

LOCAL AND GLOBAL
COMMUNITY & STUDENT
REFLECTIONS BY THE
CLASS OF 2022 CHAMINADE
SCHOLARS COHORT

BEAUTY, UGLINESS, AND JUSTICE

Three overlapping red circles of varying sizes and orientations are positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the text.

conceptions of “ ugly ”

DISTORTION: there is a human history of distorting strangers as ugly and demonic beast-- not human; the later need to justify disproportionate incarceration of black males in America-- “demanded that African American men be vilified as horrible beasts and monsters who could not control themselves and who posed a terrible threat to society” (87-88)

DEGRADATION: the environment is intrinsically tied to justice; degraded communities are often the sight of pollution and toxins

DISFIGURING THE PERSON: The material and very real consequence of distorting the image: assaulting flesh (92) We do this “to put a mark on our victims that will identify them as subhuman” “The violence we inflict on others is an attempt to render their flesh and bones unrecognizable as human.” (93)



SLAVERY

Africans sold into slavery in America-- their degrading quarters on slave ships and plantations send a message: "that these strangers were not fully human creatures, that men and women living in such filth and much were more like animals stabled in a pen than humans living in homes" (90).

Enslavement of Africans: routine beating, whipping, branding, and scourging of their slaves-- "meant to 'teach a lesson' by inscribing the beastliness of these slaves into their very flesh" (93)

After Reconstruction: whipping, torturing, and lynching African Americans "often before white mobs that were entertained and assured by the sight of scarred and murdered African bodies" (93)



THE HOLOCAUST

Preparing the German people to acquiesce to and participate in the extermination policies of the Nazis required a process of dehumanization by which the Jewish people were transformed into nonpersons who could be abandoned and destroyed" (91).

Disfiguring the Person

The material and very real consequence of distorting the image: assaulting flesh (92)



POLLUTION

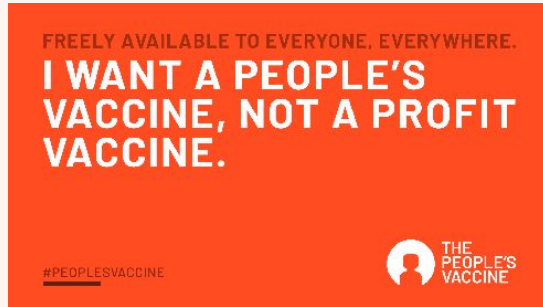
Minority and African American communities in the U.S. are where society "dumps disproportionately large amounts of toxic waste, garbage, and pollution"

→ this was a CONSCIOUS choice
91)

"To help us unsee our ties to these unrecognized neighbors, the alien who is to become an enemy must be disfigured and made ugly."
(McCormick 81)

CASE STUDY

VACCINE APARTIED



Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine research, was conducted in Argentina, South Africa, Brazil, Germany, and Turkey as well as the U.S. But Argentina, South Africa, Brazil, and Turkey are NOT expected to receive enough vaccines to completely inoculate their populations for the for foreseeable future, **despite their participation in studies.**

Meanwhile, Kenya, India, and South Africa put forward a measure at the World Trade Organization that would waive some intellectual property rights for coronavirus-related products, including vaccines. The proposal, which was supported by 99 countries, has yet to pass **after being opposed by wealthy countries, including the U.S., EU members, Japan, the U.K., and Australia.**

Just ten nations have administered 75% of the vaccines worldwide.

About 130 countries—accounting for **about 2.5 billion people**—are yet to administer a single dose -Good example of the Common Good, as current artificial scarcity creates another global crisis, making room for the virus to mutate and potentially grow more contagious and vaccine-resistant.

What kind of moments or feelings are we trying to capture with our photos? What about what you haven't captured: what about your life have you avoided showing in these photos, in class?

STUDENT REFLECTION



I would particularly like to speak on what was not captured in my photos. I feel that I failed to capture the darkness, the stillness, and the pain of my daily moments. And, part of me wishes I would have somehow channeled this element more into my photos-- not so much for a better depiction of reality, but rather to recognize how sometimes even the most difficult of moments can become the most beautiful and raw-- showing us what it really means to be human.

My goal with my photography is always to attempt to capture the true, raw human experience. My primary focus is always on people but I have more recently ventured into the realm of architecture and nature, as it is a reflection of how humans operate within their world.

STUDENT REFLECTION



Photography is difficult sometimes. Especially on social media, it seems that we often only post the highlights of our lives, the things we feel are worthy of sharing. In reality, though, it is beautiful to be open to sharing every part of our lives - the good moments, moments of fear, sadness, etc. Although we wouldn't walk around with a camera capturing every single one of these experiences, it is good to reflect on how even the moments that are not necessarily "picture-perfect" are just as important, if not more important, to the reality of our lives.

