Table of Contents

6  Introduction by David Julian
8  Brenda Barkey  |  Emerging Fronds
14 Greg Bartell  |  People And Their Passions
20 David L. Bennett II  |  Faces Of Comedy
26 George Cavallo  |  Personal Armor
32 Clark Chase  |  The Dark Between The Days
38 Kendall Eng  |  Dice In Motion
44 Hank Fialkow  |  Red Chair
50 Yvaine Jiang  |  Life Is A Dream
56 Carla Kinnier  |  Homeward Bound
62 Josh Krivoshein  |  Shallow Intricacies
68 Erin Liu  |  Red I.D.
74 Natalia Liubinetska  |  The Beauty Of Simple Things
80 Taylor O’Brien  |  Under Construction
86 Kyle Qunell  |  Washington Is Our Happy Place
92 Josh Rutheiser  |  Your Self
98 Iswarya Sridharan  |  Food Levitation On Indian Cuisine
104 Connie Tomlinson  |  South Fork Logging Bridge
110 Meet the Artists  |  Contact Info and Social Media
114 Ray Pfortner, Instructor for Fall Quarter
116 David Julian, Instructor for Winter and Spring Quarters
Photography is the world’s most popular medium for recording what we see and experience. Each day, billions of snapshots are posted online—but a true photographer artfully captures a more informed and intentional vision. Their work is an alchemy of creativity using composition, light, time, sensitivity and imagination.

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. When the pandemic moved the course from campus to an online format, the students had new emotional and logistical challenges that limited access to subjects, locations and collaborators. Yet, as seen throughout the history of the arts, ingenuity and creativity grow stronger during difficult times.

In Spring quarter, each student was challenged to propose and develop a themed six-image series that would provide new opportunities to challenge themselves through photography. The primary requirement was to use a camera, light and time as a medium of inquiry, experimentation and storytelling through visual language.

This book showcases their projects and proves that they not only met their goals, but that they also grew as individuals and as a wonderfully supportive and altruistic group throughout the process.

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

David Julian, Instructor
The Artists and Their Work
Brenda Barkey

Emerging Fronds

About this work
In these photos, I capture a brief moment of each frond’s emergence. I love the simplicity of the fern with its tightly curled frond, holding all its potential, ready to transform into a full leaf.

About the artist
Whether it’s the beauty of a landscape, the feeling of a place, or a specific moment in time, I love capturing the beauty of nature.
Emerging Frond #2
Emerging Frond #4
About this work

We all have things we are passionate about...it may be our job, a hobby, an activity, an art project, or a cause we actively support. I believe that a photograph of us engaged in one of these activities reveals us as our most authentic selves. These passions may change over the courses of our lives, but captured in a photo at any point in time, they show us at our best.

These types of images are known as Environmental Portraits. Here are six environmental portraits of people engaged in doing what they love to do.

About the artist

I am growing into a professional photographer with my completion of this program. I entered wanting to build some skills and prepare to conduct photography tours. In the course, I have discovered a new fascination for environmental portraiture, or the art of photographing subjects who are surrounded by what they enjoy. Going forward, I want to offer on-location environmental portraits for both individuals and commercial clients, as well as leading photography tours in both the US and Greece.
George Cavallo, Artist, Photographer
Shiela Baker, Shaman and Psychotherapist
Clark Chase, Police Officer
David L. Bennett

Faces of Comedy

About this work
My focus is to capture a moment in time that you will not see again. You need to get the full experience by being there and sharing in that moment. That the work of a comedian to bring a smile to your face also entails them contributing with many expressions of their own. This is done by sharing their thoughts and experiences with us and ultimately letting us into a combination of their best and worst moments in life, and still being able to bring smiles to us while doing so. Ultimately this brings us their faces of comedy.

About the artist
I have been into photography off and on since high school. I was also part of the Ansbach high school yearbook staff as well. I became more serious about photography in 2011 and self-educated on digital photography with various books and online tutorials. Always practicing and developing my skills as I went. Photography of live events like comedy shows and concerts are favorites.
Quinton Jones fresh face I had not meet before.

(left) Josh Firestine the ringleader for the comedy that night.
Kelsey Cook experienced pro that puts it down!
Robert Moore NW local that kills on the stage!
Jayla Watje her set and expressionism on the mic!
Gunnar Israel Great comic excellent crowd interaction!
About this work

During these extraordinary times, everyday people are donning an abundance of Personal protective equipment. I feel like we are all wearing some kind of armor. I began thinking of the medieval Knights who virtually lived in their armor so they could get accustomed to its weight. Many of our Frontline workers, doctors, and nurses are living in their protection now. When I reached out to the Seattle Knights for portrait volunteers, I envision stout gentleman-soldiers. To my shock, primarily women answered my request. Although it was rare for a woman to carry the title of knight, there are plenty of fierce women who fought as knights. I wanted to capture the beauty forged amongst the battered leather, chainmail, and steel armor in these warriors.
About the artist

I am so fortunate to be both a professional photographer as well as a painter. From a very young age, I have enjoyed dabbling in both brushwork and camera art. Usually, these two mediums are perceived as entirely independent disciplines. My unique training has given me a creative bridge between these two highly specialized fields. I apply these same concepts to photography by studying each scene with my painterly eye to capture a much more dynamic and exciting composition.

