Process of Making
Artist Statements & Reflections

STORYTELLING THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY:
Inland Empire Students and
the Pixel-Based Image World

May 24–June 30, 2025

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Last fall and winter, students from middle and high schools throughout the Inland Empire participated in photography and critical media literacy workshops inspired by *Digital Capture: Southern California and the Pixel-Based Image World*, a Getty-funded exhibition organized by UCR ARTS as part of the PST ART: Art x Science Collide initiative. Digital Capture investigated the history and creative uses of digital imaging technology, from the genesis of digital imaging in Southern California to the ubiquity of digital media in our contemporary world. For students who have grown up in this pixel-saturated world, the exhibition provided an opportunity not only to create digital media but also to critically reflect on its impact on their lives.

In the Introduction to Digital Photography workshop, students learned the fundamentals of digital camera settings before pushing them to their creative limits in the spirit of artists like Sheila Pinkel and NASA's Hubble Ultra Deep Field image. Through this experimentation, students created striking and unconventional images that challenged traditional photographic techniques.

The Storytelling Through Photography workshops encouraged students to consider how *Digital Capture* artists like Amir Zaki and Goldin + Senneby use digital photography to explore the passage of time, multiple viewpoints, and environmental change. After these workshops, students were given an assignment: create a photographic series that explores different perspectives or the passage of time. By experimenting with various viewpoints and observing how time affected their subjects, students learned to convey deeper stories through their images.

Students from both workshops considered the pervasiveness of digital imaging in their lives and how to engage with it critically. For a generation born into the digital age, pixel-based images shape how they communicate, construct memories, and experience the allure of screentime.

—

Brandon Chan (8th grade), *Riverside Reflections,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? I really enjoyed it. It wasn't that hard. It was easy. *What images did you prefer?* I prefer images that are dark because it adds a mysterious vibe. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* I really don't know, tbh, but I just like seeing shots that are somewhat dark. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.*
It can make shots, like taking pics from the sun, look really nice.

Chuky Nguyen (8th grade), *The Little Ray of Light,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? The process was confusing at first, but then I got the hang of it. *What images did you prefer?* I liked images that had nature in the background.*How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* This type of photography plays into my style because it helped me to take images in a more creative way. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* I can use these to my advantage because if I want to take a photo during the night I can make it so that it looks good while it's in the dark.

Jesse Ochoa (8th grade), *Nature,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? It was easy and fun. *What images did you prefer?* I like taking pictures of things outside. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* I like taking pictures that are kind of dark so I can take pictures outside and make them look like it's dark outside. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* I can make pictures darker or lighter by changing the aperture, shutter speed and iso.

Kenya Dominguez (8th grade), *A Look at Nature,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? It was a long process but fun overall. *What images did you prefer?* The darker photos that are close-up. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* I have a lot of plant imagery. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* Take pictures of plants with low iso.

Daniel Ortiz (8th grade), *Familiar Echoes,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? I feel like the process was very fun, and I felt free, taking pictures of whatever I wanted. *What images did you prefer?* I really liked the outside images. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* The type of images plays into my style of photography because the photos to me look nostalgic, and they are either very dramatic or bright. They are also outdoorsy photos. I was going into this style of photography. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* I can use these techniques in my photography by choosing outdoor style photos to shoot, darken images for dramatic looks, and brighten the image by using the f-stops.

Rubi Rayon Davila (8th grade), *Untitled*, 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? I enjoyed the picture taking process. I was able to take pictures of whatever I wanted. *What images did you prefer?* I enjoy pictures that deal with light and the sun. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* I like to use the sun to enhance the pictures that I take, giving them an eerie glow or casting shadows. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* I can use ISO, shutter speed or f stop to darken or lighten my pictures to whatever I want.

Ian Flores (8th grade), *Random First,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? It went well. It was cool. *What images did you prefer?* I like taking pictures of nature and animals. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* I can change the look of the animals and nature by making them dark or light. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* By making changes in how dark or light the picture is, I can change the look of the picture.

Lea Ramirez (8th grade), *Arte of Nature,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? The process was easy, fun and simple. *What images did you prefer?* I preferred the pictures with low ISO or high aperture. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* It shows a lot of detail and makes a picture stand out. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* I can use these by taking a picture up close or from afar and I can also take pictures of something bright or dark.

Genevieve Cole (8th grade), *Dark and Light,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? It was good. I liked going outside.
What images did you prefer? The ones that are darker.*How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* It helps make them look better. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* I can use them if I want the background blurred or if I want to change the lighting.

