Photography Class at Safer Foundation
via C.L.A.Y. Program [alt_] **2023 Review**

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C.L.A.Y. is an innovative platform that helps our youth understand their potential and gives real time problem solving methods through the arts. Participants in C.L.A.Y. will leave with the fundamentals of collaboration, conceptualization and career development.

Via this program, our focus is teenagers and young adults interested in art, expression and entrepreneurship with a predominant focus on disserviced youth. Participants are exposed to a range of professions within the art industry in a **safe space**. They receive mentorship with industry professionals while expanding on their collaborative abilities, leadership development and time management skills. They are also encouraged to exercise ownership.

Teachers and members of alt_ have been honored to be a part of the Safer Foundation curriculum, aiding young adults in developing their skill sets by engaging in collaborative photography-centered curriculum.

Below you will find a highlighted synopsis of our 2023 programming organized by Jordan Campbell and led by Nathan Miller, Angelina Cofer and Amanda Campagnoni. In the coming pages, each bullet point will be followed by a brief description and images derived from the curriculum.

➔ Experimenting with Abstract Photography

➔ Introduction to Film Photography

➔ Introduction to Light Painting

➔ Critical Thinking / Independent Discovery

➔ Introduction to Product Photography

➔ Exploration of New Territories as Photographers

➔ Empowerment Through Portfolio Creation

➔ Independent Image Creation

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Experimenting with Abstract Photography

Students were introduced to abstract art and known abstract photographers while challenged to think about what moves someone to create something abstract. Tools such as color gels, lights and classroom objects were provided to students as they were tasked to "abstract" the object, IE make the object like something other than itself. This was an exercise in taking an object out of its typical context.

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Introduction to Film Photography

Students were introduced to film photography for the very first time. Shooting on film is a far venture from what photography is recognized as in today's digital world. Faced with not knowing what their images look like and unable to edit on the spot, students become engaged differently, transported into a more intentional state. They were able to take these disposable cameras home and shoot at their leisure. Then, with the guidance of instructor Nathan Miller, students selected their favorite shots from the negatives and those images were developed and shared.

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Introduction to Light Painting

Students had the opportunity to play with "light painting" also known as the long exposure technique of capturing light in motion. Nathan Miller used his DSLR to capture students "painting" with the flashlights on their phones. This unique photographic effect provided results that were a delight amongst participants.

Critical Thinking/Independent Discovery

From a curated selection of books, students chose a photograph that spoke to them. Worksheets were provided with the intention to invoke deeper thought regarding their "likes". Students then took some time to research those photographers to learn more about their work. Findings were presented to their peers.

Another similar activity was assigned with magazines. Students were tasked with finding advertisements that used photographs in order to critically think about these photographs. What was this image adding to the story? What was it lacking? What attributes were apparent?

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Introduction to Product Photography

Students were tasked with selecting items that they wanted to focus on in order to create compelling images that would help sell these items. Light Boxes were used to help students focus on singular items. Items were also brought out on "photo walks" so that students could incorporate them into lifestyle photography(where items are used in context to invoke feelings). Items were provided at no cost to students.
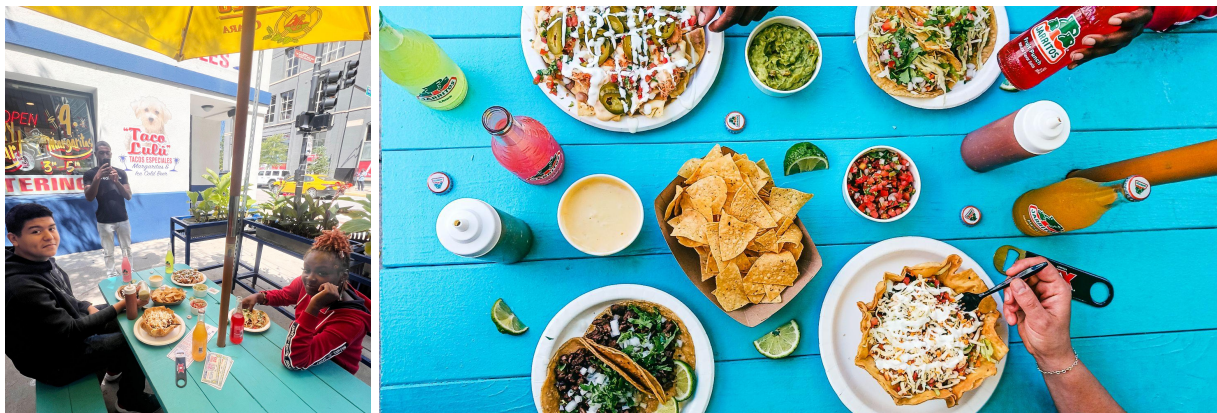
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Exploring new Territory as Photographers

