

Hannah Schindler

Lakeville, Connecticut

Photography

Tanya Marcuse

Rethinking Still Life Photography with a Focus on Food

I absolutely love food. I love growing it, cooking it, and of course, eating it. When I'm not at school I'm either preparing food for customers at my job, or I'm at home planning meals for myself. Food is one of my passions, along with photography. During my photography education here I have done a lot of portraiture, and I feel I need to explore other subjects. I have done some still life/ object photography and I really want to go



further with it. I've decided to make my subject(s) food because its something I can get really excited about. And of course, there are endless ways one can photograph food. Food is incredibly interesting because it can be beautiful or grotesque. There are countless kinds of foods, and each hold their own individual color, form, and texture. Not only is it visually interesting, but it is also an important part of life. It is a necessity, an art, and has some sort of role in each of our lives every

day. Food has been represented in art for hundreds of years be it ancient Egyptian and Roman wall paintings or 17th century Dutch and Flemish still life paintings.

Contemporary commercial photographs of food seem to have a specific style and aesthetic. If you open a cookbook or magazine, there are brightly colored photographs of beautifully presented food. This genre of food photography is mainly advertising. It has a goal. This goal is to sell the food to consumers, and to make it look really delicious. The food in these images is always attractive and appetizing.

I want to explore and examine different characteristics of different foods. I want to explore both raw ingredients and finished products. I want to look at fresh food, old food, odd food, and ordinary food. I want to describe their textures and colors. I'm not planning to create an image of something with the intention of selling it. I want to look closer and represent the food in a way that is honest, from a person who truly loves and appreciates it. I want to help viewers look at food differently. I want to show that food can be beautiful and fascinating without being dressed up and presented perfectly. I want to work with imperfections in an innovative way. I want to touch on humor and sensuality.

At the end of this yearlong project, I envision my work showcased in two parts. The first part will be the photography exhibition. This will be the larger part of my thesis. The second part will be written. It will consist of personal writing, a journal of some sort, process notes, and reflections. I also intend to research on a broad scale the presence of food in art over history, which will include research on early Dutch still life paintings by artists such as Claesz and Cezanne, and contemporary food still life photography including a comparison of the works of Laura Letinsky and Sharon Core. I want to focus on allegory, symbolism, or cultural references linked to these images.



This project will be the culmination of all of my studio art studies at Simon's Rock. I am looking forward to creating my very own kind of still life imagery and delving into the world of still life art. I hope to learn a great deal about the meaning and importance of food to not only other cultures and time periods, but to our own as well.