Nathan McGregor (8th grade), *The Great Step Outside,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? It was easy. *What images did you prefer?* The ones with my friends. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* It plays into my type of photography by making me want to take pictures of people. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* If there is a crowd I could go elevated and blur it to make it seem like there are a lot more people than there actually are.

Phat Tran (8th grade), *Saturation Trilogy,* 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? The process wasn't too hard, but I personally thought that there wasn't much for me to experiment, so I did make the process more boring and lackluster for me. *What images did you prefer?* I really find any low ISO picture to have a really nice deep tone touch for anything that is meant to be and not to be serious, especially in the rain as I think it can get really cinematic. *How does the type of images you prefer play into your style of photography?* For me, I really like the contrast of a washed out color tone or making a picture somewhat "serious". I really think it adds more depth to the photo. An example I can think of is the cinematography from the John Wick's franchise or The Batman (2022) movie. *Brainstorm how you can use these techniques in your photography.* I briefly mentioned how the low ISO helps add a strong cinematic effect because of its somewhat serious tone. The way I really recommend doing this is taking a picture somewhat in the noon at a low ISO in front of maybe a cool car, extra point for when it's raining.

*Each square image is a detailed cropped from the original student submission.

Om Savaliya (9th grade)
Stripes at Rest, 2025

The process of taking these pictures was fun. The most interesting thing I found was that I wouldn't really notice or pay attention to the wildlife around the pool, but when I started this project I paid more attention and noticed more wildlife around the pool. As time went on and from different perspectives, the photos really showcased what happens in mother nature daily around this man made pool. I learned that storytelling through photography doesn't require the photos to be in order and really just requires the photos to relate with each other. Capturing the same scene at different times of the day alters how the photo will look and also changes the story being shown. This assignment really challenged my creativity and problem solving skills as I had to scoop water out of the pool with a bucket to stop the flow of water and make the waterfall dry quicker. I also had to find plants and insects to plant around the pool to make my photos appear more realistic and more intriguing.
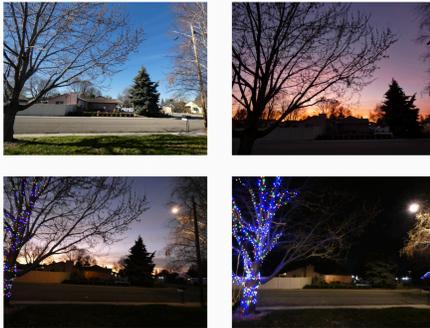

Edelline Andra (9th grade)
Waiting for Winter Solstice, 2025

The process wasn't that difficult. I went around the neighborhood and tried to find a nice place to photograph. After finding the spot, I visited the spot on different days and different times of day. The thing I found most interesting was the way the light changed throughout the days I took the pictures. It gave the photos different effects. However, the surprising part is that the photos didn't really change. It looked mostly the same on day 1 and day 2. My photos give off different feelings and senses as the passage of time continues on. They change and look different every hour. I learned that photography is a way to communicate certain things and a way you can do it is by taking photos at different times of day. Resulting in different shadows and light appearing in your photos. This shows you the passage of time and stories. Capturing the same scene at different times of day gives the subject different feelings and different vibes. The way the light changed and reflected on the trees and houses gave off different vibes. It changed the way you view the perception of the subject. In other words, the lighting can change the way you view certain objects because it can give various moods. This assignment challenged my personal problems of not being able to make up my mind and remembering to take the photos. It made me think about what times I took the photos and how I wanted to take the photos. I had a huge problem with the photos because I was not home for Thanksgiving Break. Meaning that I had to take the photos at my sister's house. While I was taking the photos I ended up taking them wrong and not in the exact position as the other ones. For example, the camera might have been a little off for some of the photos, but it still captured the same view. I fixed this problem by taking multiple photos and changing the perspective so I can see which way it looks better. Another problem I had was not being able to take photos throughout the whole day. Meaning that I couldn't wake up and take one then take one an hour later (etc.) I solved this problem by trying my best to take it the next day. I tried my best to figure out if I have a photo similar to the other. It was the best I could do because I wasn't home resting for a full day. I was always out and around with my family. Either way I tried my best and I'm hoping the photos turned out well.

