

MADISON WEISS WITH THE BAND

Senior Thesis 2019

Bio

Madison Weiss, from Nashville Tennessee is currently a senior at Austin Peay State University graduating in December 2019 with a Bachelors of Fine Art in Studio Art. Madison plans to continue photography after graduation by working in the commercial photography field along side musicians and fashion designers. She currently works at ProStudio7, a family portrait studio as well as Exit/In photographing various concerts.

Madison has also lived a very active lifestyle from taking karate and ballet classes as a small child. To becoming a competitive cheerleader in middle school and high school. Now practicing and performing aerial silk arts on campus at APSU. Balancing sports, school and work has shaped Madison to be able to handle a lot.

Artist Statement

I have been photographing for 7 years. In that time, I never knew what path of photography I wanted to follow, until about a year ago when I wanted to photograph a concert I was attending and I stumbled upon an opportunity to become a House Photographer for Exit/In. Then after getting the opportunity to photograph for this venue, I realized that this is the path for me.

With this specific venue, there are many other photographers a part of the house photography program and we all get to sign up for shows based off our own availability. This opportunity has helped me learn to become more comfortable with my camera and using manual settings. I have also grown as a photographer and built a portfolio to use when applying for bigger jobs.

Music, concerts, and festivals are really important to me as it is a way for me to really express myself. While I also love seeing the artist perform and give off energy that brings people from all over the world together to bond over the same thing. With connecting my love for music and my love for photography, I appreciate looking at photographs from other artist that captures the musician in their element connected with their audience. This inspires me to capture this energy into a photograph and share the image with the world.

For this exhibit, I have gathered photos from all of the concerts I have photographed thus far and I am stepping away from the traditional gallery format. For this specific style of photography, the traditional format could be used but with my body of work and my personal aesthetic, the way I am choosing to exhibit these photographs makes the most sense. The exhibition of the photographs will be more of a street aesthetic as if they were pasted on a wall or light pole that underground concert posters may be found on the street. Contrasting with the outcast or rebellious scene.

CV

ORGANIZATIONS

Kappa Pi Honor Society
Austin Peay State University
August 2018-Present

Golden Key Honor Society
Austin Peay State University
August 2017-Present

National Honor Society
Hillwood High School
Nashville, TN
2014- 2016

Yearbook Committee
Hillwood High School
2014- 2016

Class President
Hillwood High School
2011- 2012
2013- 2014

EXHIBITIONS

Group Invitational Show
Art + Design Building
Austin Peay State University
Fall 2019

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dean's List
Austin Peay State University
2017

Citizen of the Year/Female
HHS Art & Design Academy
2014-2015

Hope Scholarship
Austin Peay State University
2016

Cheerleading Coaches Award
Hillwood High School
2013-2014

Top Female Student
Hillwood High School Art & Design Academy
2016

Best Supporting Actress
HHS Art & Design Academy
2013-2014

Project Expo Award of Distinction
HHS Art & Design Academy
2014-2015

All American Competition
Universal Cheerleaders Association
2011

Cheerleading MIP
Hillwood High School
2014-2015

Sandwich Artist

Subway
Nashville, TN
August 2014 – August 2019

ORGANIZATIONS

Kappa Pi Honor Society

Austin Peay State University
August 2018-Present

Golden Key Honor Society

Austin Peay State University
August 2017-Present

National Honor Society

Hillwood High School
Nashville, TN
2014- 2016

Yearbook Committee

Hillwood High School
2014- 2016

Class President

Hillwood High School
2011- 2012
2013- 2014

EXHIBITIONS

Group Invitational Show

Art + Design Building
Austin Peay State University
October 2018

Reciprocity– 37 Years of Student Photo

Art + Design Building
APSU
September 2019

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dean's List

Austin Peay State University
2017

Citizen of the Year/Female

HHS Art & Design Academy
2014-2015

Hope Scholarship

Austin Peay State University
2016

Cheerleading Coaches Award

Hillwood High School
2013-2014

Top Female Student

Hillwood High School Art & Design Academy
2016

Best Supporting Actress

HHS Art & Design Academy
2013-2014

Project Expo Award of Distinction

HHS Art & Design Academy

All American Competition

Universal Cheerleaders Association

Resume

Madison A. Weiss
Photographer

maddiavery.wixsite.com/maddsstudio
maddiavery98@gmail.com | (615) 430-7557 | @maddsstudio

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art
Austin Peay State University (APSU)
Clarksville, TN
December 2019

