RAW is a collaboration between Art & Design students at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. It features a variety of material from all departments including photography, studio art, graphic design and others with the aim to showcase student artistry.

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These are a few of the photos that I took throughout the year in Santa Cruz and Morro Bay. I wasn’t trying to go for a specific photo in any of these shots, just trying to capture things I saw in the moment as I adventured the Central Coast for the first time. Several days, many moments and many memories, all of which were captured on film.
“Home” is an ongoing series exploring the deep sense of belonging that I have developed over the past three years living in San Luis Obispo. I find so much character in the funky brick buildings, tangled telephone wires, and old surfer trucks that cruise the streets. I hope to illustrate this admiration and curiosity for the place I live in by photographing its subtleties--different moments that I notice day-to-day as I wander the streets. All photographs were shot on 35 mm film and were personally developed and scanned.

Pink Plasma and Marigold Mystique are part of a sister series that explores femininity through color, texture, tone and confrontational bearings.

e. noelle merrihew
Usually, a photographer is always taking photos or has a camera on him or her, ready to take pictures. At the time of writing this statement, I am going through a phase of looking at a lot of images and not taking very many photos on a day to day basis. Sometimes, I feel like I need to take time off from shooting to help reignite my creativity or evolve my style by looking at the world around me for inspiration. This is a series of images from my 2,500 mile road trip over spring break starting from San Luis Obispo, CA driving all the way up to Seattle, WA. These are a few of my favorite images from the trip.

Shot on Kodak Portra 400 Color Film

35 MM ROADTRIP
elvis li
My photographic vision primarily resides in reality. I am most drawn to nature and the forms found in it. However, in a situation where an image would become overused and uninteresting, stepping outside of the representational form can be necessary. Thus, I turn towards motion to pull the image away from what our eyes see while still maintaining a natural flow and displaying the passage of time.

ROOM 22

These photos were taken while exploring San Luis Obispo and the intriguing hotel/motel scene that encompasses the area around Cal Poly. I was going for a 1950’s young vibe but with a modern take. The motel I chose had colors that brought out the vibrancy of the model and their clothes, as well as the cute, simple architecture that brought a story to life.

haley vanbaale
AS TIME ESCAPES US, PEOPLE, PLACES, AND CULTURES CONTINUE TO SHIFT FORWARD.

AND AS WE GROW OLDER, IT BECOMES EASIER TO FEEL DETACHED FROM OUR PAST. THE ROADS THAT PAVED US.

INEVITABLY, WE PUT THE BLAME ON OURSELVES.

WONDERING WHY WE EVER LEFT THIS PLACE, WE FILL THE VOID WITH OUR DESIRE FOR REDEMPTION. A CHANCE TO RELIVE THE PAST.

EVERY THREE YEARS, AS I TRAVEL BACK TO TAIWAN WITH MY PARENTS, I BEGIN TO SEE THE CHANGES DEVOUR THEM.

EAGERLY FACING BACK AND FORTH WONDERING WHERE THEIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL USED TO BE.

FEELING LOST IN A FAMILIAR PLACE
AINT’ IT PEACHY?

“Ain’t it Peachy?” Is a still life series that was done for the “Life’s A Peach” music festival put on by Sub Sessions this May.

kaiya peralta
This is the lake in Yosemite National Park behind Housekeeping camp. I shot this photo in HDR and long exposure and was lucky enough to come across the lake when it was completely still. The reflection looks almost photoshopped because of how perfect the water stayed still.

This is one of the first wildlife photos I ever took. I was hiking the PG&E trail in Cupertino, California and was approached by a deer on the trail. I widened the aperture to give the photo a shallow depth of field and highlight on the details on the deer’s body.

This is a photo of Mount Hood in Oregon. I was excited to take this photo when I saw the clouds resting on the mountain because of the dream-like look it gave to it. I chose to make it black and white because the side of the mountain I shot was completely in shade while the clouds that rested over it captured the light from the sun. I saw this as a good opportunity to capitalize on the contrast in the photo by turning it black and white.

This is the lake in Yosemite National Park behind Housekeeping camp. I shot this photo in HDR and long exposure and was lucky enough to come across the lake when it was completely still. The reflection looks almost photoshopped because of how perfect the water stayed still.
This series explores the game of basketball and a concrete site. Fluorescent paper and shirts were used to define the space and bring harmony between the player and the environment. I hope these images bring something fresh to sports photography.
What I love about this shoot is the fact that I had a distinct vision in my mind for it, and instead of just recreating the idea, the shoot exceeded my expectations. Twins are truly a remarkable thing; you see a whole new level of friendship, sisterhood and comfort in the pair’s relationship and interactions, and it really shows through in the photos. Hopefully it will be the first of many shoots featuring twin duos!

ysabel sullivan

TWINS IN BLOOM
These are all photos that I took on 35mm film during the fast paced weeks and weekends of Spring Quarter. The music varies from friends playing as well as bands that have come to San Luis Obispo and that I have gone to see in other cities up and down the coast of California. The photos all reflect accurate feelings from the experiences I have had while listening to the music and are part of the learning process of how to develop my own film, hence the stains and strange colors.

jo anna edmison
Photography has allowed me to express my creativity and ideas without concern for the impediment of my self-perceived lack of artistic ability. Essentially, cameras grant me the tools needed to translate my internal creativity into a medium that can be understood by all despite my inability to paint, for instance. Moving forward, I hope to utilize my photography business--Arkon Productions--to provide a platform to continue my creative pursuits.

Through my photography, I hope to inspire others to pursue avenues that provide them with opportunities to express their own creativity as I found doing so to be very therapeutic. In my never ending attempt to become more mindful, my photography has shown me that my use of highly saturated colors and high contrast reflects my extremist nature. This realization has helped me to live a more balanced, healthful life and I can only hope that others can experience this too.
The amount of talented and creative individuals that I have gotten to know at Cal Poly is overwhelming. These photos were inspired by Mariah (graphic designer) and Lukas’ (beatboxer and illustrator) personalities as well as their artwork. I am so lucky to call these two my friends and I hope to forever carry the fun memories that these photos brought.

“IT’S A WOMAN’S WORLD

“IT’s a Woman’s World” is an ongoing series that focuses on empowering women.

ally evans

roslyn yeager

LUKAS & MARIAH

ally evans

IT’S A WOMAN'S WORLD
I am a videographer and photographer. I shoot music videos, short films and street fashion. I titled this group of photos “Wayward Fellas”. It contains photos of my homies from all around California. There's a common spirit of restlessness and chasing that good feeling.

Let us not settle until we've found our dreams.
This shoot was inspired by my perception of Lana Del Rey's song "Heroin", and the way it fills me with inspiration and fascinating feelings of detachment, melancholy, and hints of a haunted aura. I was mainly focused on and inspired by the unique perception each person has of music and the way it makes us feel, and wanted to express my perception as a visual interpretation.

The idea of this shoot originated while listening to some old school funk. I've fallen in love with the soul, style, and vibe of this type of music and wanted to express it through photography. If you're feeling groovy here are a few songs you should check out: Play that Funky Music – Wild Cheery, Jungle Boogie – Kool & The Gang, Get Down On It – Kool & The Gang.
This is a photo series of friends I’ve made over the past year. I wanted to show different facets of their personalities through still images. By juxtaposing photos of them smiling next to more serious photos one is able to dig into the complexities of each individual. I’ve learned that every single person is unique and interesting, all it takes is for you to ask.
CREATE TO RELATE.