The out come of my last photo was way better than the out come of my first photo because I knew what look I wanted in the outcome. I have also learned how taking pictures helped me grow as an individual; Taking pictures made me see more of what was happening around me and I see tiny details that I haven't paid attention to before.

I learned many things from doing my portfolio work. Through doing a portfolio I have learned that it takes time and perseverance to complete a project and make it look as good as it possibly can. At the beginning of the semester I struggled with doing 5 step critiques and making each step flow together. I always rushed through it so that it would be one less thing to do. Now that I understand what the 5 step critique is about, I take more time and I put more effort into making them better. From doing the portfolio work I also learned that it's easier to edit the four pictures then go back and put the other 20 in. That was a common strategy I used to make things more clear to me. Out of all seven assignments, I am most proud of my second assignment in my portfolio. My second assignment was based on light and how I could manipulate it in photos. When I started the semester, I didn't know how much light affected photos; I knew that you had to have light, but I never knew the reasons behind "good lighting". After taking pictures during spring break, I understood that the angle and perspective of light can change your whole photo. When I was making edits to my photo, I added a second image that had less light and less transparency to it create a shadow of the darker more visible picture. I am most proud of this picture because it shows the effort I put into making this picture the best it could be. I am also really proud of it because I created something that I thought wasn't capable of.

I enjoy taking photos and capturing moments that will never happen again. I want to continue to take photography class so that I can become better at something I like to do. If I took photography again one thing that I would do different is try and make my photos more full. When I say more full I mean I want to try and add another element to the photo to make the photo look simple yet still have complexity.

Artist Statement Student G

This time last year I was very different than I am now. I saw things differently, I thought differently, and created different things. I wouldn't call myself an artist now but it has always been a goal of mine to create something or to do something that doesn't necessarily change the world but at the very least change someone's perspective. Last year my artist statement was all sappy and dramatic, and honestly full of lies. I said that I was inspired by people and moments when really I didn't even know what inspired my photos. I guess I just did things that look cool.

As of now I can say that I am beginning to see a reason behind what I photograph. I think that I like to capture photos that make me feel. Photos that I can look back on and remember how happy or sad I was. When I look at a picture, I don't just remember that specific moment or place that it was taken in but I see it in my head, I remember how I felt as I was laughing or how I felt after I hugged the person in the photo. I go back to all the experiences and feelings i've felt for that person or place that I took the picture of.

I know that as the years go by my reasons for what I capture will change and that even though this time next year i'll look back at this artist statement and think about how different I was at the time but until then I will just stick with that fact that even though this all may seem so generic and purposefully profound to seem more artsy, part of it has some truth. We all say or do things that we tell ourselves is "so stupid" or "weird" but in reality it's a fraction of truth. Humankind will always say things and are truthful and then back out at the last second because we think that it won't be accepted but others, when really we are all like that.

I hope that someday my photography will encourage people to speak their mind and to stop hiding behind a mere "just kidding" or an awkward laugh. I hope that throughout the rest of my life I can continue to take photos that can bring me back, and hopefully other people back to moments in time that make them feel something. That make them go back to a time when it was okay for them to feel and to not hide from what they say or want but to embrace it.

Artist Statement Student H

Digital photography has allowed me to take photos of freely and explore my creativity in a open environment. If the class wasn't structured the way it was, I would not have enjoyed or expanded my artistic abilities it has much as I did. I never considered art as what I see it as now due to this class. All of my pictures have an overlapping theme of mundane objects, made to look abstract in the way that I capture or edit the image. I began thinking about taking pictures surprisingly more often and noticing views that would create cool pictures wherever I went.

Can you see any trends in your work in terms of subjects, editing techniques, or styles? Trends in my work included images of ordinary sights that looked cooler than they appeared once captured into a picture. In my work, I thrived off of techniques such as the rule of thirds and quality images that contained a lot of detail. The styles I enjoyed were images taken outside and I avoided pictures that had movement I observed, I wish I had more time to explore that element of design. I was drawn to adding tints of color blocks when editing my images and adding stamps to the pictures, like stars and triangles.

What do you want the viewers to get out of looking at your work? When viewers look at the work I want them to take notice that although they have probably seen similar images multiple times throughout their life that they have never seen it from this angle before.

What kind of photographer are you? I tend to take a lot photos without much thought and look over the photos and pick out the ones that catch my eye. Although I never took any pictures to send a serious message to those who viewed the photo, I wanted to make sure they found the photo pleasing to the eye and appealing to look at.