Associates of Science in Liberal Arts
APSU
Clarksville, TN
August 2019

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Photographer | Editor
ProStudio7
Clarksville, TN
December 2018-Present

Freelance Photographer
Exit/In
Nashville, TN
October 2018-Present

Photography Internship
APSU Athletic Department
Clarksville, TN
Spring 2019

Photography Internship
ProStudio7
Clarksville, TN
Fall 2018

Freelance Photographer
ProEventPhoto Ice Skating Event
Nashville, TN
March 2018

Freelance Photographer
Wedding of Heather + Paul Green
Nashville, TN
October 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

Aerial Silk Instructor
Austin Peay State University
Clarksville, TN
January 2019-Present

Sandwich Artist
Subway
Nashville, TN
August 2014 – August 2019

Sales Support Generalist
Victoria's Secret
Clarksville, TN
October 2017 – Present

Madison A. Weiss

Photographer

maddiavery.wixsite.com/maddsstudio
maddiavery98@gmail.com | (615) 430-7557 | @maddsstudio

SKILLS

Adobe Photoshop CC
Adobe Lightroom CC
Adobe Bridge CC

Digital Photography
Film Photography
Microsoft Office

EXHIBITIONS

Solo Exhibition
Art + Design Building
Austin Peay State University
October 2019

Reciprocity - 37 Years of Student Photography
Art + Design Building
APSU
September 2019

Group Invitational Show
Art + Design Building
APSU
October 2018

ORGANIZATIONS

Kappa Pi Honor Society
APSU
August 2018-Present

Golden Key Honor Society
APSU
August 2017-Present

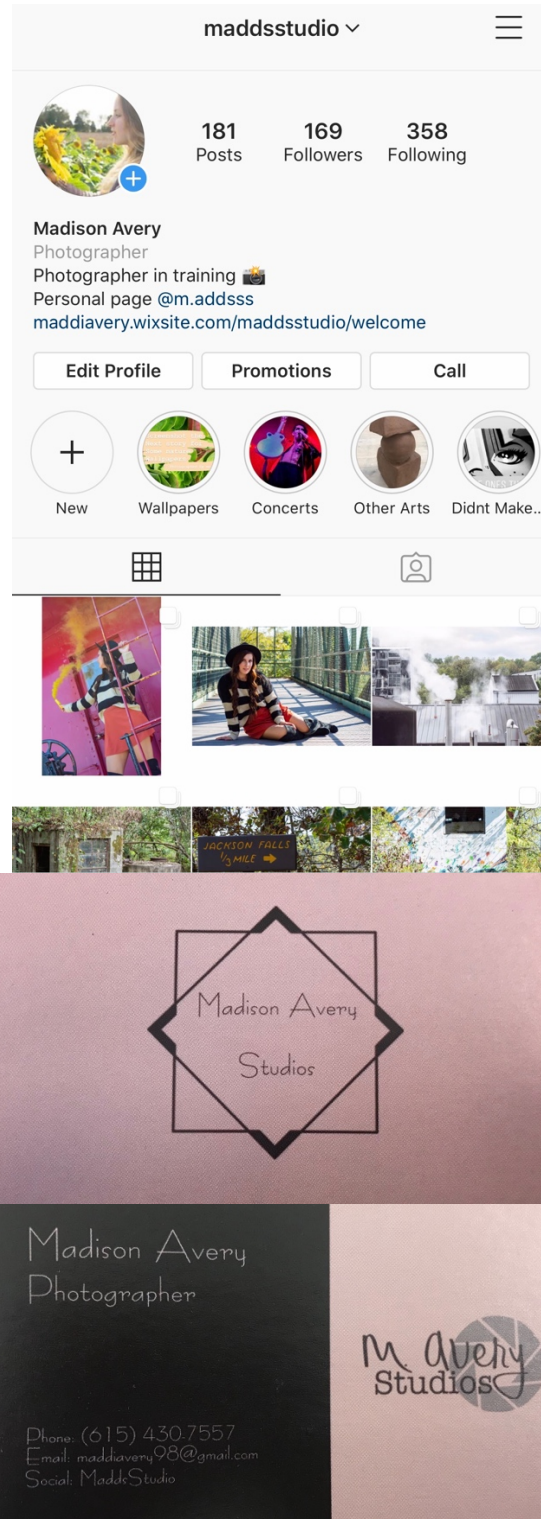
REFERENCES

Alyssa Albright
Staffing and Operations
Victoria's Secret
Clarksville, TN
(615) 939-3935
aalbright@my.apsu.edu

