PHOTOGRAPHY
Student images from The University of Washington Certificate Program

Introduction by David Julian
Table of Contents

8  Jennifer Croley  |  Liberty
14  Leigh Ann Johnson  |  Like a Mother
20  Thomas Knight  |  Natural Patterns in Ferns
26  Leslie K. Lee  |  Light Paintings
32  Quoc Dang Luu  |  The Princesses
38  Latosha Missel  |  Whimsical Moments
44  Melissa Parkinson  |  Deconstruction
50  Ana Pereyra  |  Empower Her
56  Amy Rench  |  Light in the Storm
62  Mariam Riad  |  Diversity in the City
68  Cindy Rio-Rados  |  Adventure Cats
74  Kim Seidensticker  |  Clones
80  Nat Seymour  |  Fall Behind
82  Ruchika Verma  |  Dancing Paint
88  Vanessa Williams  |  Women Empowering Women
94  David Julian, instructor  |  Olvidia in Her Parlor
96  Meet the Artists
Introduction

Photography is the world’s most popular medium for recording what we see and experience. While billions of fleeting moments are captured daily for casual social media posts, the work of a true photographer goes far deeper than a snapshot.

It’s a certain alchemy of creatively using composition, light, time and one’s imagination to create art. Commitment and practice is required for any photographer to master the medium and realize their vision. The UW Certificate in Photography course offers a broad exposure to a variety of technical and creative directions in the art form.

While some students began the course with some photography experience, others were new to their camera. By the final quarter, all pushed their comfort zones to meet new creative goals, and to learn digital techniques for crafting their images.

My role as instructor was to provide tools and guidance for learning, and to help students discover or empower their innate talent. Each student was challenged to develop a six-image series that carried an defined theme and conveyed their knowledge of photography. The primary requirement was to use their camera, light and imagination as a medium of inquiry, experimentation, storytelling with meaningful purpose or connection. Their work proves that they not only met this substantial challenge, but that they also grew as individuals through their learning process.

I’m very proud of this collection, and of the artists whose passions have made it shine.

~ David Julian, Instructor
The Artists and Their Craft
Jennifer Croley

Liberty

About this work
As the owner of a small hay farm and equine boarding facility located in Central Washington, I am fortunate to wake each morning to the beauty that is innate to the horse. These photos are of domesticated horses that live at or near my home. Usually they are contained through halters and human direction. Here, I let them loose and attempt to capture them doing what they do best... being horses!

Letting these majestic creatures free in the fields surrounding my home, I hoped to capture, share and ultimately confirm for the viewer, their grace, power and heart. Each piece depicts a horse at liberty, moving in a manner intrinsic to the horses’ natural environment, unbridled by human constraints.

As an educational note I will explain each horses’ movement as it applies to undomesticated horses. Tug expresses a rearing stance which is usually a sign of play fighting. Rebel, poised at a trot, this gait can be sustained for up to fifteen miles if needed, the trot, is a handy pace for getting across long distances while in pursuit of land to graze or water. Penelope, fierce and determined in a gallop, would only continue this pace for up to 3 miles and most likely only in an attempt to flee a predator. Horses usually remain as docile as possible, conserving their energy for when it is truly necessary to use for survival.
About the artist

Photography was a just a small word that had little meaning to me over a year ago. The word has morphed into a way of life. I use photography to connect to people and life around me. For the moment, I am focusing my energy on making images with lasting meaning. I hope to share these moments with others, so they too can be inspired to go outside and see what the world has to offer that day.

Penelope
Rebel
Eliza
Whiteout
Leigh Ann Johnson

Like a Mother

About this work

In our culture, mothers are often made invisible. Working behind the scenes, doing one of the hardest and most important jobs on the planet, they are often judged for every imperfection while their work is minimized as easy and unglamorous. With this project I strive to show real moments of motherhood—the challenges and moments that are usually hidden from view.

Some are more universal than others, but all are normal. Mothers are incredibly resilient, versatile, creative, and powerful in their work. They deserve better than judgment, pity, and shaming. They deserve to be truly visible in all their awesomeness and all their humanness.

Sometimes I feel like I just need five minutes of peace
About the artist

In my many careers I’ve traveled the world working for Semester at Sea, taught children in the Dominican Republic, designed luggage and backpacks for REI, and developed knitwear for Eddie Bauer. I’ve sought a career that combines my analytical brain, creativity, and desire to change the world for the better; and have finally found it in photography.

My goal is to create unexpected, yet true-to-life photographs. I aim to focus on details we may normally gloss over.