Jullian Valle (9th grade)
OISEAU DES ÂMES, 2025

The process of taking these photos was often tedious, with me having to go outside my house late hours of the night to get the certain shots I wanted. It was very interesting the way my style changed during the duration of taking these pictures. When I entered this project I was dead set on a certain style I wanted to portray, but that soon changed as I photographed more. When you're storytelling through photography, you must be very careful to not portray the wrong image as that can ruin a reputation or a theme.
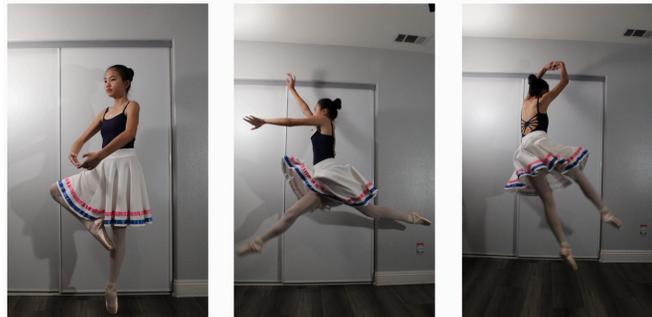
Elizabeth Zhou (9th grade)
On the Edge of the Spotlight, 2025

The process of taking these photos was a lot of fun. I found that being the person in the photo instead of taking the photo was interesting because it lets me know what it is like on the other side of the camera. The story changed because in the beginning, there are a lot of jumps and active stuff involved. Towards the end, it is a lot of stretching in the photos. I learned that one or many photos can tell a story because of the context, the time, and the meaning of the photo. Capturing the same scene under different lighting conditions alters the perception of the subject by making the mood different and seeing the subject in the photo differently. This assignment challenged my creativity and problem solving skills in ways that I didn't think of. When I was planning this photoshoot, I did not think that taking a few photos would be so meaningful to me. After I saw these photos, I looked way better than I thought I did, and I enjoyed being the subject of the photo for once.

Dillon O'Rafferty (11th grade)
Mountain Bike, 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? What did you find most interesting? It was frustrating because I wanted to ride down the hill but had to keep stopping to take pictures. Seeing everyone stop was cool so they were not in my way.

How did the story change due to different perspectives or the passage of time? If the background had smog or not affected the tone and feel of the picture.

What did you learn about storytelling through photography?
I learned that something can have many different stories at once.

How does capturing the same scene at different times of the day or under different lighting conditions alter the perception of the subject? It alters what you are thinking about the mood. If it is happy or not.

In what ways did this assignment challenge your creativity and problem-solving skills? It was challenging riding up the hill.

Zoe Alexander (11th grade)
Time's Point of View, 2025

The process of taking these photos took planning considering the little girl in my photo was not someone that was in my family. I called the mom of the little girl I babysit and asked her if she was willing to be a part of a project I was working on. She said yes, and then we set up a date to shoot. The day of, I bought a cake, candles, and told my mom and the little girl to wear the same thing, a black shirt, and a slick back bun. I set up the cake, the candles, waited for it to get dark, positioned everyone the way that I wanted them to be, and then took a bunch of photos. What I found the most interesting was the way that the candle light and the surrounding light worked with each other. The light that came from the candle created a really cool light environment and created a very cool look to the photos.

The way turning 18 is perceived changes with how close you are to that age. The young girl on the left of the cake is anticipating what is to come. She looks ready and eager to eat the cake, symbolizing the eagerness and hunger to become older. The girl in the middle is supposed to be the girl who, at the moment, is actually turning 18. She is sad and looks at the 18 candles in hopes that she wasn't turning 18. This symbolizes a lot of teens' feelings towards becoming an adult, and how a lot of them wish that they could still be a little kid. In the last photo on the right, there is an older woman looking back at the cake in reminiscence and memory of her years as an 18 year old. This symbolizes how older adults have that feeling of wanting to go back to their young adult days. All of these things show how the passage of time can change your viewpoint on things. From a younger or older perspective things may seem great, but in the moment, things may look and feel different.

While taking these photos I learned that the storytelling that happens through photography is one that is an "in the moment" story. The photo that is taken is not a memory, but it is a capture of the actual moment that happened.

Shooting photos at different times of day can give a different emotion to the picture, darker times insinuate a darker feeling, same with light colors and light feelings. I think that specifically with my project, shooting at a darker part of the day created a somber feeling to the photos, capturing the nostalgic, dreamy feeling from the light of the candle.

