



As Americans we are raised to believe we will lead a life of liberty, equality, and limitless possibility. We are spoonfed the idea that we can be whoever or whatever we want. I was born in the United States: a beautiful land with abundant natural resources and a tradition of privilege, wealth, and opportunity unlike that of any other place in the world. Along with this privilege comes freedom of speech and endless opportunity for education. The more education I receive, the more deeply I understand that much of what we are told by our leaders, the media, and even our religions, is just simply not factual. With time and further education and contemplation, the ideas of liberty, equality, and opportunity seem less like reality and more like an impossible dream. In order to live the “American Dream”, one must do it at the expense of others. The notion of the American Dream is such an inherently selfish concept that any degree of social consciousness makes it impossible for one to live this way and not feel saddled with guilt.

With this in mind I create imagery representative of current social issues depicted through the rapidly deteriorating environment created in the wake of our consumerist intent. These images are pictorial representations of my vision of the world. I like to find pieces of time and place that show a little slice of what is really going on behind the scenes in this country.

I feel that now more than ever the people of the United States must ignore its traditional capitalist nature and embrace a progressive age of morality and ethics over economic and political gain. I hope to best represent my perspective on this unique, challenging time through my photography. If I can show the contemporary issues in a relatable way, perhaps I can prompt people to consider not only their own futures, but also that of many generations to come.