Rhea
Clark Chase

The Dark Between The Days

About this work
I have always had an affinity for cities at night time. The streetlights creating a high contrast, urban scape, separated by moats of shadows. These two separate environments of light and dark reveal and withhold details at the same time, creating a continuous duality of what can be observed. This is a city that most do not experience, hiding within dreams locked safe inside. However, to really get to know a city, the one must explore the dark between the days.
About the artist

My passions include, Landscape, Astro, Urban and Architectural photography. I love the process of interacting with my environment, capturing moments that caught my eye. A repeating pattern, the sun reflecting off a surface, a unique perspective of something common. Photography allows me to share how I see the world around me with others.
Kendall Eng

Dice in Motion

About this work
No two dice are the same – whether they have four sides, twenty sides, or anywhere in-between. This project focuses on different die shapes, the variety of designs, and the trails they leave behind while in motion.

About the artist
I always preferred being behind the camera, rather than in front of it. Photography pulls me in by capturing moments that bring back stories to share or experimenting with something new that catches my eye. I have a habit of stopping to take photos of anything and everything and getting distracted following an animal or cloud.

As J.R.R. Tolkien said, “Not all who wander are lost.”
Hank Fialkow

Red Chair

About this work
This project aims to create dreamlike, contemplative images through contrasting natural backgrounds and a utilitarian object. Using a red Emeco 1006 navy chair, the viewer is invited to contemplate emptiness and immerse themselves in the image. The images are designed more to ask questions than to answer them. Because of this, much of the meaning of the work is left for the viewer to determine for themselves.
About the Artist

I’ve been making art of varying quality ever since I was a kid. As far as I can remember I’ve been fascinated by abstraction and graphic presentation of ideas. Art gives me ways to present my world, explore perception, and create experiences for others. It’s also personally rewarding for many of the same reasons.
Yvaine Jiang

Life is a Dream

About this work
This project is a series of self portraits. My project is inspired by the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, so I created a series of photographs of myself, utilizing Photoshop & Lightroom to achieve a soft, moody and dreamy effect. Is our life just a dream or are our dreams the reality?

“We are asleep. Our Life is a dream. But we wake up sometimes, just enough to know that we are dreaming.”
— Ludwig Wittgenstein
About the artist

Photography has presented Yvaine a whole new world. From discovering untold stories to documenting the tiny details from our everyday lives, photography has provided Yvaine new ways to present emotions.

With the help of her camera, Yvaine’s goal is to become a storyteller to uncover the beauty of humanity through her experiences, travels, and relationships.
Carla Kinnier

Homeward Bound

About this work

Everyone comes from a place they call ‘back home.’ This photo essay charts the itinerary of a traveler who is homeward bound. From left-to-right the sojourner’s odyssey commences with an evening bus ride to the airport, a redeye special followed by multiple modes of transit, and finally a taxi ride to that place called home. I hope this evokes fond recollections within you about your travels that may have been homeward bound.
About the artist

Carla Kinnier is a photographer aspirant who loves to capture in image, from the majestic to the mundane, the world around her. She has already had one showing of her ‘Lights of Mecca’ exhibit at The Mecca restaurant and is planning another at Olmstead restaurant soon. As she approaches the twilight of her professional career, she is making the transition into the role of full-time photographer artist.
About this work

This project focuses on revealing the details in combinations of seemingly mundane items. From experiments with chili oil and sparkling water, to sprinkling hand lotion with sea salt, at a macro level, we can begin to see these items with fresh eyes.

To focus in on such details, however, we must both abandon our periphery, and turn inward, to our imagination, in order to complete their stories.
About the artist

As a musician, I am always looking to find or capture a photo that aligns with the feel of a newly created song. Over time, photography has become a creative outlet used to compliment and more fully express the feeling and mood of the music.

Both photography and music make use of technology to create art, and it is this fusion of elements that continue to inspire the duality of capturing and creating a moment in time.
Unfettered Balloons
Erin Liu

Red I.D.

About this work

Seattle’s International District is a neighborhood of life. Young lives, old live, new ways and old ways all converge in the streets and alleys of the I.D. You can meander for hours, and even through streets of boarded up shops, the life still peeks through. The whole area is tied together by one simple theme- Red.