This assignment challenged my creativity and problem solving skills by forcing me to think about how timing and lighting affect everything even in the slightest way. In the beginning I thought that the candle light was going to be enough light to allow the pictures to be visible, but came to realize that without any background lighting, the people in my photos were not visible at all. Playing with that required some creativity and in the end it turned out just as I envisioned.

Anthony Gonzalez-Tobias (9th grade)
A Day at the Lamppost, 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? What did you find most interesting? When taking pictures of the chair, I noticed that I could auto-focus with the camera. It made it easier for me to take pictures in this scenario.

How did the story change due to different perspectives or the passage of time? The story changed by the lighting, mood, time, and angles. For this example, I didn't picture the chair from different times, but I did take pictures of it from different angles around 12:00 pm.

What did you learn about storytelling through photography? Even the smallest details of an object can tell a story in many ways. We just have to notice it.

How does capturing the same scene at different times of the day or under different lighting conditions alter the perception of the subject? The mood of the picture changes, resulting in us seeing it differently. Some might see it as calming and comfortable. Others might see it as dark and eerie.

In what ways did this assignment challenge your creativity and problem solving skills? Before using auto focus, it was hard for me to try to take a picture of my proof. But then I remembered auto-focus. So it was way easier to take a proof photo.

Neil Huang (9th grade)
Strong Body, Strong Mind, 2025

How was the process of taking these photos? What did you find most interesting? The process of taking these photos made me realize that, mostly for the kicking, that photography or photo sessions require a lot of time. I only expected that taking all of these photos would require a minimum of an hour but it took me much longer to actually finish these photos. I think the most interesting part was trying to make my pictures almost perfect.

How did the story change due to different perspectives or the passage of time? In my opinion, sometimes I would look at my photos and wonder why I took them, thus I re-captured and even re-did many ideas.

What did you learn about storytelling through photography? I learned that photography is just as good as telling a story as a book can.

How does capturing the same scene at different times of day or under different lighting conditions alter the perception of the subject. During the morning/afternoon, the feel or perception I view things as usually stays the same. Such as a tree. Through the morning and afternoon, the tree was still standing. However, when evening fell, the tree became very hard to detect by the camera, which made it a little scary.

In what ways did this assignment challenge your creativity and problem solving skills? It challenged my creativity skills because I wanted to make something that sits right with me. It also challenged my problem solving skills because I struggled to find and capture the perfect moment I wanted. Thus, I had to find ways around looking for a person who can assist me.

Desmond McCarthy (9th grade)
Trichromatic Timelapse, 2025
[video stills]

My project had several false starts. Originally it was going to be a sunset with similar stitching to the perspective project, but it changed to light painting and then to the current video over the course of the project. The differences in the red, green, and blue channel only highlights the movement in the video. The empty parts of the video have very little color, but as soon as any cars enter the frame, they become red, green, blue, yellow, cyan, and purple depending on both the background and the color of the car.

How was the process of taking these photos? What did you find most interesting? The process of photographing the images was somewhat interesting. I found it interesting to focus on specific objects that I normally would not focus on. I also found it interesting to change my perspective on my own ideas, as my original time lapse idea was not a good concept so I changed it to the current one.

How did the story change due to different perspectives or the passage of time? The perspective series highlights the differences in the environment while keeping the subject somewhat consistent, creating a depiction of the scenarios that an object could be in. The time-lapse highlights the movement in the image, but also what stays the same.

What did you learn about storytelling through photography?
I learned that storytelling through photography is not very easy, must be somewhat unique, and show a series of events or perspectives.

How does capturing the same scene at different times of the day or under different lighting conditions alter the perception of the subject?
The changing positions of the cars cast different lightings on the subject, leading to a different feeling in the image. Combined with the background, the differing locales create a significant difference in the perception of the subject.

In what ways did this assignment challenge your creativity and problem solving skills? This assignment challenged my ability to reformat ideas as my initial idea for the time lapse was a sunset that included artificial lighting formatted in a strange way, however during my time lapse, I realized that this idea would not work as it did not show enough contrast and was not very unique. The current time lapse project was much more interesting, but required several failed attempts and re-edits to get to the current state.

