

H.N.S

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Artist Statement

I am incredibly impacted by tragic events. Tragedies make me think critically about our world and how I can change it for the better. When I heard about the Connecticut elementary school shooting, I was absolutely heart broken. I sat alone in my room, staring at the news on my computer screen, literally crying my eyes out for a solid thirty minutes. I could not even imagine how their families and peers were coping. I thought of the mothers and fathers who had just lost their children, and my heart broke for them. I thought of the family and friends of the teachers and principles that died that day as heroes. I felt heartbroken for them, too. Then I thought of the poor children who witnessed this horribly traumatic event. I cannot even explain the sorrow that I feel for them.

How can I dare to recapture this tragedy? Because it is what moves me. It causes a deep desire in my heart to make a difference. I believe that it is absolutely crucial to spread awareness about these types of misfortunes, in hopes to prevent them from happening again. I use photography as a tool to spread awareness and to voice my opinions visually. Photography is my way of taking action.

I have multiple approaches when addressing these meaningful issues. Sometimes I will construct my art so that each image is a metaphor. Other times, I take on a photojournalist approach by capturing “decisive moments,” which are never staged. Either way, my intentions are to positively impact my viewer. This involves educating them about sensitive issues, inspiring them to think critically, and igniting a desire for social change.

Although I am open to photographing any sensitive topics, I find myself most influenced by mental disorders, domestic violence, and high conflict families. Photography creates a simulation that allows my audience to fully submerge themselves in another’s life. It is a form of language that takes down barriers between two audiences. It allows me to clearly articulate what I see wrong with our world, to publically express that, and, hopefully, to make an impact.

I aim to challenge, I aim to make people think critically, and I aim to ignite change.