Red. An idea strength, good luck and happiness, flows throughout every corner, even to the people. It represents more than just a festive time, it represents the hearts of thousands. It does not belong to one group or one idea- it is representative of everything. And it was found everywhere. I visited the neighborhood to try to find a story, and the story found me.
About the artist

I am a transplant to the Seattle area. While I work mainly as a videographer, I believe photography is the base for doing anything worthwhile with video. I am still finding my voice as an artist. As they say, a picture says a thousand words, so I will let my photos speak for themselves.
Competitors
I Am Not A Virus
About this work
My passion is food and product photography. I want to show the simple things which are around us in everyday routine life at unique and creative way. I love to play with light, shadows, colors, and composition. I could create the different styles and moods of photos with these powerful instruments.

For my project, I choose wine glasses. Glassware is one of the hardest subjects for shooting. The surface reflects everything around the subject. This requires coming up with the creative solutions. The more difficult the task, the more interesting to crack it.
About the artist
The world of photography stole my heart. I couldn't imagine my life without photo shoots and creative projects. The deeper I dive into the world of photography, the more I like it. Now I am working as food and product photographer.

I love the non-standard and difficult tasks. It allows me to go out of my comfort zone and find the solution. My purpose is to grow up as professional and to go to the next level.
Wine Glasses
Champagne
About this work
This project began as a way to challenge myself to learn and understand the art and science of studio lighting. However, it morphed into something more, and in order to stay true to myself, I needed images that felt honest and real. But what is truth and what is reality? I still don’t know for certain, and it will likely change with time, but I do know that this project has led me into a process of self-discovery. Like myself, it is a work in progress, as all good things are. What follows are six small acts of courage—discovering my authenticity and sharing that with you.
About the artist

Photography is my way to connect with and understand the world, and myself, in more depth. My inspiration comes from commonplace things—people, animals, light, laughter. I aim to capture the experiences and memories of the everyday, the way the sun hits a building or the smell of jasmine in the spring, and bring those to life. I am a Chicago-based photographer and attended the University of Illinois for my doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. Aside from photography, I am an avid traveler and obvious animal lover.
Kyle Qunell

Washington is our Happy Place

About this work
Everyone has been going through a lot recently, there's no doubt about that. Losing motivation to do the things you love is hard and mentally exhausting. Sometimes you feel that you just need to go somewhere quiet and think for a while. Where would you choose?

For this project I wanted to focus on my family and friends who have supported me throughout my photography journey. We have all walked, rode longboards and bikes, fished, or even hiked together. Every memory location throughout Washington is on display here. I think it is important to smile even when it seems impossible to, and to remember that you’re never alone.
About the artist

I love the feeling of seeing something I know not everyone can see, that’s why I hike so often. Growing up in Washington my whole life we have such diverse landscapes and wildlife it’s hard not to fall in love with it all. I’ve been taking photos for years and now I finally decided to pursue my dreams while I’m young! Photography is my escape from the somewhat harsh reality we currently live in.
Marissa (Tacoma Waterfront)
Zane (Ohanapecosh Campground)
About this work

This project explores our psychological relationship with ourselves in a series of geometric poses and compositions. It was inspired by my own struggles with self-doubt.

A special thanks to my beautiful wife Monica, who spent countless hours modeling in uncomfortable positions for this project.
About the artist

I picked up photography in August, 2020 at the suggestion of a close friend, and with a borrowed camera from my partner. At first, photography was just a way for me to stay active while living and working at home during the pandemic. But now, it has become an essential medium to express my artistic voice. I’m excited to start my next project and continue my journey in photography!
Fight Back
Defeat
Iswarya Sridharan

Food Levitation on Indian Cuisine

About this work

Indian Food has not been on the modern photography light. This project focuses on it by using food levitation as a technique. It starts with a dessert because South Indian food plating starts with a sweet, followed by breakfast appetizer, breakfast, lunch appetizer, lunch and street food from various parts of India.
I am Iswarya Sridharan, a Mom, a Software Engineer turned Photographer. I believe a picture comes to life when it preserves the raw emotions of the subject along with the fidelity of the surroundings. I like shooting landscapes, art and portraits. Nothing excites me more than capturing a perfect moment of a family and freeze their happiness in my photographs.
Fresh from the grill, Paneer Tikka

< A balanced happy meal, Idlys and Dosas
A perfect curry partner, Rotis

The ubiquitous, Samosas
About this work

Hidden on the outskirts of the burgeoning Snoqualmie Valley is the 100,000 acre Snoqualmie Forest. On one lucky expedition about 20 miles from the entrance gate, I turned a corner at sunrise and was enchanted by the light reflecting from a nameless single lane logging bridge. The bridge was a metal jewel. Its colors ranged from yellow to blue to orange to green, and I was called to explore the patinaed structure. Its flexed steel was scarred from decades of logging trucks driving too quickly to make a clean passage through. Subsequent visits to improve my original photographs were disappointing and dull. There was something special in the light that morning.
About the artist

