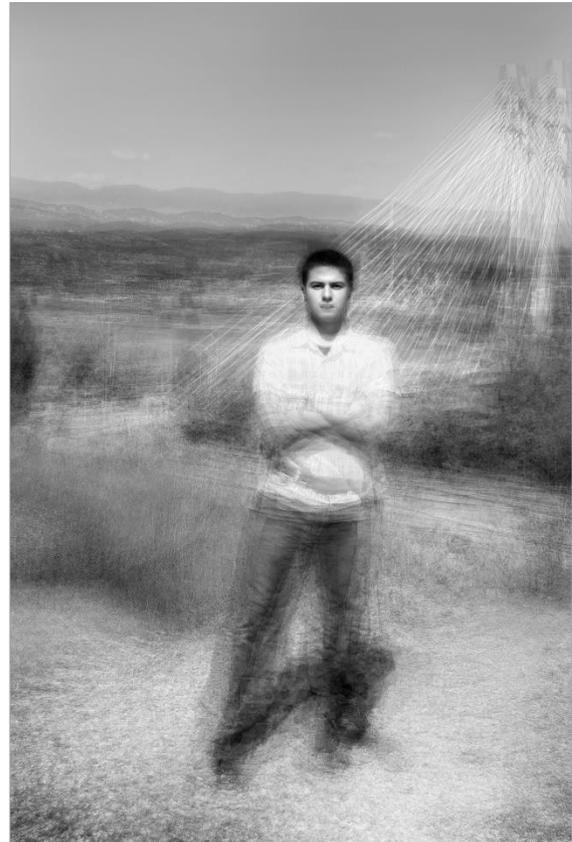
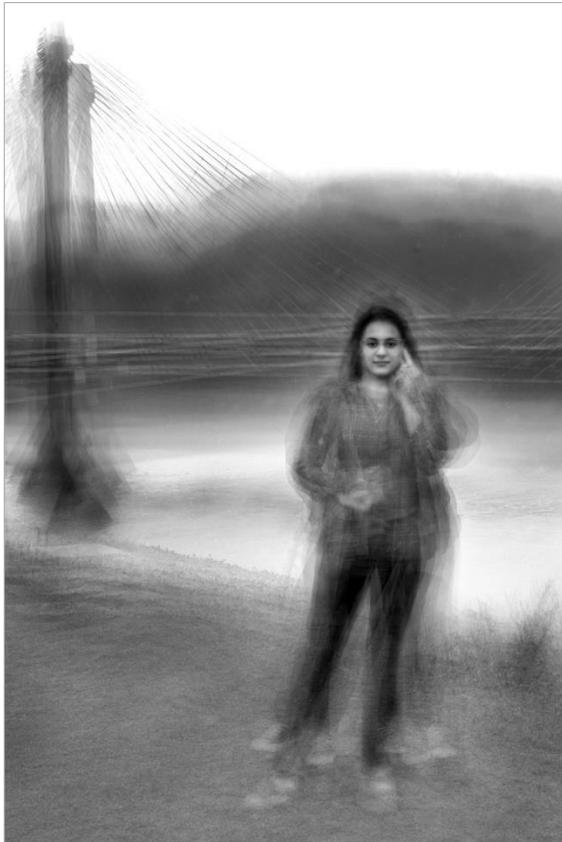


Growing up with Addiction

Pictures:



Student Composite Photo, Girls. Credit: Traci Molloy.
Student Composite Photo, Boys. Credit: Traci Molloy.

Readings:

What it Means to Be a Woman

What it means to be a woman is important to the balance of the world

Being a woman in Portsmouth is like a merry-go-round
Or should I say see-saw because it's full of ups and downs

This town full of addiction, bad intention, and temptation
Sadly, paving the way for the rest of the nation

A river community once full of industrialization
Now rusty and dusty, people with no occupations

A place that everybody hates, but nobody seems to be able to escape
Sometimes it feels like a black hole that you've been sucked into
Small town, big dreams. Will I succeed?

Despair beyond repair, with only your mother there.
A daughter without a father: he never truly cared.
In his eyes, I was unwanted

Now, I look in the mirror and see nothing but imperfection
Ashamed of myself as I gaze at my reflection.

Not too rich, but way too poor
We are oppressed, suppressed, and depressed, but at least we are, well, dressed

There are drugs, prostitution, and young pregnancies.
Girls disappearing. Mothers, sisters, daughters overdosing daily.

To men, we are inferior objects to please, something to catcall, play around with, and tease.
No matter where you go, you never feel safe – you're watched and harassed
"Just wait until you're eighteen" – they don't even ask

Being a woman means you are compliant. To men, we are a client
We are silenced, and God forbid, we are defiant

A woman who is resilient is a woman who is brilliant
We are beautiful and powerful, intelligent and strong
and don't you dare tell me that I'm wrong.

Though the work is never done, together we are one
We are warriors because of the battles we take on

Why do they set our throne to low - discriminate and walk all over us?
Little do they know – we are more.
We are the creators.

Authors: Hannah Adkins, Janayah Dickey, Alleria Dorsey, Allison Douthat, Grace Emmett, Alyson Ferrara, Aiden Fields, Brooklyn Greene, Sharia Kearns, Skyilynn Kidder, Rylee Moorhead, Jenny Perryman, Lynsey Shipley, Emleigh Smith, Lyda Spencer, and Andrea Thomas. Facilitators: Traci Molloy and Tayler Zempter.

What it Means to Be a Man

What it means to be a man is important to the balance of the world.

Growing up male in Portsmouth is hard.

A man has to climb steep obstacles and overcome challenges.

Who needs skyscrapers when you have mountains

Though kids can't play in polluted fountains.

Walking down the streets you see plenty of poverty.

Boarded-up windows and doors on every other property.

Roaches, drugs, lice, and famine envelop the homes.

Hidden everywhere, between each tooth of the comb.

Full of fear, scared to go out at night.

Vulnerability will attack like a wild animal.

It clings to you without your knowing.

I'm not so worried about dying young

I'm more afraid of not getting out and becoming someone.

You have to live day by day.

But don't live in the past – live each day like it's your last.

Who will teach me what it means to be a man?

Who will help me interpret life's ever-changing plan?

Here, life can get rough.

Here, you have to be tough.

Cracks and calluses on hard working hands.

The hills whisper his name.

A name given by his father, the same.

A man needs to stand steady and strong, present and proud.

He needs to protect his family from harm and the growing crowd.

But where I come from, you rarely see this type of man

Instead, you see men abusing and mistreating, addicted and gone.

These are not men - they are cowards.

I will not be this kind of man.

I'm just a hard-working kid looking for his glory.
Single mom, same old story.

I go for a drive to clear my mind. Everything is drenched in bleach.
Crying about the past. Tears latch on like a leech.

You laugh and tell me to get over it.

But that's okay.
Because I've come a long way from where I was to where I am today.

Authors: Broc Bumgardner, Adam Earley, Anthony Ferrara, Jadan Josey, Isaac Kelly, Zack Kinney, Wesley Mullet, DJ Pearsall, Kendal Reynolds, and Adrian Soard. Facilitators: Traci Molloy and Noah Fannin.

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