

Spring 2016

still

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Still:

A Photographic Meditation on Representation and Memory

Senior Project submitted to

The Division of The Arts

of Bard College

by

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Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

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Still concentrates on façade as a means of considering what we can see and what we decide to show. I am curious about the relationship between our memories and our photographs, and how only the latter is truly accessible to others. In order to communicate what I see before me as best as possible, I ask those who I photograph to be still so that their likeness may be translated faithfully. In our stillness we can become increasingly aware of our surroundings and of ourselves. Though “still” describes the absence of motion, it also describes a continuation from the past into and through the present. I am still making photographs. I am still learning. I am still alive.

“Strictly speaking, the person who has been photographed - not the total person, who is an effect of time - is dead.” - Christian Metz

The Instax Archive presents a different type of image and a different mode of image making. It contains roughly 1000 instant photographs taken between the summer of 2012 and the present. I feel a great anxiety in harboring them, and an excitement about sharing them. These pictures are personal, but the memories and experiences are not solely mine. They have been removed from their chronologically organized stacks in order to reflect the complex functions of recollection, and to emphasize the frustration and disarray of partial memories. Certain faces appear frequently, many faces are smiling. I aspire to photograph all of my peers, and believe strongly that everyone should take photographs so they too may feel happy.



STILL
SAM WILLIAMS