I hope that my photographs challenge or resonate deeply with the viewer in some way. I believe that every photo sends a message about what we value in our society. What we include or exclude in our photos is influenced by our culture, politics, and unconscious biases. I seek to create inclusive, anti-bias photography that opens viewers’ minds to experiences they may not have considered. I seek social justice through art.
I always cave and give them screen time so I can cook dinner.

They say breast is best, but for me it’s not.
How do I know which kid needs my attention more when they’re both upset?
I’m constantly striving to be a perfect parent to prove myself in a homophobic world.
Thomas Knight

Natural Patterns in Ferns

About this work
My project shows various stages of growth of ferns. The first photo represents the beginning stage of growth and contains a spiral pattern. The second photo represents the middle stage of growth and contains a sequence of small triangle shaped fronds that move the eye across the image. The final stage of growth contains a large triangle shape that represents full development.

About the artist
I try to compose my photographs in a way that shows interactive balance between the elements and take a thoughtful approach to each shot. I look beyond the initial scene to find the best spot, angle, and orientation to take the photo from. This results in interesting viewpoints and compositions. I try to give the viewer an exclusive look at unique nature scenes.

My goal as a photographer is to shoot the best photographs I can and awe the viewer with the beauty of nature. I incorporate an artistic approach that produces ascetically pleasing images that I hope viewers enjoy.
Emergence
Unfurled
Light is a key factor in photography. Light determines an image’s brightness and darkness. It sets the mood and tone of a photograph. Light also create shapes. In this series, I am using light to create artful light streaks around crystal spheres. These images are simple, but mysterious. They reflect space, depth and the abstract side of photography. The goal of these images is to look beyond photographing flowers, humans, or picturesque landscapes, but to take a simple object such as a crystal sphere and creating art with light.

About the artist
Born in Seattle Washington, I have always enjoyed photography. Photography allows me to explore my creative side. It pushes me to visit places I would normally not go. I generally take landscape and travel photographs. My goal as a photographer is to create interesting and thought-provoking images. I want viewers to walk away intrigued, curious, but most of all fascinated.
Quoc Dang Luu

The Princesses

About this work
I grew up with Disney culture, especially the Disney Princesses. The idea of bringing the characters into real world is very interesting for me, so I create the concept using bright color scheme of fashions, backgrounds and props to create the vibe of their story with a sense of fashion.

About the artist
I have a passion for Fashion Photography. I like to combine my ideas with a variety of fashion elements such as location, background and lighting effects. I create images that are recognizable by my audience; photographs that tell them they are viewing my work. I have worked with a lot of female models over many years in the industry. Capturing their beauty is most special to me. I like to show different angles and perspectives of women, and bring tribute to them for all they have done for us. I call all of my models or muses “Dreamers.” When they work with me they get to become part of my dream. My Dreamers might live in a fantasy world, but photography allows me to bring them to life. I hope to inspire other dreamers to bring their dreams to life too.
Snow White
Latosha Missel

Whimsical Moments - Only Little For A Little While

About this work
Infants and toddlers are only little for just a little while. They grow up so fast before our eyes. Helping parents capture those early days of childhood. While one is still adjusting to the nuances of parenthood and all the precious milestones.

Capturing the details of the newest addition to the family using soft lighting elements to the fun props. Freezing in time the simple details.

About the artist
From a very young age I have loved photography. It was always a highlight to pick up developed film with my Grandmother because you never knew what to expect. The thrill of seeing past adventures instilled and captured on photo paper kept me coming back for more. As an adult it has become more about capturing our little miracle's details, fleeting moments, and milestones.

Penelope – The Whimsical Pilot

Penelope – Tutu & Pearls
Penelope – All Sparkles & Fur

Charlie & His Firetruck

[ following pages ]  Charlie – Let the Adventure Begin ; Charlie
Melissa Parkinson

Deconstruction

About this work
Against a backdrop of industrial cranes and high-rises on one side, and Seattle’s waterfront and mountains on the other, the final days of the Alaskan Way Viaduct are here. Seattle’s image is being remade into a 21st Century city, in a never ending cycle of construction and destruction. The first time I wandered down to see the removal efforts I was reminded of an apocalyptic scene with crumbling concrete, twisted rebar, fire hoses and mechanical monsters, the world coming apart creating an organic mess in place of the stoic highway. Just beyond the mayhem was the waterfront with tourist attractions the ferris wheel and view of the mountains creating a stark contrast to what was happening in-between. These are snapshots of a time and place that has already moved on since they were taken, representing the liminal spaces of a changing view.
About the artist
Melissa is originally from Wyoming, but has since lived in 10 states and 3 countries. She enjoys travel, archaeology and photographing new places. At the writing of this bio she is living in the space between 3 industrial cranes as they change the face of the Central District in Seattle.
Moving On
Obelisk
Sunset
Ana Pereyra

Empower her

About this work
Women empowerment has been very important to me these past few years of growing into a young adult. After realizing my self-worth and practicing self-love, I wanted to share the importance of it. I feel as a generation, were more open now to women being all shapes, sizes and colors. However, along with that comes stretch marks, scars, moles, body hair, discoloration, etc. We still have people in social media who try to change that and make it appear as gross or unattractive which is especially damaging to young women.

