LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
2018 PORTFOLIO

SUBMITTED BY

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WHY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

Applying into this MLA, I've identified two primary areas of interest that I am keen to explore within the Faculty of Environmental Design.

The first of these two interests is a hangover from my undergraduate studies in philosophy: space and environmental psychology. The consequence of two research projects on the philosophy of neuroscience and the nature of implicit bias, I am captivated by the idea that by employing combinations of sensory inputs (such as strategic scent or colour compositions), it is possible to unconsciously influence the psychological, physiological, and social well-being of those who interact with defined physical spaces.

My interest in the psychological relationships between individuals and physical environments stems from the philosopher Immanuel Kant and his philosophy of aesthetics. He writes of the distinction between judgments of beauty and sublimity, where something is sublime insofar as it is "boundless" and incomprehensible in character.

My secondary interest applying into this program is aquascaping. The lesser explored but equally established fresh and salt water environments are uniquely challenging in ways that I think lend well to artistic engagement and experimentation. Being able to harness the beauty and functionality of waterscapes should inspire the design of usable man-made aquatic and semi-aquatic spaces that are as aesthetic as they are useful and accessible. A deeper understanding of underwater ecosystems, structural design, and efficient site use would carry over into future projects that develop effective and environmentally friendly methods of water management while being equally practical to day to day use and aesthetic appreciation.

Much of my motivation in pursuing an MLA to an extensive course on Kant. Fascinated by his understanding of judgment, beauty, and the limitations of human sensibility, I began exploring different avenues of research that would facilitate a project that combined philosophy, art, and environmentalism.

I think the pursuit of an MLA would satisfy my long-standing goal of obtaining a professional degree while at the same time allowing me to grow within a field that incorporates so many of my interests.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

I believe the objective when designing a landscape should be the pursuit of a space that is not only practical, but beautiful, sustainable, and one which contributes to the flourishing of both people and the environment.

Ecology, environmental psychology, philosophy, and art are available as tools to help create holistic and ecologically friendly urban spaces. These tools ought to introduce an anthropocentrically motivated environmentalism that serves to enrich the world around us while protecting and utilizing the natural spaces we occupy.

TABLE OF **CONTENTS.**

title Untitled Moon
medium Alcohol ink on vinyl

about
One of my early attempts at using alcohol ink. I was aiming to create an abstract pattern that would be reminiscent of the full moon. Early attempts were too linear and geometric (pictured at left).

title   **Wooden Waves**
medium Mixed media - india ink & acrylic

about
The reference photograph for this piece was of an interior sculpted wooden wall. I identified a narrow range of shadow values to create a 3-dimensional painting, then flattened a crack running through the wood to create the red overlay accent. The grey values were digitally adjusted to correct for yellow lighting.

