

Way leads on to Way

a Community Photoworks exhibition



photographs

by Ms. Jennifer Lisowski's ninth-grade English class
at Westchester Senior High School

May 13–20 at Loyola Marymount University

Foreword

For five years now, Community Photoworks has endeavored to give students greater ownership of the art world. This year's exhibition takes this goal even further.

In previous years, we'd only asked students to work in a specific genre (such as landscape photography) or with a given theme (last year's was tension). This year, for the first time, we invited students to bring their own lives into their art by illustrating the journeys they've taken in their photographs. Some are documentary depictions; others, symbolic representations. Many are a little bit of both.

We were fortunate to work with Jennifer Lisowski's ninth-grade English students, who proved up to the task. While working on this project, they were also learning about narrative nonfiction, studying the ways in which authors use words to frame truth. This is no coincidence: it is Ms. Lisowski's curriculum that both inspired and informed this year's project.

The students began by learning about photography at the Getty from visiting artist Soo Kim (renowned for manually manipulating her photographs), who led both a private tour of her work and a photography workshop. Then, with disposable cameras, these young artists composed, constructed, and captured the images in this gallery. And finally, they worked with 826LA tutors to write and refine the artist statements that detail the stories behind these photographs.

The end result is this exhibition, *Way Leads on to Way*, which includes photographs of baby shoes hanging from a rearview mirror, a plane landing at LAX, and the restaging of a childhood separation, among others. These subjects are diverse, yet are only a window to the stories behind them, stories of roads taken and bends along the way.

Ami Davis
J. Paul Getty Museum

Julius Diaz Panoriñgan
826LA

Don't Dwell on the Past

Tegegne Alemseged



As you spend time in life, there are always problems in the way. In my home country, Ethiopia, there was so much sadness and despair for many of my people during the political turmoil. There were no rights for the people who voted for the opposition party (which was the majority of the people, anyway), and my family were victims of abuse by government officials just because we supported the opposition. Some of my family members were thrown in prison. My father was accused of being a spy and considered a “traitor” to the state. My father was just a hard-working man supporting his family any way he could; he had no affiliations with anyone who committed espionage. Since they were about to throw my dad in jail, we had to leave and come to America. It was just too much, so we had to move on, forget the past, and hope for a better future.

I set out to take a photograph to represent my peaceful present, my dark past, and the uncertain (but hopefully brighter) future. In a little alleyway right next to my house, I got on one knee, focused on the other side, and made sure the light was good so the picture could come out the way I wanted it. It captured the dark bushes and the pathway that leads to a bright end.

All the problems I faced in Ethiopia happened for a reason. In my photo, the dark bushes represent my dark past; the bright pathway, my positive present; and the bright end represents the optimistic future.

The Division

Jesus Benitez

In my picture, there's a person standing in the middle of the street wearing a pink shirt and black sweatpants; a car is driving off down a street with a square building to the right of the car. The sky is bearing down on them, casting its light against the objects, creating shadow and the contrast between light and dark.

To take this picture, I had my sister stand in the middle of the street while a car drove off. This represents the separation we faced when we were on our way to the U.S. When my sister and I were coming to the U.S., we got separated halfway through the journey. I remember standing in the middle of the street, watching her and the car she was in drive off, wondering, *Will I ever see her?* I was mad and shocked when this happened, and I think the darkness in the picture represents this. It was a sad day, but I had hope that we would see each other. The sun cutting through the darkness represents the hope I felt. Eventually, we did see each other again, of course, or else she wouldn't be standing in the picture.



Express Your Self

Alshari Borders

The way this picture was taken is very interesting. The lights in my room were actually off, and it was pitch black. I thought the flash would make my dresser pop with brighter colors. The diagonal angle was chosen because I wanted to capture a side shot instead of a straight-on shot. I wanted the dresser to be the center of the picture and the brightest.

This dresser is the center of a journey I take every day. Every morning, I just don't want to wake up. But when I put on my nice clothes and fix my hair, somehow that changes the negativity around me. Things become positive. Clothes are how I express myself, and sometimes I can feel if my day will be good or not. I wanted to capture my persona in this picture.

