

Practitioner's Statement

Weightlessness

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Life on earth is dependent on the force of gravity, without such a force, there would be no possible chance on life, just floating. But there are moments where we have the ability second to just float; by partaking in Physics and Dance at school, I was able to understand the moment of suspense during a dancer's jete. The dancer's momentum upward and the force of gravity downwards creates a moment of suspension when both forces cancel each other out and the dancer just pauses for a split second before gravity pulls the dancer back down to the ground. Through the medium of photography I wanted to capture the moment of weightlessness. I experimented with dance photography using "Richard Calmes" as inspiration as he works for a ballet company in the United States and has placed the traditional movements of ballet into the contemporary scenes in the New York district. When it came to printing my photos, I was unhappy with the aura and felt I needed to look at a different angle in every way for capturing weightlessness.

Exploring artists like "Elena Kalis" and "Benjamin Von Wong" who focus on underwater photography, I was inspired to not only use water as a medium but to create a story with the movement of water. I began to look at period clothing through the 1900s as a symbolic means for capturing time in a weightless motion. Something I did not consider was the using of a pool. Through the middle of winter, most outside pools would have been far too cold to use which became an issue. Thankfully I was able to use an indoor aqua therapy pool.

Using a non SLR digital underwater camera meant I could not adjust the F-stop or the aperture while photographing the models through the water. This also meant that I had to spend time adjusting the lighting and colour hues on the image as I discovered the location in which I was standing in the pool would change the colour of the water on the camera. By using Photoshop I was able to create a clearer image which allowed different elements to stand out.

After printing the images I attempted to arrange them in a configuration that would flow like the movement of water. However, I wasn't creating that sense of weightlessness with a two dimensional layout, so I decided to configure my images into a pool like block and suspend it from the ceiling. By doing this, horizontally the cube moves like free flowing water and vertically the cube is weightless combining my intention and medium together. The latter is also apparent through the open ended top and bottom of the structure floating in the air.

I have combined my passion for photography with a three dimensional extension of my interpretation of weightlessness.