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Mirrored Imbalance

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University of Kentucky

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AUTHOR Kate Shannon



I graduated from the University of Kentucky in the fall of 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and an emphasis in studio art. My time at the University of Kentucky served as an invaluable period of growth and self-discovery, which I hope is reflected by my photography. These photographs are from my senior thesis exhibition entitled *Mirrored Imbalance*. Most of the photographs included in this exhibition are self-portraits intended to reflect my inner being. But, in reflecting the self, these portraits must also show my limitations.

My greatest hope in creating art is that I might be able to take the weakness that exists within myself and capture its innate, natural beauty. In my life, I have struggled with the body that I was born into and the person that I have become. I have learned that an aesthetic and conceptual beauty exists in the natural "wrongs" and in the personal correction of inadequacies.

My self-portraits are taken alone, using a timer on my camera. Through this process, an intimate bond is created between me and the machine through which I create. The camera has become a source to which I tell my deepest secrets, and to which I show myself completely, with no inhibitions.

Jackson Pollock believed that art should serve as a mirror from the artist through the art to the audience, and back. When viewing my photography, my hope is that my audience will be able to see into the person that I am, and the feelings that are not always on the surface.

Pollock also once said: "Put up and shut up"



Mentor:
Ruth Adams, Assistant Professor, Department of Art

It is always a joy when you are graced with a student who is artistically self-motivated. Kate is one of those students. She has been photographing herself, exploring difficult issues, for the last several years, always finding new ways to express herself through her art. The work created for her Bachelor of Fine Arts show, *Mirrored Imbalance*, stems from very personal issues and ones that many artists have addressed in the past. Kate has tackled the topics of women's body image and the contradictions we feel between our outward appearance and inward challenges without being didactic or obvious, and addressed them using metaphor and grace in many different photographic media. *Mirrored Imbalance* is superficially a beautiful group of images of women, which alone might be enough to hold our interest; but, conceptually, Kate has made us take that extra time to explore the images to find their inner meaning. All in all, what every artist wants.

Mirrored Imbalance

Abstract

My photographs are almost always self-portraits, which has created a unique bond between me and the machine with which I will eventually make art. The camera becomes not just a tool, but a source to which I show myself completely with no inhibitions. In my work, my main concern is my physical appearance and its relationship to interior emotion (the outward vs. the inward). It is my hope that I communicate emotion through images of my body and, in turn, create a dialogue between me and my audience. It is my goal to create photographs that can communicate feeling without a needed explanation in words, which would please my favorite artist, Jackson Pollock, who once said, "Put up and shut up." With Pollock's sentiment in mind, I will leave any further explanation to my photographs.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the University of Kentucky Art Department faculty, especially Bones Carpenter and Ruth Adams.

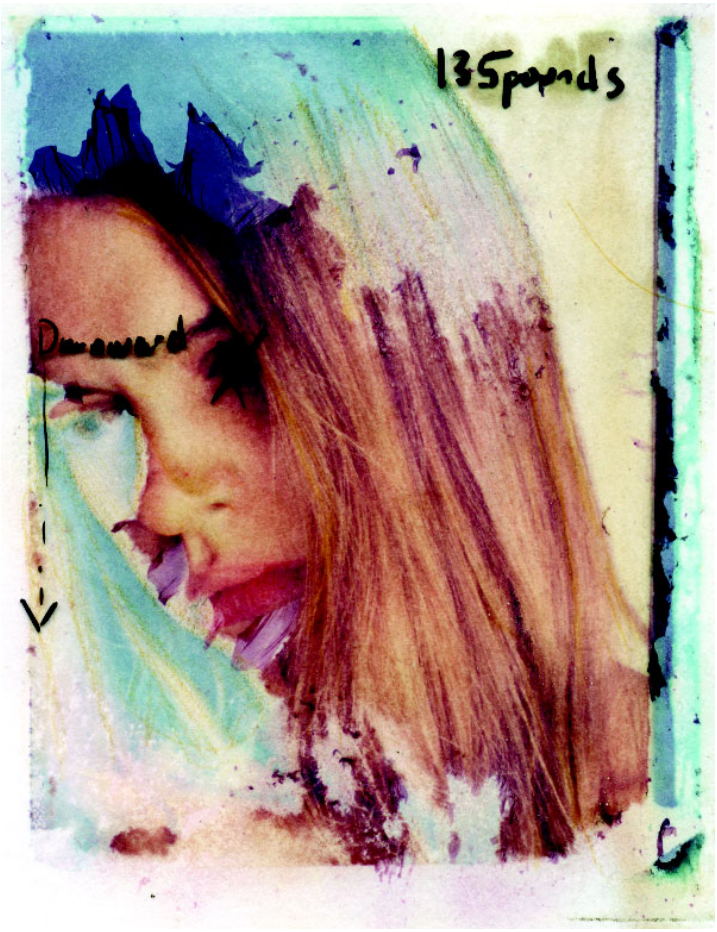
Biographical Information

I graduated Cum Laude the Fall of 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Studio (Emphasis: Photography). I was presented the Dean's Purchace Award in 2002. My extracurricular activities at UK included Trombone Choir, and Concert and Marching bands.

My future plans include applying to graduate school in photography and doing whatever it takes to make a living as an artist. My gallery here is important because my main goal is to communicate and share with others, so any exposure is needed.

The photographs included in my gallery are all from my senior exhibition, *Mirrored Imbalance*. The exhibition included work from my senior year in the photography department. The work was a result of helpful critiques by faculty and students, as well as overwhelming support (physical and emotional) from my peers.

More images can be seen in the on-line version of the journal at www.uky.edu/kaleidoscope/fall2004.


135pounds
Downward




13.8'


self deterioration