My journey at the dresser does not have an ending; it only begins because it's something I do every day. It helps me look forward to school and the challenges I have. My expectations in life will be accomplished with a good beginning every day.



Layers of Life

Mia Brumfield

This picture for me signifies the pursuit of a dream. For many people, admission to a college will be a very big journey. And as students, we always hear that it's never too early to start looking at colleges. At the time of this picture, I was on my own journey. During spring break I took a tour of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). I was on the highway headed to Howard University in Washington, DC, when I shot this picture. The campus is the brick buildings in the background. I had to travel over three thousand miles to get there.

My picture contains three different layers of space. The very top layer shows the reflection of me taking the picture while on the charter bus. It has a lot of empty space. The second layer is really a shot of the horizon. The space in this layer gives the illusion of depth, which symbolizes that my journey is far from over. In the final layer, you can actually see the city and the college campus. This layer contains an insufficient amount of negative space. Buildings cover almost every inch of this layer; the only empty space is the green grass.

The three layers signify the three layers of life: the past, the present, and the future. The first layer represents the past and the present at the same time. Although I took the picture in the present, I was also leaving my past. The second layer symbolizes the future, as does the third layer. The openness of the horizon and the landscape in the layers show that one day my journey just might take me anywhere, maybe even college at Howard University.



Solitary Soul

David Chambers



My picture is about the loss of my grandpa and how I was able to move on from this event. I felt that taking a picture of the area around his grave showed a personal strength of acceptance. He was my favorite of my two grandpas because the other died before I was born. At the time my grandfather died, I didn't even know what was happening until I got a phone call from my mom. Even though I've lost him, I've come to a state of mental peace. I still love and miss him a lot, but I've managed to move on from that day. He and I were very close, and virtually everyone he knew loved him. Moving on from this point was a very hard part of my life, but I did what I needed to do. Fortunately, I can come by and see him any time that I want because I only live a few blocks away from the cemetery.

Although this is a cemetery, a gloomy or ominous feeling is not present in the picture. The sun is shining, and it gives the picture a very warm feeling. There is also plenty of open space. Also, the tree in the middle divides the picture in half and serves as a marker for my grandpa's grave. The weather is very welcoming and makes it look like a completely different space. If you couldn't see the tombstones, it would almost look like a picnic area. There is a balance created between the smooth texture of the grass and clouds with the rough texture of the tree trunks, creating a harmony between the earth and the sky.

Different Paths

Darrellquan E. Croom



In my art, movement, texture, line, and shape are all framed together to give a sense of subordination. My image guides your eye from the gate on the left with leaves to the narrow pathway behind another gate on the right.

My picture shows how there are so many paths or choices you may have day to day. The gate that divides the paths expresses how a sudden barrier can prevent you from continuing your journey. There are a variety of options you can choose: you can hop the gate, go through it, or you can avoid it and just take the easy path, which may not lead to your destination.

I took my picture on a cold and rainy day. The rain had just finished pouring down, and I was thinking about capturing movement in a still place. I moved the camera a bit while taking the picture to make a sort of blur effect, and I had to literally put the camera on the ground, very close to the cement, to get all of the key elements surrounding this shot. The photo puts a twist to the place my pictures were taken, and even though people will always pass by, it will always remain the way it is.

I purposely chose a path with something guarding it because I wanted the reader to un-

derstand that we have barriers or negative choices that are always going to prevent us from getting where we want to go. I want to be an attorney so that I can stand up for others who cannot represent themselves in a court of law. Even though I have a set path I want to take, there will always be these barriers or negative choices to hold me back. As a fifteen-year-old child growing up in South Los Angeles, you are constantly going to come against different barriers, which can vary from drugs and gang violence to the ideology of not needing an education to succeed. The gate represents these negative choices, and the end of the path is my job as an attorney.