**What photos did you put in the
Chapter 3: The Beautiful
Stranger category? Why?**

STUDENT REFLECTION

The photos I put in The Beautiful Stranger category included a picture of my roommate and a close-up photo of a hand from a St. Francis statue. I chose the photo of my roommate, although a rather familiar person in my life, to capture how even the most familiar of figures has a beautiful stranger dwelling inside of them, yearning for us to touch and awaken the joy inside of them that others may not readily see. The St. Francis statue, on the other hand, does not have a visible face and is rather anonymous. This symbolizes the universality of the Beautiful Stranger who both reaches out to us and who we reach out to in return amidst the everyday ordinary.

One of the photos I put in the Chapter 3 folder was of a small toad in my palm both for the creature itself as well as when and where it was taken. I took this picture while on the UD Summer Appalachia program (UDSAP) which put me face to face with countless “strangers” that through the course of the summer I grew with and learned to call neighbors and friends.



Where do you see ugliness in your daily life? In the news? What does this say about how we as a global community treat each other/human beings/the environment? How does this relate to COVID in your view?

STUDENT REFLECTION



Sometimes it seems like ugliness is all around us, given all that is going on in our world. I see ugliness in hearing about the injustices that occur everyday, nationally and locally, on the news. I see ugliness when I drive around less affluent parts of Dayton, where there are abandoned and run down buildings and houses. I see ugliness on my street when the wind blows garbage and debris all over our yards. In these examples, ugliness seems like the result of a lack of care and attention.

I see ugliness in the loss of hope. Obviously this time has been very difficult for everyone and faith has been tested, but the increased negativity, instead of coming together as brothers and sisters, supporting each other and building each other up, has been very difficult to witness. People have just so easily let negativity take over, thinking that they are worthy of this pain. It has been hard to see so many people not recognize the great plans God has for them, and believe in the incredible power that they have to still be artists of God's beauty in the world, despite the struggles.

STUDENT REFLECTION



Unfortunately in the modern world today, we deal with lots of tragedies. I am always hearing about shootings and massacres typically related to race or some other form of hate. These news events are so heartbreaking but they always seem to persist. Although we try to do good in the world, evil will always exist. It is in these trying times that we must band together to stop our prejudices and hate towards our neighbors so that we may build up a stronger and more accepting community for all. As far as respecting our environment, I feel as if we have done a better job in working to preserve the beauty in nature that God has created for us. Specifically with the creation of electric cars our innovators are working toward preserving our nonrenewable resources like oil while also saving the environment from toxic pollution. Finally, with COVID-19, people are banding together stronger to help combat this global pandemic by wearing masks to help protect the safety of others.

I see ugliness in the lack of love, warmth, and dignity we share with our brothers and sisters on Earth. The news is plagued with acts of hate, racism, and crime.

Even outside of COVID-19, how do you see different conceptions of “ugliness” our current society, in your personal life? What have been your own experiences in interacting with others from places, cultures, and identities that McCormick describes as “unrecognized neighbors? What attitudes did you bring to the interactions?

STUDENT REFLECTION

It is often the "unrecognized neighbors" that really enhance my life.

Usually the people I disagree with or really don't want to have a conversation with are the conversations that are especially fruitful. My experiences in this regard have taught me not to be so quick to make assumptions or judgements but to always be open. I think interactions with our "unrecognized neighbors" are an invitation we should be more quick to accept, an invitation to see the world differently and an opportunity to grow in community.

As portrayed in a few of my photos, ugliness is shown through the structural injustices many civilians face around the world. During my BreakOut to El Salvador, I learned about the ugliness, injustices, and difficult past many the people of El Salvador have been facing for over 30 years.



**How do you work to
see beauty in people
and places our society
does not find to be
beautiful?**

STUDENT REFLECTION

Often times when I tell people that I am going to be a middle school teacher, the overwhelming response is "good luck" or "you must have a lot of patience". Middle school is not a place that many people consider beautiful, and middle schoolers do not have a well-respected reputation. They are known for their brutal honesty, lack of thought before action, and tendency to challenge authority. In my coursework, I have learned the ins and outs of middle school brains and they truly are a beautiful thing. They are not given enough credit for their creativity and idealistic hope for a better world. They dream big and navigate life ruled by their intense, human emotions. As a teacher of middle school students, I have to see their beauty, or else the work that I do is not worthwhile. That being said, I do not have to dig too deep to find that beauty.