Charlotte Ziem
Merchandising Manager
Victoria's Secret
Clarksville, TN
(973) 897-1178
charziem@gmail.com

Victoria Shoulders
Photographer, Owner
ProStudio7
Clarksville, TN
(931) 436-3384
victoria@prostudio7.com

Promotion



Promotion

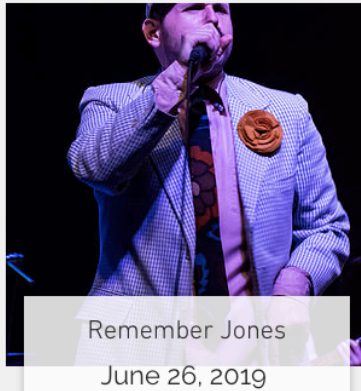
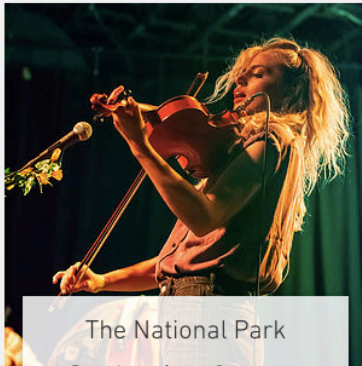


[Welcome](#) [Home](#) [Portfolio](#) [About](#) [Resume | CV](#) [Contact](#)



My Work

Here is a variety of work I have done over the years



Original Proposal

For my senior thesis, I will be using digital photography as my medium. I plan to lean towards concert/event photography as well as commercial photography. I plan to capture the performer in their natural habitat in what they love to do. Instead of as portrait photography is posed, I like the more candid feel to a photograph. Seeing that moment when the performer connects with their audience, etc.

I want to learn how to really make these images different from everyone else's and amaze the viewer. I want to experiment with different effects and digital editing skills that really push the image to that point. I want to have a better understanding of what makes or breaks a photo in a minimalist way. As well as how much is too much and pushed the "wow" factor too far.

I plan to explore different concert photographers who may or may not be well known on Instagram and other online platforms. I also plan to explore unique ways of editing online and to experiment with them and see what does and does not work. By watching tutorials of other artist styles and implementing their techniques with mine and again seeing what does and does not work.

I plan to print these images out about medium scale and display hung up.

Timeline: over the course of the semester I plan on continuing to photograph concerts when I can and taking those photos and editing them in a variety of ways. I will display these digitally until there is a final outcome I desire / end up happy with.

I plan to take inspiration from photographers Brad Heaton and Ashley Osborn.

Updated Proposal

For my senior thesis, I will be using digital photography as my medium. I am pursuing concert photograph while working with manual settings instead of automatic. I plan to capture the performer in their natural habitat in what they love to do. Instead of as portrait photography is posed, I like the more candid feel to a photograph. Seeing that moment when the performer connects with their audience, etc.

I want to learn how to really make these images different from everyone else's and amaze the viewer. I want to experiment with different effects and digital editing skills that really push the image to that point without pushing too far. I want to have a better understanding of what makes or breaks a photo in a minimalist way. As well as how much is too much and what pushes that "wow" factor too far.

I am exploring different concert photographers who may or may not be well known on Instagram and other online platforms. I am also exploring unique ways of editing online and to experiment with them and see what does and does not work. By watching tutorials of other artist styles and implementing their techniques with mine to find something potentially new that makes me stand out from others.

Timeline

Schedule

Senior Thesis Gantt Chart – 2019

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
Week 1	Winter Break -	Photograph Show	Birthday – Time off	Research & Develop	Finals – Photograph Show	Final Teachers	Prepare to Print
Week 2 & 3	Photograph Show	Research & Develop	Editing	Research & Develop	Editing	On Vacation	Print
	Research & Develop	Research & Develop	Research & Develop	Editing	Editing	Back from Vacation	On Vacation
Week 4 +Extra	Searching for Opportunities	Practice editing skills	Research & Develop	Editing - Finals	Editing	Final Teachers	Revisit / prepare
							Plan to be completed end of July / beginning of August

Schedule

Senior Thesis Gantt Chart – 2019

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
Week 1	Winter Break -	Photograph Show	Birthday – Taking photos	Research & Develop	Finals – Photograph Show	Photographing Show	Prepare to Print
Week 2 & 3	Photograph Show	Research & Develop – First Presentation	Editing	Research & Develop – Second Presentation	Photographing Show	On Vacation – Taking photos	Print
	Research & Develop	Research & Develop	Research & Develop	Editing	Editing	Back from Vacation – Editing photos	On Vacation – Taking photos
Week 4 +Extra	Searching for Opportunities	Practice editing skills	Research & Develop	Editing - Finals	Editing	Final Teachers	Prepare work
				Once paper comes in, starting to print			Plan to be completed end of July / beginning of August – by first week of school

