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The Photo Vision: Modern Cliché-Verre

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Jacqueline Camacho, Christiane Ramsey, Harold B. Lee Library

On May 24, 2018 I arrived in Reykjavik, Iceland after two day of travel. Our first day composed of exploring the city, learning the history of Iceland, and of course trying to stay awake to adjust to the time change. The next day was when I started to focus on my project of creating cliché-verre inspired images in a modern time. At first it was hard figuring out a way to capture images to create this desired effect. I drew inspiration through the beauty of Iceland. Our first stop was The Golden Circle where I saw the magnificent Bláskógabyggð waterfall. I was impressed with the beauty and I thought nothing live up to this particular view. However, there was more to come as we explored Bláskógabyggð. Not only did we see stunning waterfall but also we saw powerful geysirs. We spent three days around the city of Reykjavik places including þingvellir national park, kirkjufell waterfall (image 1), many places in Snaefellsnes Peninsula, including the hafnarberg cliffs. All these places inspired me with the light, movement, and color these places produced. While visiting these places we had lessons of water color, color theory and proportion. This was helpful to my project as I strived to create movement in my paintings and how I could interpret that same movement in my photographs. I began taking multiple images with different exposures and by slightly moving the lens and or camera to create movement. With these images I compiled them into one single image. I kept this in mind as we made our way to Hofn. During this journey we encountered the waterfall of Seljalandsfoss, Skogafoss (image 2), Reynisfjara black sand beach, the Dyrhólaey peninsula, and the glaciers near Hofn to end our exploration of Iceland. On May 31 we arrived in Paris, France (image 3). Paris help me in my journey to create my projects. Here I focused my inspiration on impressionism. I studies the paintings for iconic painters such as Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro, and many others to guide me. June 5th we traveled to Nice, France here I was inspired by the architecture of the old town of Nice. I started experimenting how I could use building to create a Cliché-Verre inspired image. I did this again by compiling multiple exposures of the same subject (image 4). On June 8th we arrived in Castellane a town near the Verdon Gorge here we hike many miles and explore many old french towns, here I painted, photographed and edited photographs to make my photo vision a reality. On June 12 we arrived in Grenoble France where street art was embraced, art was cherished, and where music was used for expression. As we travelled to city to city, what I learned from the places before came with me as we continued to Chamonix (image 5), then to Interlaken (image 6), Switzerland and ending our study abroad in Zurich. Each area help me in different and similar ways on how to approach Cliché-Verre inspired photography. I learned to plan ahead and visualize how I would add paint and other tools as a process in my photography.

I am exhibiting my work in April, 2019 at the Harold B. Lee Library under the direction of my mentor Chris Ramsey, Humanities Librarian. I am using the cliché-verre as inspiration which is a method that consists on creating a drawing upon glass that is used as a negative to make a photographic print. I plan to add paint to my images and I am also combining traditional film photographs processes with modern techniques and software such as adobe Photoshop. I am grateful for the opportunity to have visit these magical places. For the amazing landscapes that I was able to capture, and for the upcoming opportunity to exhibit my work. I am grateful for the ORCA award that made it all possible.
Image 1 - Kirkjufell waterfall

Image 2 - Skogafoss

Image 3 - Paris, France

Image 4 - Nice, France
Image 5 - Chamonix

Image 6 - Interlaken, Switzerland

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