

Reviewer Portfolio Feedback

I've had some time to look at and assess your imagery, and I wish to offer you my feedback. Allow me to begin by writing that I think your series is quite compelling overall. Your images speak to photography's capacity to capture and preserve memories yet to also instill a rather enticing and ultimately poignant sense of our collective inability to arrest time and preserve loved ones and associates. Roland Barth's "Camera Lucida" is probably the most direct and obvious reference to your work, but I certainly think you should keep his remarks on photographs and memory in mind, if you're not already doing so. Formally, your images strike a fine balance between documenting and describing what appear to be these original photographs with a layer and patina of moisture and ice. This makes quite plain your conceptual investigation of the deteriorating and preservative qualities of photographs. In terms of compositions, you are, of course, at the mercy of the original photographers as you were appropriating these images. Naturally, there are a number of photographs in which a single person appears in the middle of the frame and in a rather large scale. I suggest you intersperse these a bit more fully throughout the series to create a greater degree of rhythm and pacing across multiple types of photographs. For example, the similarities in scale and composition in images four, five and six are overpowering, and therefore the flow of the series slows a bit too much at this point. In terms of the deteriorating qualities of photographs, the omission of certain details, particularly faces, results in a complete elision of identity that is simultaneously harrowing and touching. In regard to your project statement, I suggest you write more. You write rather generally on your concept of twinning or fusing the preservative and damaging qualities of ice and photographs, respectively. However, I suggest you speak more directly and personally about your process. These appear to be your family photographs that you are subjecting to ice - is that correct? If so, why do you choose to use your own family photographs rather than the photographs of strangers, for example? Are you destroying these original photographs by freezing them, or are these copies that you are freezing? Not addressing these elements is kind of a proverbial element in the room, so to speak. Not addressing these issues also entails that the project statement seems a bit unresolved. I hope you can tell that I found your work highly engaging overall, and I certainly feel that the formal qualities of your photographs, and also your process in general, is a fitting exploration of your concept. My primary suggestion is to alter your use of sequencing and also consider more fully explicating the materiality of your concept via the project statement. *I wish you the best of luck in progressing with your work.*