In these photos, all women have little to no makeup; skin is completely unedited and natural.

About the artist
My goal in pursuing photography is to create consistent work I’m proud of and share it with the world to make a connection. I’m shy and introverted but I’ll always have a love for portrait photography.
Shapes
Melanin
Friendship
Amy Rench

Light in the Storm

About this work
This body of work represents the majestic solitude of lighthouses. These resilient beacons of safety are filled with mystery and history. Travelling to these locations, it struck me how isolated these vital structures are, and how crucial the light in the darkness really was to seafarers’ survival, and still is. They truly are the light in the storm. My hope is to reveal their dutiful and isolate spirit all at once.

About the artist
My ambition in photography is to make memories, document experiences, and bring out the best in what I see. The challenge of capturing and developing these moments fills my heart. As a Pacific Northwest native, I am inherently connected to the outdoors. To me, photography is embedding the memories of my adventures. When people see my work, I want them to share the joy that I felt when creating it.

Mukilteo Lighthouse, WA
Point No Point Lighthouse, WA
Bush Point Lighthouse, WA
Living in Seattle area is such a great experience. As the Pacific Northwest becomes increasingly diverse, I came with the idea to capture diversity along with the city theme, while my eyes consistently drawn to all the historical sites and the beautiful landscape it was also drawn to all the different cultural diversity. The PNW is a playground for explorers and dreamers that I found in my models in these pieces.
About the artist

Through the years, I learned how priceless it is to capture and record memories. As I find beauty is my biggest motivation to look through the lens; however, I find loss to be another.

First, when I lost all my childhood photos in a massive fire; therefore, I decided to record the best moments of my three children growing up. Then when I lost my Mom to leukemia and how I was able to see joyful moments of her in some photos and pretend I have never seen her in all the pain that she had gone through.

Photography transformed my insight of the world; my eyes recurrently are drawn to the ever-changing light, my perspectives is now constructed of depth, layers and dimensions and the joy of adventure traveling and wondering all in the hope I can freeze the moment and capture something unique.

Taking my hobby to a profession is my goal, and my desire to learn more about photography is unstoppable.
Leap

The Traveler
Cindy Rio-Rados

Adventure Cats

About this work

For most of my life, I’ve always felt a connection to a cat’s untamed spirit. They’re the one species who truly has never been entirely domesticated, which has always intrigued me. Later in life when I became a behaviourist and animal trainer, I learned we can connect with cats on a deeper cognitive level through positive reinforcement training.

This series embodies the wild and free spirit of cats who can explore faraway destinations and understand behavior cues to participate as partners with their human family members. Adventure Cats are a fast growing community of felines who accompany their humans on various escapades.

My hope is that my images will spark dialogue to change the perceptions of the symbiotic relationship between cats and humans.
About the artist

Photography is an exploration for me, a quest to capture the elements of an animal’s essence and their unique personality. Something about the honesty in an animal’s eyes and the way its body moves stirs my soul. Behind the camera, peering into the eyes of my subjects, I enjoy capturing keepsake moments that my audience will be able to cherish forever. Our beloved pets are so much a part of us; getting to the heart of that with an image is everything to me.
The Emperor

Fetchin'
Meowstros Are Calling
Kim Seidensticker

Clones

About this work
It’s fashion, with a touch of the surreal to make things fun.

About the artist
I’m a digital content creator, working in the fashion, beauty, and lifestyle space. I spend way too much time on Instagram, which is where most of my work is published, and I’m okay with that.
Nat Seymour

Fall Behind, An Installation of Five Shaped Prints

About this work

The prints in this art are read left to right as in a comic—with the silhouette of each, in a comic book way, an icon of its subject. The photographic interior of each print matches the spirit of its outline but refines the narrative, expanding into colors and emotions.

This art is a story of spring’s light and colors as seen by a photographer. With fall just behind her.

