

Project #4 (Final): Surreal : Dreams  
By: Cassidy Ponton

## **JERRY UELSMANN**

The four photos I selected from Jerry Uelsmann are black and white. With use of figurative elements and landscapes, they share a common thread of theme and mood. The first photo shows a seemingly, larger than life woman who is coming out of the river. I imagine that he used 3 different photographs to make this image. One being the mountains in the background, the rocks on the side in the foreground, and the figure in the front. My favorite part of this image is the composition. With the figures eyes closed and hand raised up, almost as if she is laying down, creates a sensual mood that correlates so beautifully to the landscape. The last picture, of the two children playing at the beach is also a favorite. I appreciate how you can't noticeably tell that anything was edited until you look at the sun and the fading, standing figure. The photo is soft, glistening, and nostalgic to childhood and precious memories at the beach. The photo is divided into three distinct sections much like the first image. This divide creates a visual invitation to further explore the intricacies of the composition. I am most attracted to the simplicity of his work.

### **Mind Map Proposal**

I plan on recreating the first image but with an image of myself and my personal collection of landscapes, flowers, and clouds. I intend to capture the same sensuality and peace that Uelsmann's image conveys. I will maintain a warm, black and white tone that serves to balance all of my images into one, blended image.

## **GREGORY CREWDSON**

Gregory Crewdson has a way of taking the most mundane situation and turning it into a mysteriously, discomfoting scene. While both darkening and illuminating his images, he creates a theme relating to alien abduction and possession. Viewers don't know how to react to the figures, as their faces are often cold and flat. The figures and setting are both equally as important in relationship to each other. The collection of images I selected, primarily use cool green, blue, and white tones to increase the eerie, intensity of his works.

### **Mind Map Proposal**

I intend to recreate a Crewdson like image by overlaying a full figured photo on top of a photo I took of my friend's studio or another other photo I have of a zoomed out room. I will adjust the color and lighting to increase the contrast and intensity. However, being mindful of my light source and how it helps or hurts my overall goal to balance the figure and the environment.

## **BROOKE SHADEN**

This is my favorite artist. Much like Uelsmann, Shaden has a way of incorporating figures and nature scenes into one image. For example; the first image makes me think of a woman under a piece of plexiglass with flower petals thrown on top. I imagine she is laying on a black fabric. I am especially inspired to recreate this image. The next image is of a women tied to a tree with yarn. With the hand reaching up the tree and bound, feet extended. she is seemingly connected, yet opposite of the tree. Shades creates an awkward tension in her relationship to figures and nature. Unlike Uelsmann, who creates a strong sense of unity in his images, I am most attracted to Shaden's work because it reflects a more genuine relationship within myself that I have towards nature. For example; the girl with her head in the clouds, running through a field almost seems pushed back by the clouds. However oblivious, her facial expression and mood is unknown to the viewers. This is consisted through out all of the photos.

### **Mind Map Proposal**

I am torn as to which photo I am most inspired by. I love aspects of all of them and will possible combine elements from off of the photos into one. the challenge will be doing this, with out overly complicated the finished work. I may experiment with objects on a mirror surface with different parts of the face and body reflecting back. I am tempted to weave myself around a tree or use some of my nude photography in conjunction with my landscape pictures. What ever I end up doing, it will be genuine to the style and mood that Shaden creates through her use of imagery and play of warm and cool colors.

JERRY UELSMANN



GREGORY CREWDSON



**BROOKE SHADEN**