My love for nature and quiet adventure was born before I owned my first camera. My early years were spent wandering around our acreage in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I explored with unending curiosity, and our neighborhood was alive with creatures that sparked my imagination and sometimes terrified me. The UW Photography Certificate program has taught me that art does not have to be loud or action packed to be worthwhile and valuable. I believe there are many who desire more quiet beauty in their lives.
Meet the Artists

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Meet the Course Instructors
About this work:

When the smoke of so many forest fires in the Northwest and British Columbia descended on the Salish Sea and Vashon Island in the fall of 2020, it was time to document an even larger issue - the every growing climate catastrophe. Working in a mask for the raging pandemic and the smoke, I was out there every chance I had, photographing so many places I know so well now in yet another new way.

The result: The New Normal. Photographs all but unedited that look like they were made not in 2020 but in 1880, filtered, sepia-toned, mysterious, threatening, foreboding. Ordinary scenes made extraordinary.

The opportunity to capture this moment and threat has sadly continued in 2021 with even bigger fires and even more smoke - smoke now reaching all the way from the west coast to Boston and back to my New York City.

The New Normal indeed. Unless each of us lends a hand to change things. The future of mankind is in our hands. Our children and their children are counting on us. We must not fail them.

About the artist:

Ray has worked in photography for over three decades - as an educator, stock photography agent, photo editor, book editor, consultant and photographer - in New York, California and Washington State.

He teaches for colleges throughout the NW, including Bellevue, Seattle Central, South Seattle and the University of Washington, as well as for artist leagues, art centers and art stores. His students range from teens to retirees. His focus is improving camera skills, image design and the business of art for all art mediums.

He leads frequent artist cultural exchanges to Canada, China, Cuba and Europe, curating traveling group shows of their results once home to showcase their work and again to raise awareness of the destinations and the people who live there.

Ray is a Fellow of the North American Nature Photography Association. He served as a NYC Mayor’s Office Urban Fellow. He is a graduate of Yale and the Duke School of the Environment.

Email Address: raypfortner@gmail.com
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About this work

In 2014 I was invited to work on a documentary project in Cuba, and was moved by its warm, outgoing people and diversely artistic culture. Cubans take pride in their style, and one of the most enduring arts in Cuba is barbering. It is not uncommon to see a barbers working in parks, livingrooms, street corners, and in the peeling entryways of time-worn apartment buildings. Cubans have had to resource every opportunity to earn a living through resilience, cooperation and ingenuity. They routinely demonstrate how to create more with less.

This photograph is one of my favorite moments from wandering the back streets of Old Havana with my camera, ready for the unexpected. Subtle, textured colors create a perfect stage set backdrop for my visually layered style of storytelling. Here, fragmented mirrors and cracked surfaces whisper stories held in each broken tile, bent pipe and stray wire. The ubiquitous image of Ché Guevara peeks from the corner between the two men. A woman fills a jug from a tap. Buckets catch roof leaks. This is Cuba.

I return each year to scout, rekindle connections and find new opportunities for my cultural exchange workshops. The year after I made this photograph, I located this barber and gave him a print and my book Picturing Cuba II that has this photo as the cover. He was shocked and overjoyed, then went around proudly showing it to everyone within earshot. My morning stroll gave me a photograph that in turn gave joy to a humble barber.

Experiences like that enrich my life and inspire travel.

About the artist

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

His photographs and illustrations appear in publications including Nikon World, Outside, NY Times, The Baltimore Sun, LA Times, National Geographic Traveler, Outdoor Photographer, Orion, Rangefinder and Islands. He has collaborated in ten episodes of the podcast “Hit The Streets” and in other podcasts on the arts.

Since 2001, Dave has instructed photography with the renown Santa Fe Workshops and Maine Media Workshops, and leads his own annual cultural travel and photography workshops in the US, Mexico, Cuba, Europe and Asia.

He is an adjunct instructor at University of Washington and Seattle Central College’s Creative Academy and consults with hardware and software developers to improve products. He has recently been chosen for the Fujifilm-X CREATORS team. Dave has a passion for inspiring and guiding emerging photographers to learn the nature of light, discover their personal vision and to reach new creative goals.

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PHOTOGRAPHY 2021

is publication of University of Washington Professional & Continuing Education Photography Certificate Program

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2020-2021 Instructors:
Ray Pfortner, Fall
David Julian, Winter and Spring

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Credits:
Cover: 'Suzi' by George Cavallo
Back Cover: 'The Shapes' by Natalia Liubinetska
Title Page: 'Cameras' licensed to UW by Jim Golden
Lead-In Page: 'Untitled Self Portrait' by Yvaine Jiang
Meet the Instructors Spread: 'd6' by Kendall Eng
Facing Page: 'Cherry Trees by Full Moonlight' by The Night Owl

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