Elanor Hobbs (9th grade)
Step 16, 2025

The process for taking these photos was fairly simple. I had a few places in mind and went to take pictures there. However, I was not expecting to see an egret, and I ended up taking a ton of pictures of it and using those photos for my time-lapse. The main thing I learned about storytelling was positioning photos. I spent a lot of time thinking about positioning for both projects, and in the time-lapse I specifically used it to try and help show the egret's movement. I also spent a lot of time experimenting with ways of taking pictures. One thing I tried that I thought looked cool was changing the focal length through a shot that had a fairly long exposure. I did not end up using it in my project for more normal photos since I'm more familiar with them, and I had not really tried to intentionally tell stories with several photos. I'm really happy with how I got both of the projects to flow, even though they flow in slightly different ways, with one being two photos put into one, and the other being several put around each other.

Roman Salcedo (11th grade)
Monochrome Moments, 2025

The process of taking these photos was good; it taught me patience and allowed me to connect with new people. I found the conversations with others the most interesting part, as they added depth to the experience. The story changed depending on my emotions, patience, and mood at the time, which influenced the way I captured each shot. Photography showed me how emotions can be conveyed visually, altering how a viewer interprets an image. I learned that storytelling through photography isn't just about the subject—it's about how lighting, timing, and perspective shape the narrative. Capturing the same scene at different times of day or under different lighting completely changes the mood and artistic perception of the image. This assignment challenged my creativity by pushing me to think on the spot and adapt to different conditions. It also improved my problem-solving skills, as I had to adjust to unexpected lighting, movement, or interactions in real time. Overall, I really enjoyed taking these pictures. I cannot wait to see where they go, and as always—take more photos!

Samantha Lumidao (12th grade)
My Photo Outside the Campus, 2025

In this photo project, I choose to go to the same tower in school by capturing different viewpoints. This tower is made up of a balcony with a bathroom and a classroom on the 2nd floor. Inside the tower are three rectangles upside the C building. The campus is made up of the blue sky and stairs with the shadow and the gray handles. The C building has three main colors: beige, blue and brown. This art assignment is one that I want to be a part of and so I decided to photograph the tower because I think the design is interesting and wanted to capture every detail.

Jared Ybanez (12th grade)
Ignorance, 2025

I intended to capture the ignorance of humanity by photographing the very environment that supplies us with life. I chose to contrast the inspiring sky with a mundane and dull construction site to suggest that a greater being is watching over society and all of humanity. This 'greater being' is left as a subject to the viewer, but is meant to convey a feeling of disappointment and authority over humanity. While we consume mindlessly for our gain, the environment that breeds life and soul into us is slowly stripped of its own. Furthermore, these non-organic shapes also create the idea of humanity's ugly side. Instead of using our gifted intelligence to enhance our environment, we use it selfishly for monetary gain.

I decided to explore the objective of Multiple Perspectives in my photo series through showing different viewpoints of toys in various situations. My hope with these photos is to express emotion within the toys and show how others view them differently. In my first photo, it shows a triptych following a tale of an orange toy monster being chased away by the other toys to leave his home and runs off to be alone in the dark. I feel can relate to the feeling of not fitting in with my peers and the feeling of not connecting with them, causing me to find comfort in being alone as in the same way the orange monster finds himself in a sort of sad but comforting isolation. I chose to express the feeling of being isolated by making each photo progressively have more negative space as the monster is more isolated. Other photos in the series depict how we view ourselves as we grow older, compare ourselves with others, comfort others who have similar experiences in life, and how others view each other. This assignment taught me how others can view and relate differently to art and photography.

Brandon Andrade (12th grade)
Toys With Feelings, 2025

Matthew Augustinov (10th grade)
Life Is Short, 2025

It is interesting how fast time passes. One moment you can be living and the next, you are dead. You go each day not knowing if this is your last day or not. I documented a real community funeral to capture how solemn, yet emotional everyone is at the end of a life. You may be asking, 'Why did I photograph a funeral?' It is because some people do not know how valuable life is, nor how quickly it can end. In these photos, I tried capturing the emotions of the family. In post-editing, I tried to make the photos feel even more emotional and gloomier. The process of taking these photos was interesting. I learned/realized how quick life is and how you must live every second. What I learned about storytelling photography is that you need to capture the emotions and facial expressions in order to feel the photograph.

Cali Chambers (11th grade)
Magnetic, Malicious,
Media, 2025

The idea behind my photo series is to capture a common phrase used on social media called "doom scrolling". Doom scrolling is the act of compulsively consuming media online, often through the use of social media. I chose to explore this concept because it represents a very common struggle that many face yet, remains largely overlooked due to how normalized it has become. I, too, struggle with this, as many other teenagers do, which is why I wished to shine a light on it and raise awareness of the issue. While most people are aware that social media and technology have potential negative effects on the youth, few recognize just how deeply consuming and time-draining it can be. For the majority of my shoot, I had one camera in the same exact position. I did this intentionally to capture the feeling of being trapped and confined to one space. I also employed double exposure to visually convey the sense of time slipping away, emphasizing how the day slowly wastes as we remain completely absorbed in our screens.

