

## Artist Statement

This photographic series has to do with a wildfire that destroyed my family's home and forced a move that dramatically impacted my life. That traumatic situation created a lot of negative emotions, yet it also informed and inspired my artwork. This last year of my BFA has seen a body of work that began as a medium for expressing these challenges, yet evolved into an artistic opportunity that saw me use found objects and images as a metaphor for shared sufferings.

I found that my inability to express these feelings of loss only changed when I was immersed in my artwork. Sometimes I can't really express them until a canvas or objects are right in front of me. I painfully returned to our home that was destroyed by the fire and was able to go through the debris. This unveiled some valued belongings. I started to see that these possessions from the fire represented something much more; such as locks becoming a bond between items and individuals.

The series includes portraits and still lives that express the emotions which reclaimed personal objects to an individual such as myself. My work consists of what feels right to me and how I want to present it to others. I am fascinated by the many different emotions this project evoked and how I want to design them. However, I am interested in how the audience views my work and what emotions they feel. I want the viewer to indulge themselves into my choice of different colors, textures and the objects that I placed in the still life images and shadow box. The images were not taken just as a documentation of my shadow box, but with the intention of creating a symbol of how memories can be indicated. They also show how quickly things can be taken from us.

I have created this series of work as a capstone. With this BFA exhibition I was able to show what I had gone through and how I was able to use this experience to create a body of work. It is a good way to end a chapter in my life and to start a new beginning. A fresh start. Thank you.