- ❖ Field trip to Museum of Contemporary Photography
    - ➤ This trip was in response to learning that most students had never visited an art gallery. Students enjoyed a modern exhibition and experienced photography off of their devices. Students were able to physically sit with framed photographs and truly explore the range in which photographs can serve us.

- ❖ Field trip to GoodWill
    - ➤ Students selected items to photograph and incorporate into photoshoots. Involving students in every step of the process is important. Enabling them to decide what they photograph and allowing them to hand-pick the items creates a stronger investment in the project. Items were purchased for students through our shared funding.

- ❖ Taco Lulu
    - ➤ With the intent of photographing a "meal spread," students, alongside educator Amanda Campagnoni, planned a photo shoot surrounding a trip to a local taco establishment. The menu and food items to order were discussed prior to arriving. Photos were researched online in order to get inspired. The location was scouted by the group a few days earlier. Students were used as models in a staged dining event. This was a real-life experience in implementing a food photography photo shoot. The student's favorite photos will be emailed by the instructor to the establishment in hopes of being utilized. This is also an example of how to initiate a photography job in everyday life!
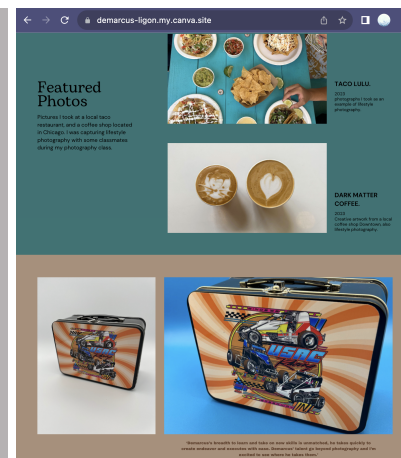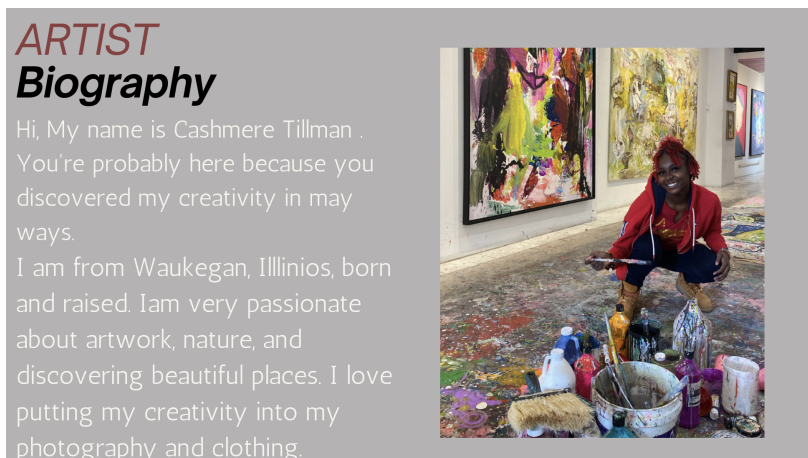
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Empowerment

- ❖ Through Development of photography + editing skills
- ❖ Via selecting best work and creating portfolios (websites)
- ❖ Via reflection - Creating artist statements/biographies

With the guidance of instructor Amanda Campagnoni, students reflected on the work they created and were encouraged to select their favorites, to curate a collection of work they were proud of. Students downloaded editing apps, watched tutorials and practiced the art of editing as a means to enhance an image. With their own selections, students were guided in creating their very own portfolios via an actual live website! Students then engaged in portfolio reviews with participating product photographers and artists. Reviewers prompted conversations on their work, encouraged growth and empowered students to expand their abilities within this field.

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Independent Image Creation

Outside of class, students were encouraged to put their new skills to use by photographing independently. Photos were then collected and shared during class hours.

Thank you for reviewing the work we are guiding at the Safer Foundation through the C.L.A.Y. Program. We look forward to a continuing partnership.