Remembrance

Chelsea Danielle



When you get older, you start to realize the changes in your life. I have become so busy with my fashion work at school that I miss out on the special bonding time I used to have with my father. I had mixed emotions about the situation. I am happy for what I'm trying to pursue, but I'm also saddened. My father would take me on his boat every other weekend and would always have an interesting story to tell me. But now the road to my career becomes more serious. There are more opportunities heading my way, and I feel that now I have to take them.

March 29, 2010, was the day I took my photo. My dad's boat holds a space at Redondo Beach on the north deck. I went back to remember those times. This was the first time since January 2009. The memories hit me hard, like an anchor. I took this photo because this was one of most important and special journeys in my life. That journey with my father is over, and my journey as a fashion designer has just begun.

This photo shows a sense of nostalgia and longing through the formal elements of art. My photo has three formal elements in particular: line, space, and color. The horizon forms a strong line separating the sky from the boats and the water. The line also creates two different spaces. The sky represents the future and how bright it may become. Nothing in this photo is crammed together. The sky is really the only thing colored in the photo. The boats are dim and seem as if they are the shadows of the past I've left behind. The sky represents what I've moved on to.

I took this photo because it made one of my past journeys come alive again. It was a journey I would bring back. The basic simplicity of just a sunset is normal. But you have to really recognize the beauty for what it is, and what makes it beautiful. It's even more beautiful if you have a wonderful story behind it. This sunset in particular is a summary of the completed journey that I hold dearly in my heart.

Train Tracks

Adell J. Flowers



This photo was taken on April 4, 2010. These tracks run through Florence, and they separate the cities of Westchester and Inglewood. The train stopped running on them several years ago.

On the right side, you can see a lot of trash and beat-up fences. You can also see trucks that look like they may have been destroyed. On the left side, you can see some bushes and a little trash. You can also see a hidden building. This photograph shows how people can live in a poor area, then over time accomplish their goals and live in a better area. Or a person can start off living in a good area, then hit a bump that causes them to live in a poor area.

Out of all the pictures that I took, “Train Tracks” was the picture that represented the theme the best. The thing that I like is the perspective of the tracks. At the bottom of the picture the tracks are big, but as they go to the top they get smaller and smaller, then disappear. They don’t stop until they reach a certain point, just like every other journey in the world.

Victoria's Journey

Vivian Andrea Gaitan



Victoria was holding my mom’s hand while my cousin, my sister, and I ran to the water. It was pretty cold, so my mom didn’t want to get wet, and she didn’t want the baby to get wet either. Victoria let go of my mom’s hand and took her first steps.

Victoria’s growing up and passing these milestones all make up her journey. As her oldest sister, I became someone she could look up to. Symbolically, as shown in the picture, Victoria is following the footsteps of my cousin Mara, my other sister Diana, and me. The lines shown in the picture (the shoreline, the waterline, and the horizon line) all represent goals she may work toward or challenges she may face. The triangle at the end of the picture is a boat, which may also represent a goal she is working toward in her journey. The texture of the sand, how some parts are rough and other parts are smooth, represents how sometimes her journey may be rough or smooth. This picture was taken on April 2, 2010. Almost a year ago she was born, and her journey began.

A Lonely Way

Daniel Garcia



In this picture, lines outline the crest of the mountains that direct your eye to the trails, river paths, and the negative space of the gloomy sky. The gray sky, brown muddy trail, dark-bluish river, and a hint of yellow popping out of the leaves give it a calm feel.

My perspective is that going to a particular place can lead to another place. This river can lead to a massive body of water, or it can lead to the water you are drinking from.

I was hiking and taking pictures in Malibu and stumbled into the river. To take this picture, I hiked down a small slope and walked near the riverbed. I sat down on the ground in order to include a trail in the background.

The photo reminded me of a journey that I went through as a small child, so that was kind of hard for me. The river symbolizes the separation, dark and rocky. The trail in the picture symbolizes the right trail to take, and the calm trees and meadow represent the calmness I've found. It was very hard growing up without a father figure, but when I look at the picture it reminds me that all of the hard times are in the past.