Kaiya Giles (10th grade)
Untitled, 2025

Through different lighting, angles, and compositions, beauty can be seen from multiple perspectives. These images reflect how my self-confidence has been shaped over the years and how I see myself now. I feel the ethereal makeup that I used is an example of my character. The makeup symbolizes a character and my sensitive yet playful spirit. I chose multiple angles specifically to accentuate my facial features and used a slow shutter speed. This was to capture the movement of many emotions and a sense of alluring beauty. My friend assisted me in this photoshoot by doing my hair and makeup. I edited these photos in Photoshop using a double exposure technique to combine my photos with my own drawings. I blended multiple perspectives and art mediums to create a kaleidoscope of views, exploring different biomes and time periods in my life.

Jacob Murillo (11th grade)
Runner's Stride, 2025

In this photo project I wanted to capture the essence of track and field in stride and form. To do this, I wanted to show the importance of each step on the track split seconds apart, moving so quickly that the naked eye cannot see it. As a distance runner at Vista Murrieta High School, our coaches teach us to put so much effort every day to grow both physically and mentally. Running everyday brings lessons as well with trials and tribulations. I've learned to implement the lessons taught within every situation, building a strong mind and body that won't allow me to give up. I knew what my idea was since being introduced to this competition, and like running, I envisioned completing it—but it wasn't easy. I had to do multiple re-shoots due to lighting, but figuring out how to add multiple images together in Photoshop through masking was the biggest struggle as it is time consuming for a single photo. Luckily, running has taught me resilience and to never give up as I knew what I wanted to create. I executed it with my fellow team members and coach, both whom I can rely on and off the track.

Tegan Thornton (12th grade)
Developing Through Time, 2025

In this photo series, I revisited memorable places from my childhood to return to old memories and see them from different perspectives. I captured the same scenes in three distinct ways: digitally with my own camera, using my mom's old film camera with expired film from her past, and with fresh film with a refurbished film camera. Each method helped capture a unique perspective, which allowed me to show time changing with places and how we see them. As I talked with my mom and went through her old photos, I felt the connection we have with photography and how we started around the same age. I also started to see a resemblance between me and my mom and how we look similar from our childhood to teenage years. I used diptychs and triptychs to connect the similarities between the mediums and to show the evolution of my perspective on these childhood places. I found that the expired film reminded me of how I remember childhood places and how grainy and unclear they can be with the nostalgic touch to it. In contrast, the digital photos are more colorful, brighter, and clearer, reflecting the present day and where I am now.

Casey Woolsey (10th grade)
Layered Memories, 2025

I have lived in the same house my whole life; it has watched me and my family grow throughout the years. I wanted to show this idea in my work because of how much my yard means to me and my childhood. I took the photos the way I did because I wanted them to be recreated and then layered with photos taken when I was younger, so they looked more like memories. I used a double exposure technique in Photoshop to show how much the setting has changed, while all the love and happiness have remained constant despite all the time that has passed. To connect even further to the past, I used my Canon T3i Digital Camera – the same camera my mom used when my sister and I were kids – to take the recreated photos, 14 years later. The family photo in the middle of the series symbolizes the feeling that everything else can change but the memories and love from my family remain.

Aimee Briote-Johnson (11th grade)
For Emaline, 2025

In 1886, a girl named Emaline had a tintype portrait taken by Green's Tintype & Ferrotype Gallery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This photo comes from an album that has been in my family for generations and was gifted to my ancestor, Jillie Felsing, in 1880. Now, 139 years later, I drew Emaline's portrait to bridge the generational gaps as well as the path through time that these photos have taken. Every photo in this album tells a story, and as the years passed with the pages, I saw the evolution of a generation within a single book. Photos are time capsules, along with drawings and all other forms of physical media. Though this may be the only photo taken of Emaline in her life, I hope my rendering can bring her image to the present. This series shows the journey of my drawing process from blank page to the finished piece. The series explores different perspectives and showcases the passage of time through changes in light, as well as the contrast between tintype photography, digital photography, and traditional charcoal drawing. This drawing took me almost 5 hours, but it will last more than a lifetime.