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Artist Statement

I was born once. After that, I started growing up. I spent most of my free time as a child watching movies and TV. When I graduated from high school, I got my first camera, a simple point-and-shoot 35mm camera. I took it everywhere and took pictures of everything.

As time went by, I became less and less satisfied with just capturing a moment. I wanted more control. I didn't want to just *take* pictures; I wanted to *make* them. I began to research artists like Gregory Crewdson and Robert ParkeHarrison.

In late 2005, I became an art major at Weber State University and turned photography into my main focus. In school, I learned about art history and began to incorporate that newfound knowledge into my art. Then I graduated.

These photographs represent my work for the last three years. I see my photography as a combination of many art forms. The lighting and composition of filmmaking, the drama of theater, and the movement and gesturing of dance are all visible in my work.

I often explore frightening ideas in my photographs. Disturbing acts like murder or dismemberment can be presented in ways that are pleasing to the eye. Change can also be frightening. In my photographs, characters are often in the process of change. Some deal with the transition between life and death, while others delve into stranger and more symbolic changes.

Once one can explore fear without the gut reaction of repulsion, beauty can be unveiled.