

MONSTER IN THE MIRROR

JAY DYE / BRIAN KMETZ / HANNAH NAILOR / CRISTIANA WILCOXON / SETH YUND

THERE ARE MANY FACETS OF THE HUMAN MIND THAT ALLOW FOR DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF THE WORLD, OR DIFFERENT LENSES THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE VIEW WHAT THEY USE TO INTERPRET THEIR REALITY. WHEN THESE LENSES ARE DIRECTED INWARDS, THE SIGHTS SEEN ARE OFTEN NOT SHARED WITHOUT DISTORTION, IF THEY ARE SHARED AT ALL. IN THIS PHOTO PROJECT, EACH PARTICIPANT BROUGHT ONE 'INSIGHT' INTO THE PHYSICAL WORLD BY CHARACTERIZING THEIR REFLECTION AS THE THOUGHTS EVOKED BY THEIR OWN IMAGE. THESE THOUGHT FORMS PLAY WITH THE IDEA OF SELF-INCONGRUITY, OR THE UNWANTED ASPECTS OF SELF, AND ALLOW FOR A VISUAL WITH WHICH TO ANALYZE THE NATURE OF SUCH INTERNAL DEMONIZATION.



IN THIS PHOTO,
THE REFLECTION
ACTS AS THE TRUE
PORTRAIT OF THE
INDIVIDUAL'S
INTERNAL STATE.
WHILE STOIC ON
THE OUTSIDE, THE
MIND IS IN
TURMOIL.

IN THIS PHOTO, THE REFLECTION WAS SAVED AS A 0 QUALITY JPEG A COUPLE DOZEN TIMES, WHILE THE REST OF THE PHOTO IS A MAX QUALITY JPEG STRAIGHT FROM RAW. THIS SERVES TO HIGHLIGHT THE DISTORTION THAT DIGITAL COMPRESSION GIVES TO OUR LIVES THROUGH DATA LOSS - WE ARE ESSENTIALLY VIEWING THE WORLD THROUGH ARTIFACTING AND COMPRESSION ALGORITHMS.





THE MONSTER IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS THE LOSS OF SELF-WORTH. THE ABSENCE OF SELF-WORTH IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL MONSTER, UNIQUE IN THE VERY FACT THAT UNLIKE MOST MONSTERS, NOT ONLY IS IT INVISIBLE, BURIED BENEATH THE SURFACE, BUT IT ALSO MAKES ONE FEEL INVISIBLE ON THE SURFACE.

THE MONSTER IN THIS PHOTO
IS THE ADMISSION OF FAILURE.
THE BROKEN GLASS REPRESENTS
ONE'S OWN SHATTERED HOPES
AND DREAMS AS THEY ATTEMPT
TO RECONCILE THE REALITY OF
WHAT HAS COME TO PASS WITH
WHAT THEY HAD HOPED WOULD
HAPPEN. THE MIRROR IS
SYMBOLIC BECAUSE IT'S
REFLECTION IS MEANT TO BE
AN ACCURATE REPRESENTATION
OF REALITY, BUT ON OFTEN
ONLY SEES WHAT THEY WANT TO
SEE AND IN THIS PHOTO THAT
DELUSION IS SHATTERED BEFORE
ONE'S OWN EYES.





MULTIPLE REFLECTIONS
REPRESENT THE MANY
PARTS OF A SINGLE
MIND AND NO MIND
IS COMPLETELY FREE OF
DEMONS. THE MONSTER
IN THE MIRROR HERE
SHOWS A SIDE OF THE
SELF THAT, NO MATTER
HOW SMALL, CANNOT
BE ERADICATED.

WHO DO YOU SEE IN THE MIRROR?