About the artist

Irreverence, theatricality and humor with light. Nat Seymour creates images of physical things made emotional, and predictable things juxtaposed with the unexpected. Nat’s first memory of having a camera was bringing a Kodak Instamatic on a 4th grade field trip in his lunch bag. Yogurt was in the bag also. A sticky camera, no photos and no lunch was the result. Later, in the MIT darkroom, Nat used shadows from his hands and bits of cardboard to lighten some areas and darken others in the prints he made. The mystery of not knowing how a picture would turn out made each image a surprise to look forward to. Over the next 20 years, Nat was the engineer most likely to take photographs of the aerospace projects his team worked on, and colleagues asked him to document their projects and people. In 2010, Nat decided to make photography his full-time avocation. In addition to capturing art photographs, he has captured images of families, machine shops, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, marathon runners and of hundreds of business and education events. Nat also teaches photography to those who want to improve and lighten their view through the lens.
Ruchika Verma

Dancing Paint - Bringing Color to Life

About this work
The dancing paint photography is a unique way of portraying how color can take amazing shape when you synchronize them with music, however this is by far the most challenging step, which requires acute precision of controlling four aspect of this work, color, music, camera and lights.

Because of this complexity Dancing paint is my best project so far, though it was tedious, time consuming and frustrating but it produced some amazing moments on canvas which I believe reveals a unique story in itself.

About the artist
My objective is to capture these moments not as they are however the way I feel them. Photography is one of the platforms to show the world that mother Earth is a beautiful work of ART created by god. Digital photography is a means for me to add my creativity to these wonders with the help of technology and passion/idea. I aim to tell a story with these moments that would take thousands of words to describe them. So, Let’s Make Memories…
Gold Mine
Azul
Mushroom
Vanessa Williams

Women Empowering Women

About this work
Some might say putting a gown, flowers and/or a crown on a woman is cliché. Though it’s more socially acceptable, it’s embracing a side that not all of us [women] feel comfortable doing. This part of us is ok too! For this project, I worked with a non-profit organization, Women Hold The Key, which focuses on women empowering women. All three ladies represent a different stage in a woman’s life: The Maiden, The Mother and The Crone.

About the artist
After a few years of shooting high fashion, I made a switch in my photography path – I am now focusing on something more soft and vulnerable. Photography allows me to express the feminine part of myself and provides a safe space to do so. I hope to continue this work in and out of the camera.
The Mother and the Crone
The Crone, The Mother and The Maiden
The Trifecta
About the artist

Dave’s path began in the natural sciences prior to earning a BFA with honors in Communications Design from Pratt Institute in NY. His career has included art direction, design, photographic illustration and photography, with major awards including the Art Director’s Club of NY and the Society of Publication Design.

His images have appeared in Nikon World, Outside, National Geographic Traveler, Islands, After Capture, Outdoor Photographer, SHOTS, FujiLove and he is guest host on the photography podcast “Hit The Streets”.

Since 2001, he has taught photography at eleven reknown facilities including at Santa Fe Workshops, Maine Media Workshops, The Anderson Ranch, Vancouver Photo Workshops, University of Washington, Art Institute of Seattle, Seattle Creative Academy and at sea with Un-Cruise. An avid traveler, Dave leads annual workshops in the US, Mexico, Cuba, Europe and India.

Dave is a Fujifilm-X Delegate photographer, and he has a passion for guiding photographers to learn the nature of light, explore possibilities and reach new creative goals.

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About this work

While traveling in India and Cuba, I fell in love with the art of informal and environmental portraiture. The camera became my entry point to conversing with those I felt drawn to meet, connect with and photograph.

My ongoing project entitled “The People Of...” presents individuals in their everyday lives— in their homes, at work or in an interesting space we collaboratively choose.

Olvidia is the mother of a woman I rented a room from in Cuba. I was led to the parlor of her dark, shuttered Spanish colonial home. We were introduced, but she didn’t speak. When I asked if I could open a shutter to let some light in, Olvidia said “no importa” (it doesn’t matter).

I set up my tripod, camera and a reflector, and turned on the old lamp. I asked about her family in an effort to engage relaxing conversation but she remained quiet and still. I photographed as children peeked in the window.

Afterwards, I handed her a print of a favorite photograph from Trinidad. She grasped it and said “ohhh, gracias profesor” but did not glance at the print in her hand. It was then that I realized that Olvidia is blind.
Olvidia In Her Parlor, Trinidad Cuba
Meet the Artists

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PHOTOGRAPHY 2019
is publication of
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Professional & Continuing Education Photography Certificate Program
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Logo, Book Design and Production by David Julian
Cover Photograph: 'Penelope' by Jennifer Croley
Title Page photo of photographic equipment courtesy of Jim Golden
Lead-In Page Photography: 'Gold Mine' by Ruchika Verma
Back Cover Photograph: 'Leap' by Mariam Riad
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Printed in the United States of America at MagCloud.com
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The class of 2019 wishes to thank Certificate Program Manager Miriam Doyle for her incredible support.

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