I would take this class again if it were an option. It was a good way to focus on something that you were interested in instead of being forced learn things that you didn't want to. I wish I had more time to take pictures of my ideas instead of taking pictures of what I could manage. But it is my dream to take pictures of horses in tall tan grass at night with a girl in a white dress and copper lights. Also to take pictures of the stars and include bullet holes in my editing.

Artist Statement Student I

There are many many art forms, but all of them share one very prevalent interest known as expression. Photography is a sort've unique one, while not anything new in terms of expressing something through interpretation in a picture like drawing or painting, it peaks my interest due to the intricacies of it. Throughout my time taking photography classes and doing non-profit freelance for businesses and schools, i've grown to love it. Whether it be because of my love of Spider-Man's alter ego Peter Parker, or working with the different cameras, lenses etc.

In terms of what type of photographer I am, I couldn't give a answer. What I tend to do in my photography is I'll have an assignment and take pictures of where and what is in the surrounding area at the moment I decide to do it. Personally I don't really think I have a specific style but rather just capture something that i'd like to remember at that time. My editing style varies, I like messing around with the editing tools and making something surreal but I rather prefer to just "touch up" the photo by sharpening it and make the color a little more saturated.

How my pictures correlate to my personal life are mainly through the places I go to and what I take from them. I definitely only get motivation to recreationally take a picture if it's at a place i'd like to remember. The story behind can easily be interpreted to be just a place I've been to but I personally can remember the whole time being there and where I was at that moment. I don't specifically take pictures to tell a story or convey some deep allegorical meaning but if I do it's usually a picture of a stand alone object.

With photography i've learned that visual arts are the most (for lack of a better word) natural. With photography telling a story seems to be so much easier to convey either story or meaning. A quote that very much inspires my work in any visual art is that, c" A picture is worth a thousand words". The expression means basically that there are things and ideas so complex that it's almost impossible to explain with words but rather through something visual hence a picture. This is definitely what I strive towards with my work the most.

With my time taking photography I've learned a lot of things. I've learned my strengths, weaknesses, passion, style, photoshop, fundamentals of photography, the intricacies of photography, business side, work ethic, and my own type of editing style. My strength/s I've found is my ability to photograph raw pictures and do minimal editing to create a great final product. My weakness/es is my own work ethic, it was a something I really learned over the semester and somewhat improved on throughout the semester. All in all, photography was a great all around experience and class that greatly improved my work and knowledge in photography and will stick with me whether I'm taking pictures as a hobby or professionally.

Artist Statement Student J

This Year I took my second semester of Digital Photography and the first year I really enjoyed. We took picture of whatever we wanted and edited them in whatever way we choose but this year it was different. For all the images we took, they had to be similar to each other. One image had to have something in common with the other. We had to have this similarity happen in all of our 7 final photos that would represent all the work we have done of the class. Now this doesn't seem to hard but to think that this topic is what you would be working with all semester and that you don't want this topic to be really hard and struggle. But to also have this project be really easy and be bored the whole time. So It was really hard for me to pick a good topic for my photos.

For my main idea or topic I wanted to do something in Photoshop and work on editing different pieces of my work. I wanted to edit in lines that would show emotion, movement, direction, shapes or patterns. I would take a regular photo and edit in colorful lines to each image adding in trails behind my friends skateboarding or sun rays from a sunrise. Try to experimenting with a more playful sides to Photoshop, I got really creative with the drawing tools like a special pad that my Photography teacher Mrs. Mitchell provided. This tool made photoshop less of screen and mouse and helped more with the ability to draw like you would with pen and paper. I found this tool very useful and It help display my ideas in a more clean looking way. Also In one of my shots I was taking 6 pictures and combining them to make one photo. I took multiple shoots of different stages of an action that my friend performed. Then in Photoshop I would just cut out my friend and past him into the original photo. Similar to stop motion but instead of many photos it was combined in one. You could see how he started and finished by the 6 cut outs of him all in a line on one picture. This was very difficult to do because you have to make sure you cut him out as clean as possible so he looks natural in the image, also dealing with shadows and very detailed backgrounds.

I learned a lot of new things in Photoshop that I hadn't my first semester. I found multiple tricks that have inspired my to create more work and to continue to use this cool tool in photography.