

# “Little Pieces” Artist Statement

My portfolio, titled “Little Pieces”, is a introspective reflection of myself in different “roles,” or aspects of my personality. Through this portfolio, I mean to portray myself in somewhat fragmented or obscured ways so as to suggest multiple parts of a whole. By making the character I play in this portfolio rather introspective and posing in quiet ways, I aim to present the idea of self reflection as well as presenting the concept of unwhole fragments coming together and composing a person. The nature elements seen in most of the photos is meant to invoke a rawness and quietness in which the true nature of the self can be revealed. There is also many aspects of reflection, where the subject is peering into water or actively avoiding or facing away from the water. This is meant to symbolize self reflection, and the back-and-forth between engaging in it and avoiding it. The subject’s eyes are never looking directly at the camera, where the viewer can see, suggesting an inability to see the truth of their self reflection as well as a more personal experience the viewer is observing, rather than participating in. With all these elements working in conjunction, the general concept is the idea of self reflection, and the inability to completely self-actualize and form a complete image of the self. The quieter and more muted nature of this portfolio makes it somewhat difficult to form a whole, easy to understand message (which was the intent), invoking more thought towards the meaning, making more suited for individuals who enjoy thinking about and engaging in art, rather than just consuming.

This portfolio was shot with a DSLR camera, and minimally edited in photoshop. The photos were taken with an auto-timer where I would then proceed to pose before the image was captured. Art, as a whole, is merely something created that invokes thought and reflection on it’s meaning, and that others can form opinions on. As a photographer, it is just as important conceptually as it is technically to present images in an engaging way. As a photographer who mainly shoots in black and white 35mm film, I used this opportunity to indulge in fully saturated and vibrant images. I particularly enjoy focusing on the quality of light - whether muted, vibrant, warm, or cold, the lighting can wholly change a photo and its

meaning. In this portfolio, the muted lighting and vibrant colors suggest a slightly somber and tangled mood, but one of great variation, with potential for great revelations.

Originally, this portfolio was an entirely different concept in an entirely different medium. But, with the sudden inability to develop film, I dropped the original idea. I then, with lots of free time, decided to very loosely take self portraits in whatever way felt right, and thus came upon the idea of self reflection. From that point, I trudged out into the woods a few times a week and did poses and pictures that felt right, and edited them until I felt that my body of work was somewhat comprehensive of the topic. If I could do this portfolio over again, I would simply shoot more photos; towards the end of shooting, I felt I was on a roll and that the photos I produced were better, and, given more time, I could produce more quality images. Creating portfolio really allowed me to explore what I think of myself and how I view the concept of personality and the self. The final project turned out slightly more optimistic than I originally anticipated - with all of the scary events and life changes going on, I thought insecurity would play a bigger part in this photo series. But, as I took the photos, they ended up being more assured in the character and, while still muted and fragmented, the series felt whole when viewed together. By doing this portfolio, I explored self portraiture in new and strange ways, influencing how I do portraiture and how I actually photograph it.









