Discombobulated

E. Gomez



In life, everyone has a road they are meant to be on. The journey is finding your own road. Sometimes we tend to forget that. While in school, we are constantly reminded of what success is supposed to look like. When I took this picture, I was standing in the middle of an art square in Orange County. Out of all the art pieces and museums in the art square, the street sign was what inspired me the most. I felt like it made me realize everything I knew about success was contradicting itself.

We learn that there is one way to succeed in life: to be happy, we need to have money. There are so many different ways to go in life, and I am personally still trying to find where I want to go. For now, I want to join the Peace Corps and travel after high school.

All of the artistic elements of this picture portray how I feel about where I am going to go. For example, there is an extreme amount of negative space symbolizing my sense of confusion about the path forward and my present state. However, even in the negative space, there are clouds that make shapes. As the clouds shift and change shape, so do my ideas of where I want to go in life.

Another formal element of art shown in my picture is texture. There is an intense feeling of peace and smoothness on one side of the image, while on the other side there is a streetlight

and the top of a tree showing. This sense of rough texture distracts you from the sign in the middle of the picture that reads, “ONE WAY.” It hints that there is not just one way. There are a variety of different ways to go, and there is so much more than what is there in front of you.

The Transition

Ernest “The Beast” Gomis

To show a picture of a journey I’ve taken, I took a picture of an airplane getting ready to land at LAX. You can tell the plane is about to land because the wheels have come down. The picture consists mostly of a late afternoon sky. The

top of the picture has a mostly light blue color, while the middle of the sky has a beige color. At the bottom of the picture, the sky has a pinkish-orange color. All this gives an indication that the sun is setting. You can see all the space around the plane, that it is the only thing in the sky, which kind of gives the feeling of being lonely. It shows how the child in that plane coming from another country is probably feeling, and how he is going to feel for a while after he has safely arrived.

That is sort of how I felt when I came from Dakar, Senegal, which is in Africa. This picture of a plane is an example of a journey I’ve taken because it shows my journey from Africa to America. Planes are great symbols of journeys and travel, and I also had to fly in a plane to get to California. Eventually, I grew accustomed to America.

As I mentioned before, the plane in the air kind of gives the feeling of being lonely. That is the feeling I had even after I arrived. It shows how many foreigners and immigrants feel when coming to a new county. I took this picture knowing what I wanted to write about. I wanted to take a picture that can relate to travel and being lonely. So I knew a great spot next to my house that has a great view of all the planes coming and landing at LAX. I went up there and angled the plane right to make it look alone in the sky.



The Road Ahead

Cathy Hamor

There is a lot of negative space and an empty background in the upper half of the photo. The lower half is very crowded and busy. Colors and shades are organized into sections, such as bright and dull, with some of the colors blending from one section to another.

The road is long and continuous, and it never ends until you choose. There are so many distractions—such as cars, trees, and rocks—along the way. The yellow line starts off straight,



then it curves out of nowhere, just like life has its random curves. The cars look as if they've stopped in time, like memories.

Dance has been a journey for me ever since I was a little girl. When I first started dancing, I had no idea what was going on. But after learning new dances and meeting new teachers, I ended up loving it. I never thought I'd continue dance for so long, but over time it became my passion, the curve that changed my life

Friends, family, and my dance teachers are the support to my dancing, like the trees, cars, and rocks are the support to the road's destination. The rearview mirror from the car shows my journey in a glimpse, even though it's a little foggy. The window shows the journey now and my road ahead.

Then and There, Here and Now, When and Where? *Raven Huston*



My picture was taken around noontime on a Friday during spring break. My glasses had just broken, so I wasn't really able to see. The outcome of the picture was a total surprise.

When I saw the picture, it represented a journey, a road that could be life, your path, and how the decisions you make affect it. If you look from left to right, you are able to see the transitions of color from light to dark, showing the good times and the bad times, how neither outweighs the other, giving it a sort of balance. Looking down the road, there aren't any curves or turns, but you are still unable to make out the figures or colors in the background, which express the unexpected. The very top has a rough looking texture because of the branches and leaves, representing how you are told when you are young that "life is rough." The branches give off an eerie feeling of hands grabbing at you, kind of like the people in your life who will try to take you off of your morally navigated path.