lessons
The composition of the piece felt busy with no identifiable focal point. By adding the red accent in acrylic, it created depth by layering a flat image on top of the 3-dimensional background, a bright contrasting colour to draw the eye, and a textural juxtaposition against the smooth calligraphy ink.
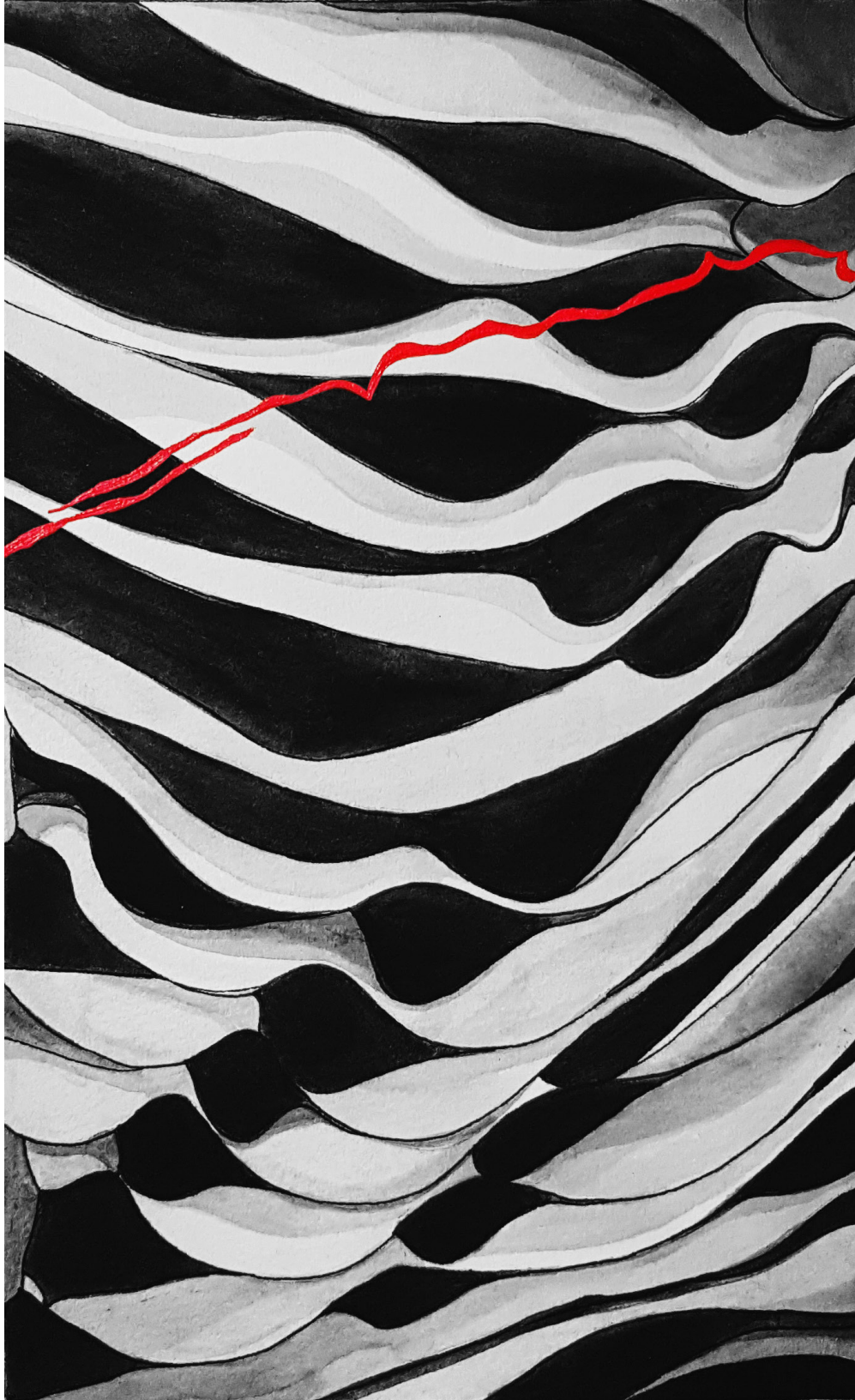
title   **Burial Site**
medium India ink

about
Part of my study on "light and architecture", this piece challenged traditional ideas of hard lines and man-made shapes, and instead became a study on organic shadows and textures.

lessons
The use of warm white paper gave the piece a softer feel that was more appropriate than a bright white. Using a sponge to create the texture worked well in the main structure, however the small rock to the left and the ground would have benefited from deeper shadows or a contrasting application technique.

