

Women in Transition

Overview of Project Proposal

There is a recent trend in our society to not only document every milestone in one's life, but to now professionally document it. From new loves and engagements, to marriages and anniversaries, our culture has become obsessed and deeply intertwined with the idea that one must have outstanding pictures of a moment to make it last. But what about those transitions in life that don't normally warrant a photograph? A new relationship, a breakup, a new child, a shift in sexuality, a new responsibility-everyday can be a new experience for someone, and these experiences can shape and mold who we are as people in an instant. I wish to capture a moment in a woman's life when this transformation is taking place.

I choose to focus my project on solely women in transition because our society is fraught with social stigmas and regulations that influence the decisions and characters of women each and every day. Through my documentation of transitions in women's lives, I hope to better capture the stories of individuals whose experiences I may not have ever known. I do not simply wish to make commercial photographs of these moments, but rather dig deeper into the emotional responses that are tied up in individual moments, the fear behind an action or the ultimate bliss of a decision. I want these representations of my subjects to be accurate and pure in nature, so I will take my time to get to know each woman. People's stories are powerful and moving, and forming a relationship through a stressful yet beautiful time in one's life will not only allow me to make more realistic photographs, but will also help me to better understand the human subject.

Proposed Time Line:

- November 2013: Begin advertising
- December-January: Make contact with participants
- Early spring semester:
 - o Begin photographs
 - o Research portraiture, editing, styling
- Mid Spring semester:
 - o Take classes related to portraiture
 - o Continue taking pictures and researching
- End of Spring semester
 - o Have the rest of the dates planned out for each participant
 - o Have at least one photograph done and printed for participant
- Summer
 - o Continue to take classes on portraiture
- Fall 2014
 - o Continue pictures, print for women
 - o With permission, show photos in OpenGrounds

Proposed Budget:

Supplies: \$760

- May include
 - printing costs: \$150
 - photoshop actions: \$80
 - photography workshops: \$450
 - photography books: \$80

Gas: \$100

Camera equipment such as a new lens filters: \$250

Total: \$1,110

Evidence of Participation in the Arts

At the University, I am an Arts Administration Major with concentrations in Studio Art and Media Studies. I have taken at least one art class a semester, ranging from drawing to new media to photography, plus Art Administration classes and the Arts Scholars seminar every semester. Through my classes, I have learned a multitude of new techniques that I have been able to harness and expand upon as I have moved up in my photography courses. I am currently in Professor Wylie's Large Format Black and White Photography course, so I am back in the darkroom for hours a day honing my technical and artistic skills. While I spend a lot of my time in the arts in classes here, I also practice photography outside of University courses. I am currently a photography intern for OpenGrounds. In this internship, I attend events that the space hosts and document people's experiences. I then categorize, edit, and upload these photographs to be used in OpenGrounds print and online materials. I also have been fortunate enough to shadow a wedding photographer during my time here at U.Va. Meredith McKee, a U.Va. Studio Art grad, has guided me through multiple weddings and events, teaching me different techniques and tips. Because of all the practice provided from classes and shadowing, I have felt comfortable enough to offer my photographic services to groups on grounds. I have taken pictures for Kappa Delta's Big Sis Week, the University Guide Service family portrait session, and the Virginia Gentlemen's 60th Anniversary Weekend.

Along with my participation in the arts around the University, I have also actively been apart of the Arts Scholars program. I have attended the seminar every semester since my first year, first semester. Not only have I shown up once a week, but also I have taken part in the discussions to shape the program. I took the portraits for each art scholar for our website, I have participated in the blog, and I am the Arts Scholars Representative for the Arts Council. This position allows me to sit in on the Arts Council bi-annual meetings and give my input from the student's perspective. This opportunity has allowed me more insight on the inner-workings of councils and how they affect the larger community.

