



HAYDEN PARKS
Artist

BIO

Hayden Parks is an artist working in the medium of photography and cinematography. He was born in Pittsburg, Kansas in 1995. He has a BFA in Design—Photomedia with a concentration in Film and Media studies from the University of Kansas. His work uses techniques commonly found in fashion editorials and exhibits themes of the surreal nature of modern social norms and political systems. He is currently based in the Midwest.

Contact

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Curriculum Vitae

Artist Statement

We exist in a world of the surreal. The actions of our daily lives are changing faster than previous generations. My artistic works exist within and describes the chaos of living in contemporary times: a tech savvy, confused, and paranoid society of anxious, scared, and brave people. My artistic practice is generally photographic with recent research into moving images. The images I make are a reminder of what we have become, a look in the mirror.

I grew up in Pittsburg, Kansas – part of the Midwest, a forgotten region that does not have the predominant physical and ideological features of the West and East. This place forced me to exist in a vacuum growing up. Pittsburg seemed to be viewing curated news from afar, observing a world without actually existing in it. From this view of the world, I watched major events unfold from a great distance. My understanding of what existed had been mediated by news anchors. The issues seemed abstract, unattainable, and surreal. None of the sensationalism that was depicted in the news felt close enough to act upon. For many, this distance equated to safety but I fear finding comfort in a place like Pittsburg.

I am urged to counteract my childhood; to become the mediator. The images I construct tend to speak the language of fashion editorials with highly aestheticized lighting, set design, and costuming. Much like fashion editorials use beauty to sell products, I use beauty as the foundation of a critique on social behavior and often acknowledge my role in these social norms. My art depicts the values of our generation; surreal, abstract, and challenging. I exploit beauty to express the ugliness within.

Juried Exhibitions-

2017 Traveling Regional Student Exhibition; 16x16x16, Midwest
2017 Group Student Exhibition, LibArt, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence, KS.
2016 Group Student Exhibition, Portraits, Corridor Gallery, Marvin Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

Invited Exhibitions-

2017 Group thesis exhibition, Unfiltered, the Commons, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

Awards/Publications-

2017 Photographer's Forum Magazine, 35th Annual Spring Photo Finalist.

Conferences/Workshops-

Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association, Midwest regional photography workshop, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. 2013

Education-

BFA in Design-Photomedia with a concentration in Film and Media Studies. 2017
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.