Being a student, everything I do now will affect my future. From a young age, we all learn that life is hard, already putting an idea of negativity toward life in our minds. Fear of failing and disappointing not only others but yourself is always a constant factor. So it takes courage to continue on when you are not sure what is ahead. "Courage is grace under pressure," said Hemingway. If we make good decisions now, then we can only hope for the best in the future.

Tunnel

Eugene Gaitan Jang



This picture was taken Downtown during my spring break. I had to take some pictures, so I went there. It was my first time going by myself. As soon I got there, I just wandered around. There were lot of interesting things. However, there wasn't anything that represented a journey I had taken. So I was just thinking, and when I realized I was in the tunnel, I was like, *This is it!*

In your life, you can kind of expect what's going to happen, but there's almost always something unexpected. I believe my picture has that element. In the picture, if you look at the end, it gives you a clue about what is outside of the tunnel. However, you don't really know. It might be a dried-up area, or maybe there's nothing there. The tunnel also shows present, past, future. Where I am standing represents the present, the reflection on the wall represents the past, and the journey if front of me represents the future or journey I have to take.

If you look at the movement of the walls, the left one is just straight, but the right one curves around, giving a feeling of floating through. Texture is another element; although both walls are kind of smooth, they're kind of different. The one on the right is brushed metal, the one on the left is glassy metal, and the ground is solid. Even though they are made of different materials, it's interesting that they have similar textures.

The Limit

Heeba Kaleem



Most likely, everyone has heard of the phrase “the sky is the limit,” meaning that you can achieve your dreams if you are determined enough. This photograph, “The Limit,” represents the journey of reaching the sky and your goals. I took this picture in the afternoon, looking up at trees and taking pictures of whatever felt to me like a journey of some sort. This picture turned out to be a surprise to me, and I'm really happy about how it turned out. The thick, dark lines of the trees contrast and obscure the plain blue sky that represents the barriers that occur in every journey. A gradient of a dull, dark blue goes from right to left and gets lighter as it approaches the sun, which is also covered by the trees. The trees sway sideways a little bit because of the wind, and a small bird rises above the trees into the sky, standing for the hope that you can break through any barriers and reach for the sky.

42nd

Kiid Khellz

I've lived on 42nd Street since birth. From learning how to ride a bike to learning how to drive a car, 42nd Street has always been a part of me.

This still image shows the rays from the sun as lines. They symbolize everything that has happened, good and bad, in my life. It's kind of like a huge time line of my life.

There is something about this image that makes me smile. I see it every time I walk home; when someone says 42nd Street, this is what I think of. I guess it's because it's something I like to call home. It's my roots, and I can't hate where I'm from 'cause where I'm from made me. If anything would happen here, from them knocking down a house to cutting down a tree, this just wouldn't feel like home.



America vs. Ethiopia

Natan Mengistu

I took this picture because I wanted to tell a story of two completely different cultures colliding. I took a picture of the famous American Xbox 360 Elite next to the well-known (to Ethiopians) coffee set. There are many different colors in the picture including black and white. The most interesting colors in the picture are from the coffee set: green, yellow, and red, which are the colors of the Ethiopian flag. When people look at the picture, the first thing that they see is the coffee set because it is in the middle of the picture and they don't recognize what it is. The Xbox 360 blends into the background because it's black, which makes it kind of hard to see but still noticeable.



Back home in Ethiopia, where I was born, there are many things that are different. We have many different types of foods we eat, different music we listen to, and different types of games we play. In America, it is completely different, and my parents are not used to it yet. I am constantly accused of abandoning my culture for American culture because I choose to listen to different music, play different games, and eat different types of food. As long I am Ethiopian, I will never abandon my culture. I just want to try new things now that I am in a new place.