Research and References

Brad Heaton- Twenty One Pilots



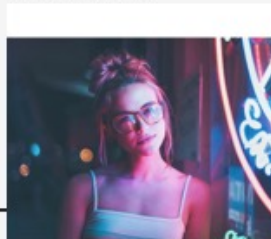
Brad Heaton- Twenty One Pilots



Brandon Woelfel



Brandon Woelfel



Ashley Osborn- Twenty One Pilots



Annie Leibovitz Rolling Stone



Research

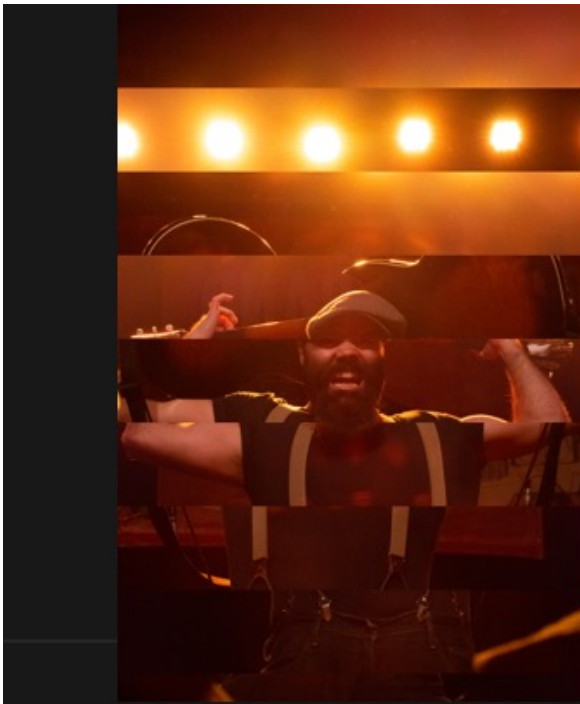


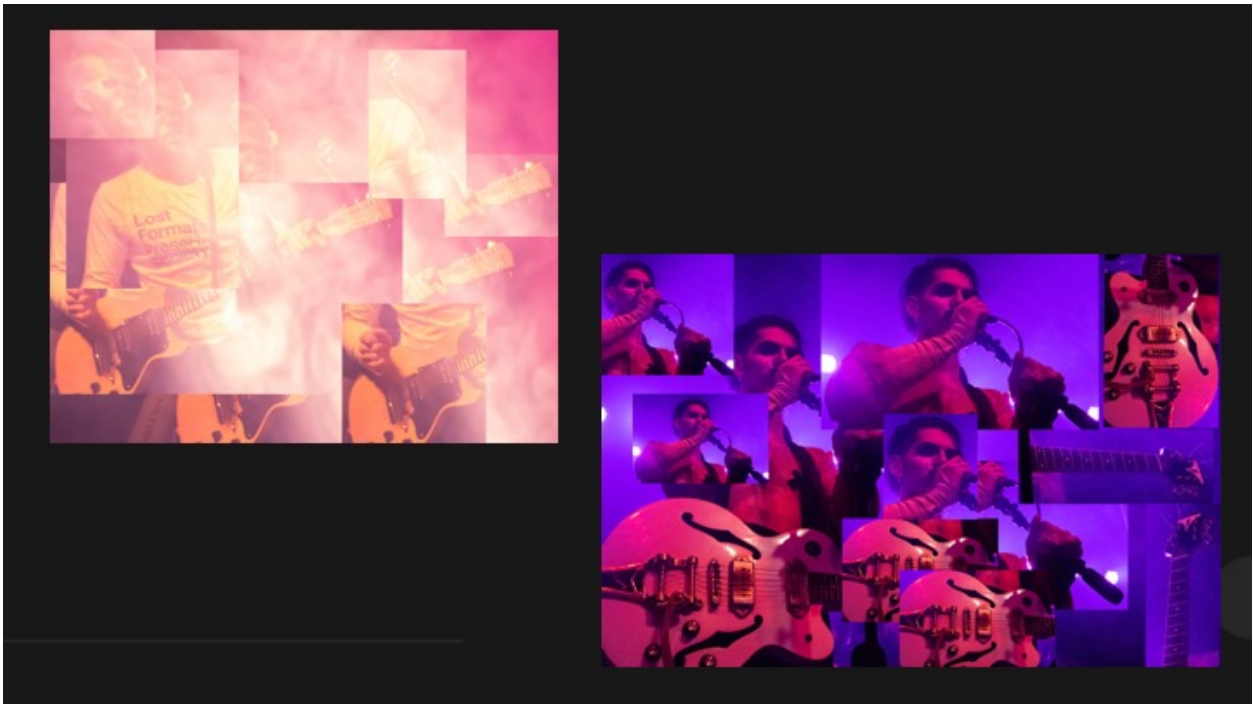
Progress

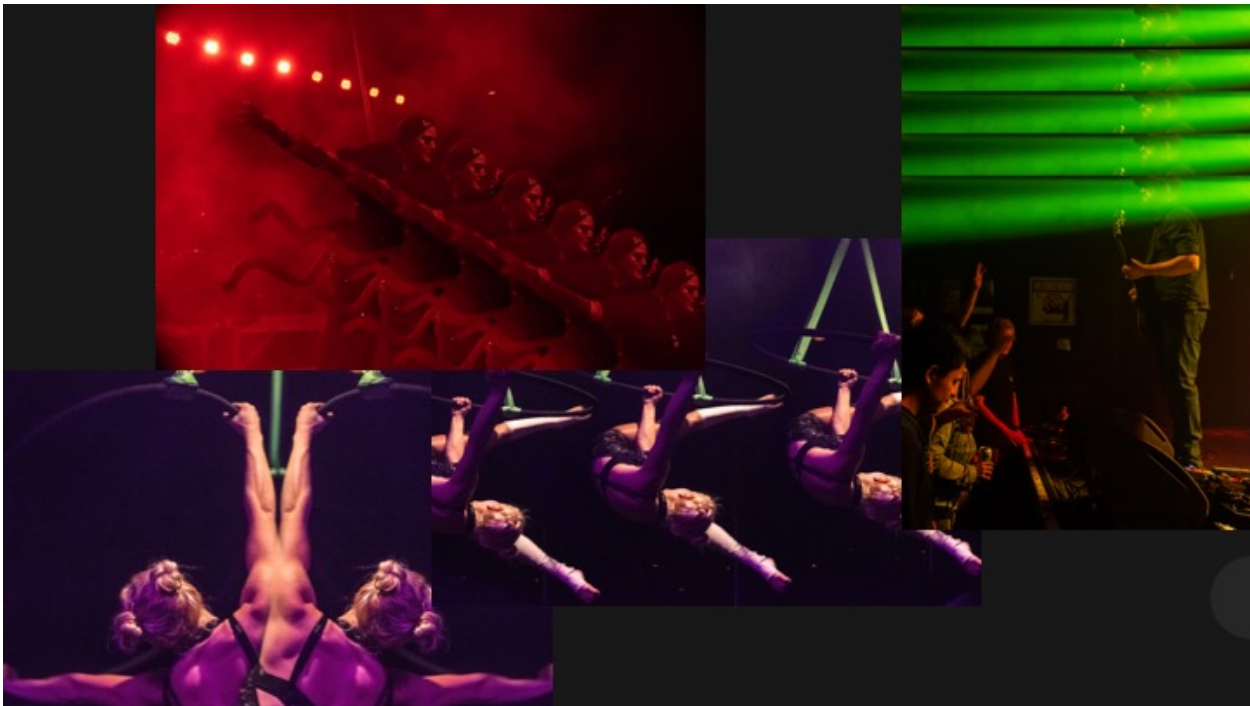
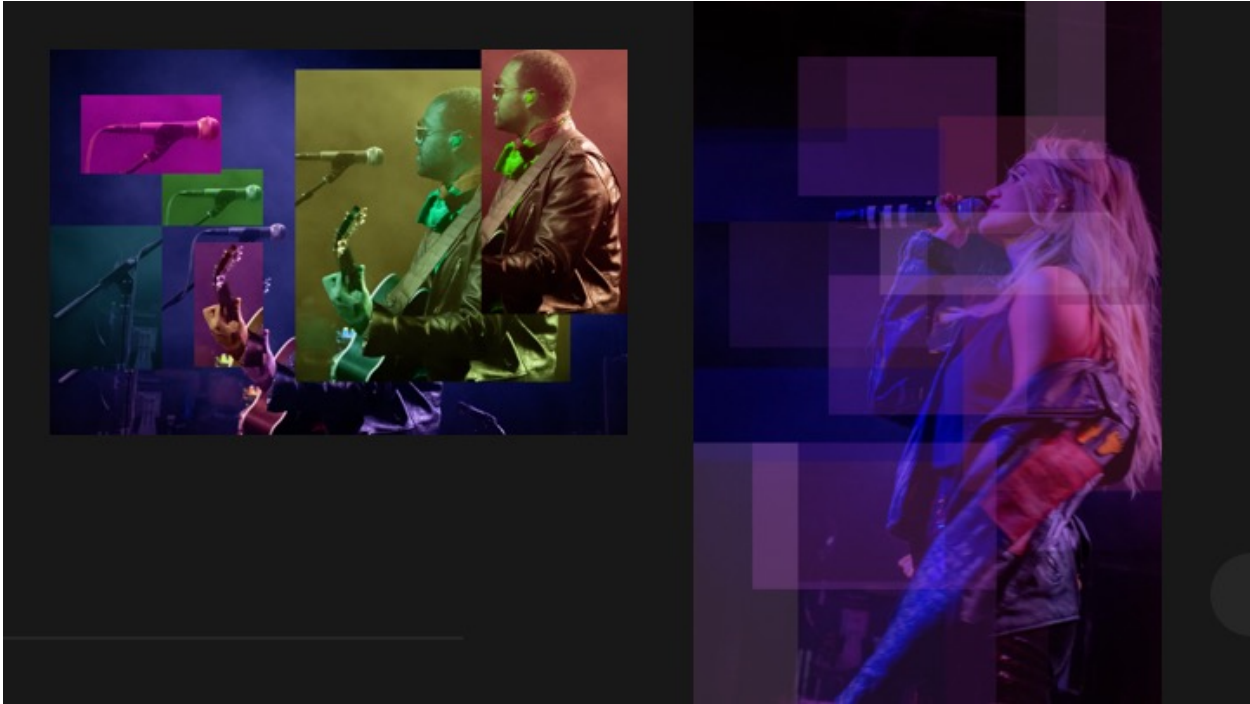


