

Jaidynn VanBlijenburgh

2021

*“Day Off”*

To generate ideas for this project I looked to a previous class assignment, a photographer discussion, where I chose Christopher McKenney who is a horror surrealist artist. With that inspiration, I started researching more horror surrealist artists and ultimately decided that I wanted to do horror-comedy. I found Joshua Hoffine while looking for inspiration. He is a horror-comedy artist that does parodies of popular scary movie tropes. After seeing his work I started thinking about how I could make my work funny. I put my favorite horror villain in everyday situations as a sort of a play on “What does the killer do when they aren’t killing?”. I chose Michael Meyers and Jason Voorhees, two very iconic slasher villains.

To execute this project successfully I worked with the lighting, exposure, white balance extensively. My use of balance, movement, color, and value are some of my strengths in this body of work. For example, I utilized the rule of thirds for balance and subject placement for movement. I liked the overall mood that I was able to portray through the color, lighting, and exposure. Some of the images are lacking in areas like variety, space, and texture. I learned to shoot more variety for when backup photos are needed and I fixed the empty space by cropping. Lastly, the texture is something I changed while editing. I wanted my pictures to have a slight grain effect, and trying to achieve that look in camera was not something I had gotten down yet, so instead, I got my pictures as clear as possible while shooting. Overall, I am very proud of how the pictures turned out.

I learned a lot from this project; from learning to not come up with an idea that is heavily reliant on costumes that aren’t in stock this time of year to figuring out how to go about shooting a horror project in a grocery store, it has been a very enriching experience. I was also able to use a lot of the new skills I learned in this class, like shooting in manual mode overall and using camera raw to get the perfect picture. For example, adding a grain effect on my photos. I used a lot of ideas from the photographer that inspired my idea, Christopher McKenney, and I kept his work in mind while shooting my project. While my project has a comedic theme to it, I also interpret it as how I feel while out in public. The anxiety of being stared at and feeling like people don’t like me just because of who I am. It was an underlying theme that I had noticed halfway through working on this project and I thought it fit really well. It is something that is also very relevant to my generation in general, representing our way of brushing off our insecurities and fears with comedy instead of facing them. This also aligns with McKenny’s themes in his work that represent his struggle with anxiety and other mental illnesses. My project ended up growing into something more meaningful than I meant it to be, which represents how an artist’s work is a reflection of their inner selves.

A-S 285-002 Lee Ann Paynter