When I first came to America, I would have seen the picture I took just like everyone else, seeing the coffee set first. Now that I've been here a while, if someone showed me that picture again, I would see the Xbox 360 first because I have adapted to the American lifestyle. Since I have lived in America, I have changed dramatically, but I still honor my Ethiopian traditions. I see things in a different way now because I have been exposed to new things and my mind has expanded, while my parents are still trapped in that small box they call Ethiopia. That isn't a

bad thing, but I believe they need to come out of that box and see that we are not in Ethiopia anymore. The way I see things and the way my parents see things are completely different, which creates a problem.

In my picture, the background is mostly black, which kind of portrays America, and that is why the Xbox 360 fits in. As for the coffee set, it is mostly white with green, yellow, and red, making it stand out and portraying the idea that it doesn't belong in the background. By taking this picture, the message I am trying to convey to my parents is that you can live with the new American traditions and still have the Ethiopian traditions alongside them. I am still in the middle of this "clash of the cultures" road, but I am hoping that these cultures will set aside their differences and come together as one.

My Journey Through School

Neziah I. Nesbeth, Jr.

My first thought was to photograph the row of lockers diagonally so that they would appear larger. This would show that high school is a big part of my life right now and also that lockers are a huge part of high school. When I took this picture, I did not realize that the row of lockers led to the doors at the end of the hall.

This led to an unexpected journey. I started thinking about my journey through high school. The row of lockers led to the doors that represent the end of high school. The bright light at the beginning of the picture means the present that I can see. The marks at the beginning represent a rough beginning since I am only in ninth grade. The row of locker handles shining all the way down the row symbolizes great opportunities, gifts, and people I may run into. The darkness going down the hall means the future I cannot see but the direction I will go. The lock at the front of the row is a symbol of me being the only one to be able to decide my future, like I am able to decide when to open my locker. The rest of the locks going down symbolize the choices and the opportunities to choose from. The shapes going down getting smaller tell me that the journey will be long, and the squares of light at the end tell me that the end of my journey is far off. The bottom row of lockers is like another person beside me going on his or her journey. The darkness at the bottom is like the failure of your dreams. If we don't follow them, that is where we will go, so we try and stay out. This picture altogether looks like an early morning in school or a school break-in.

What I realized taking this picture is that if you stop for a minute or two or three, you will see more in a picture than your first thoughts. So next time you see or take a picture, make sure to take a good look at it, and you will see more to it and get a better understanding of it.



Many Things Lead to Success

Genda Ouanemy



The first thing that comes to mind when I look at this photo is my love for softball. While taking this picture, I had to lie on the ground to capture the whole softball field and part of the team. I decided to take a picture of Westchester's softball field because this is where I spend most of my time, and I'm hoping that will lead to a career that I love.

Right now, I am just starting on my journey with the Lady Comets softball team. I know this will take a lot of time and hard work. I see my experience with softball as a journey because it's my pathway to self-confidence, success, and determination. This is what led to the creation of this photo.

As my journey begins, it starts to be blurry (as it shows in the photo) because everything becomes a rush. I have to get used to the pressure and stress, and become aware of how I have less time for other things. But as I continue through, everything becomes clear. I will soon get used to all the changes and become adapted to everything.

The line of the horizon divides the photo into two parts, which I see as the present and the future. The texture of the grass gives a close and immediate view because everything is so blurry as my journey starts. But in the future, the sky seems to smooth out as time goes by. All the space between the present and future shows how things tend to smooth out as I experience more and more things throughout high school.

While continuing through this journey, I am hoping it leads to making the varsity team and maybe playing for a college or university. The plane in the photo represents even more success in the sport. I may get a scholarship from scouts, and I would fly from place to place for games and tournaments. I know this will be a fun and enjoyable journey as I go through it with friends and loved ones. I just know that many things can lead to success, and this is my way for that.

Never Expect the Unexpected

Jordan Ashley Pérez



This photograph represents the unknown. You go through the process of living your life, and things might go wrong or turn out perfect, but you never know what's around the corner. As I was walking down the street, I realized how I have so much ahead of me in my life. I have a journey full of the unexpected in front of me. I've also realized that this curvy, everlasting street can represent the journey ahead of me.