Madison Weiss - Thesis Presentation









Works in Progress Cont.



Final





My Takeaway - 4150

From the beginning, I went into senior thesis 4150 as a chance to grow in what I want to pursue as a career. That being specifically concert photography/commercial photography.

Based off of feedback and presentations I was under the idea that this topic is too much on the side of say a communications major and does not fit this showcase in it needs to be more studio art based.

From that I have been experimenting with how I can show my hand in this work, make it better, and still fit on the side of studio.

From there I have been photographing at Exit/In as that has been the opportunity I have been able to get. Yet that setting is too controlled and makes the images just seem documented. I plan on solving this issue over the summer by going to other live music that may be at bars or festivals or wherever I can get my camera into. So instead of this one scene that looks similar in every photo with the same stage and lights, I'll have that variety of scene to show that I can still capture beautiful photos where I may or may not have a say in the set up.

From that I was also under the impression that the photos themselves were not enough. I experimented with different ways to edit and layer the images to make them unique and different. I received good responses from my class mates and went a specific direction with the work. Then I received the opposite reaction by the second presentation. It didn't help that two of the three people were not in the first presentation. They felt that the manipulation to the images did not give the originals justice. It's not that I wasted my time, yet I still experimented and grew from this which they applauded the experimentation.

So by the end of the presentation they did not give me a clear direction from either sticking with just the original images or to keep manipulating the images in one clear fashion that made sense.

I spoke to others after this presentation and as of April 2019 I am stuck on which way to go. One person said to keep experimenting with both pathways and to see which way is pulling "harder" by next semester and go with it. My main concern I guess would be that I don't plan to continue this manipulation after graduation. I plan on just taking photos and doing the typical lighting adjustment photos unless specifically asked for something "different".

I just want to be sure that this show is successful and whichever pathway I end up with works for the department and that I am happy with the outcome.

My Takeaway – 4160

After the semester was over I did not pursue the act of manipulating the images. I kept taking photos at exit in as well as a couple bars to add a little variety into the show. As I discussed in the presentations I chose to not use the typical studio gallery display of my work. I wanted to give the impression of a light pole that you see on the street that has photos and posters stapled from bottom to top. At the end I am very happy with the way my show turned out and I received a lot of good feedback. As well as from a professor who was in my presentations who was trying to help guide the direction and how I went further with the project. This person was glad I took the path I did rather than continuing to manipulate that the end project ended up being stronger.

I was glad to have a show earlier rather than later as a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders when it was all over.