I took this photograph while I was walking from the store down a local street in my

neighborhood around five in the afternoon. The sun was going down at the time. I really didn't notice that I had a great picture until it was developed.

The streetlights and the line markings in the street are straight and sturdy. They represent the things that I know; they are almost like markers. The colors are gloomy because of the shadow of the buildings.

As you turn the corner of the road, your future awaits. Think about it. My brother, Jamari Rowland, says, "If you expect the unexpected, the unexpected would be the expected; thus, you should expect nothing." I know whether the journey is positive or negative, I am prepared.

Interesting Trash

Jessica Marie Phillips



About four months ago, when I was walking to the store, I saw these shopping carts, trash bags, boards, and junk for the first time. I thought it was just trash somebody put there until my friends told me somebody lives there. To get to the store,

I have to pass that bulk of trash. One day I stopped, looked, and started thinking. I wondered why the person chose to live that way and what happened to him when he was younger. Did I want to end up that way? This makes me feel a kind of sadness. It makes me want to finish school and go to college, and follow a different journey than he did.

To other people his things may be trash, but they may mean the world to him. You may wonder why I took a picture of junk. To me, this picture is not junk; it's very interesting. It has its own meaning and makes you really think about life. The blue sky and the orange shopping carts stand out. The rectangular shapes of the shopping carts and the circular wheels stand out too. By taking the picture in bright daylight, all the different elements in the picture are in sharp focus. It makes the person viewing the picture have to look at everything and not miss any part of it.

I wasn't trying to make the scene prettier than it is. I just wanted to get a good picture of how I see it every day, nothing different. I did not turn my head like most people do when they see homeless people. To be honest, I thought this was going to be a normal, boring picture, but after it was printed, I realized it was something different and interesting. I realized that the scene I was looking at has a certain beauty. The person has arranged his world as best as he can. It's not messy; it's neat. So I learned that this man has his own life and his own journey like everybody else.

untitled

Nicholas Reese

I took this picture while standing in my room, looking out at the houses through my window. My picture shows that the world does not just consist of me; I am one of a million. There are many people in the world who have the same goal as me, which is to make it to college and possibly play basketball. This picture also makes me feel small because I'm not the only one trying to make it in life. Throughout my photo you can see many small squares that shade the photo, as if you're looking through a window screen. And as you look further on, you see a lot of houses that hold families inside, so it seems very crowded to me. It feels as if it could be a lot of pressure on me because I have to compete with these people to get into college.



High School Loner

REY

The lines and shapes focus your attention to the person in the middle of my picture. All the empty space forces the eye to him.

When I took this photo, it was raining, and we just got back from spring break. It poured buckets earlier that day, and we hadn't seen the sun in days. I was walking to class by myself when I saw this lonely kid walking in the rain. I got down low and took a landscape photo of this person in this dark gloomy weather. The clouds in the picture give it a dark mood, which resembles the awkwardness and loneliness when in high school. The reflection in the puddle symbolizes the uncertainty of identity. This picture symbolizes the struggle of growing up and finding yourself. High school is a hard thing to do; we are uncertain of what we are and who we want to be. It's a long four-year process of sunshine and thunderstorms. There are barriers that need to be breached and doors to be opened. This person symbolizes everyone in high school, everyone who is alone in a helpless situation.



Life

Ameer "So Fresh" Said

This picture means a lot to me. It is of my sister's shoes inside my mother's car. They are hanging from the rearview mirror by a band, which is colored like the Ethiopian national flag. She wore these shoes when she was about eighteen



months old. The colors that stand out most when you look at this picture are green, yellow, and red, which are coming from the band. These are the only bright colors in this picture, so they tend to pop even more than usual. Also, if you look at the middle of the dashboard, you will see this tiny stuffed animal, almost as if it was hidden away. The stuffed panda is one of my sister's favorite toys now, at the age of four. This creates the mood of "then versus now." That's what I wanted it to feel like. There is a lot of focus and emphasis on the shoes, which remind me of my past. Not only do they remind me of my little sister, but they remind me of how I acted before I had a baby sister, and also of my past, my country.

My sister was born on August 4, 2005, and was given the name Siyane Yesuf Said. I am a full ten years older than her. When my parents first told me that they were going to have a baby, I thought that she was going to be annoying and that she would always bother me. But I was completely wrong. My sister looks up to me and never does anything to bother me. When I come home from school, she runs to the door and gives me the biggest hug she can. I love my sister and will do anything for her. That's what big brothers are for, to watch over their little sisters and protect them.

I was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I lived there for six years and came to California in 2001. Every time I ride in my mother's car, all I can seem to look at are those shoes and the band that they hang from. I get reminded of my neighborhood in Addis, of my friends, of my school, and of my life when I lived there. I do not get mad because we left; after all, we came here for a better future. I just get sad sometimes when I remember how life was back in Ethiopia. There were no worries, no earthquakes, no violence; it was just freedom and 360 days of sunshine. But when I came here, it was a whole different story. My first memory is 9/11, and that was a mere two months after I came. I know America is known as the land of dreams, and that's why we came here, to fulfill ours. So far, so good.

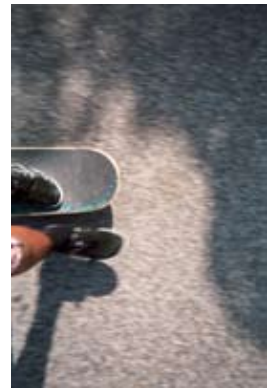
I don't regret even one part of my life. I just miss some aspects, and that's why I took this picture.

The Way I Live My Art

Ethan "Those Folks" Singleton

What is skateboarding to me? It is fun. A way of life. Skating is not just a bunch of tricks and ideas thrown into one. It is a considerable art form. I am in control of what I paint and what I decide. I am the artist, and the board, my brush. In my photo the board and I are one. Together. As I travel down my road, I have control over where I go. There is no other person in my path, creating a sense of emptiness, with a mixture of life as well. There is a shine of sun that brings brightness into perspective. This makes the colors more vibrant and stronger.

One thing that I really enjoy about my picture is that the main part is centered. The view-



er focuses their eye on the board. I would like for others to try and figure out what relationship I have with my skateboard. If my piece is as strong to others as it is to me, they'd notice that my board creates a sense of dominance. Through my experience of writing this assignment, I have found a deeper relationship between my photo and the prompt. The road that I have taken in the picture is bumpy and ridged. I know from prior knowledge (living) that sometimes you are given things that you simply have to deal with. On my skateboard, I am sometimes given tough challenges on my way to a destination that I simply have to get past.

Everything that comes together is something that makes my picture special. The color, lines, background, and the sense of uniqueness shed light upon my lifestyle. It is one thing that many people don't understand. A picture is always good for a memory. After it is taken, many things change. People grow, learn, and change their ideas. I can always look back at pictures and remember. Because my picture gives off so much deep information, I can always look back and remember who I was. The way I live will never be lost.

Never-Ending Expedition

Daveon "Bentley" Latroy Turner



This photograph is my journey, my journey down the path of success. It represents the troubles that I went through and that I'm going through. I took this photograph of the street I just moved to because it feels like a new time in my life.

It feels like a new journey has just begun. If you look down the road, it looks as if it doesn't end just like every other journey.

The speed bump symbolizes the trials and tribulations you have to go through and get over. The arrows on the speed bump show you which way to go to continue on the right path. The shadow of the tree symbolizes me in the shadows as a quiet boy and how I emerged into the light to show who I really was.

During the early years of my life, I was in the shadows because I kept to myself. Then I started to show who I really was by being the friendly funny kid that I am, and people started to notice me. But being the funny kid isn't always a good thing. It got me into trouble, and that was like a speed bump that I didn't know was coming, so I had to slow down, get over that obstacle, and start being the smart kid that I knew I could be.

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