title   **Young Owl**
medium   Tech pen

about
This owl was the product of a technical bird study series that focused on creating depth within soft feathers given a limited available value scale. The right eye was exaggerated to give a stronger personality to the face, while the cropped nature of the image draws greater attention to the negative space.
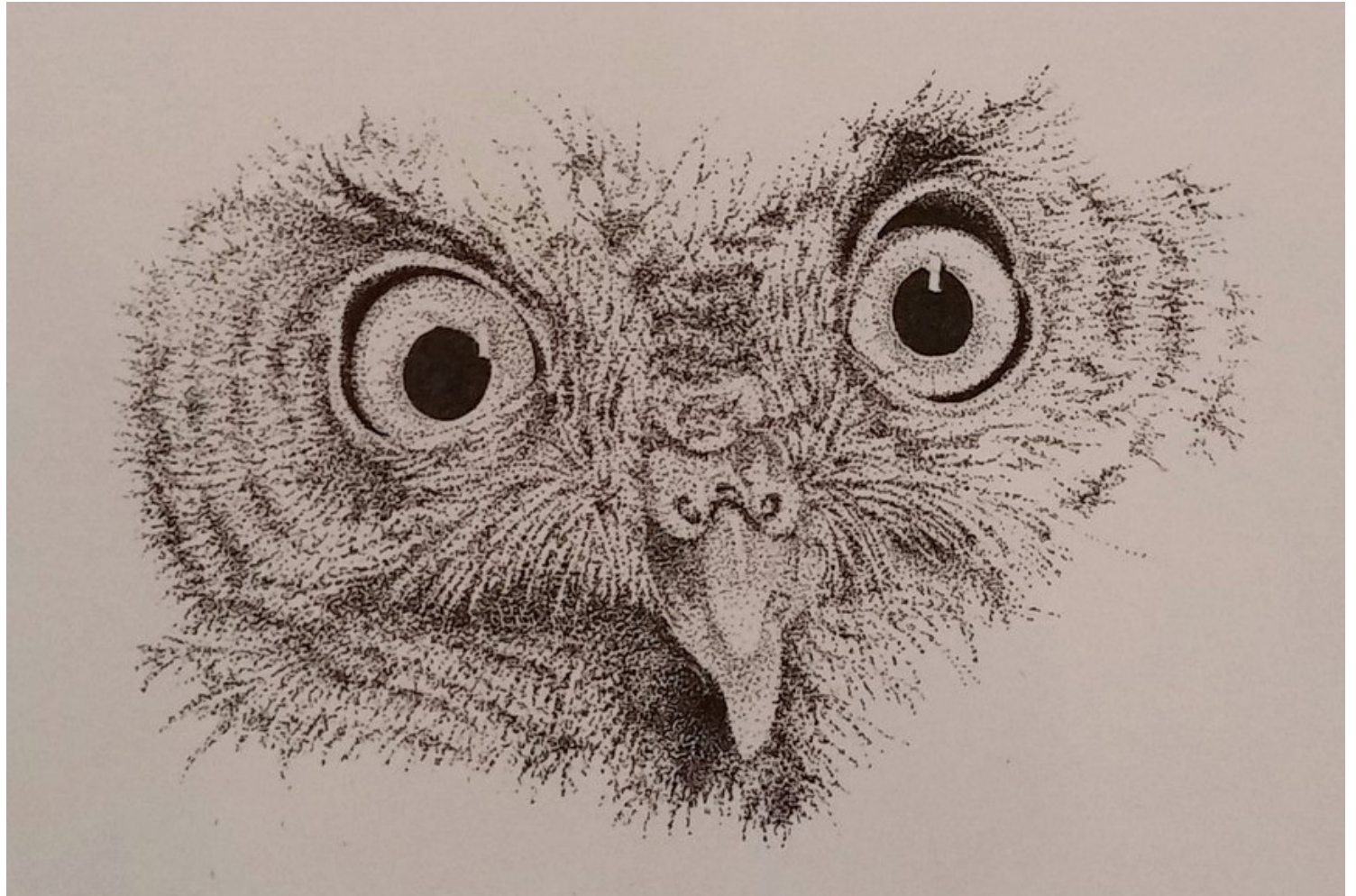
title Bird Study #1 & Bird Study #2
medium Tech pen

about
These two pieces were intended to act as exercises in feather value and realism. The eagle in Bird Study #1 was my first attempt at creating depth within different colours of feather when bright highlights were present. In Bird Study #2, I was looking to create a realistic layering effect combined with whispey non-defined shapes.

lessons
Despite my initial expectations, pointillism worked well to create both depth and texture. While time consuming, the variety of values that can be created compensates for the lack of value in the medium.

title **Water Glasses**
medium Tech pen

about
This piece was done as a still life, sat over 2 days. The objective of this drawing was to identify light refraction within the contents of the glasses and communicate highlights and shadows within objects of a narrow value range.

title **Irish Train Station**
medium Tech pen

about
My first tech pen piece, this image of the interior of a train station was the first in my "architecture and light" series. I began experimenting with techniques to achieve different textures, as well as testing compositional limitations for confined interior spaces.

lessons
Combining different application techniques made the piece busy and not as aesthetically pleasing. However, the pointillism technique used in aspects of this piece were adopted in many of my later projects, and became my favourite style of detailed drawing.

title **Interior Study**
medium Tech pen

about
The intention of this drawing was to explore the challenge of identifying the structures of complex interior architectural features. The combination of different stone shades, overlapping cloisters, deep shadows, and symmetrical archways proved to be a challenging exercise. This study was the foundation for a larger project currently underway.
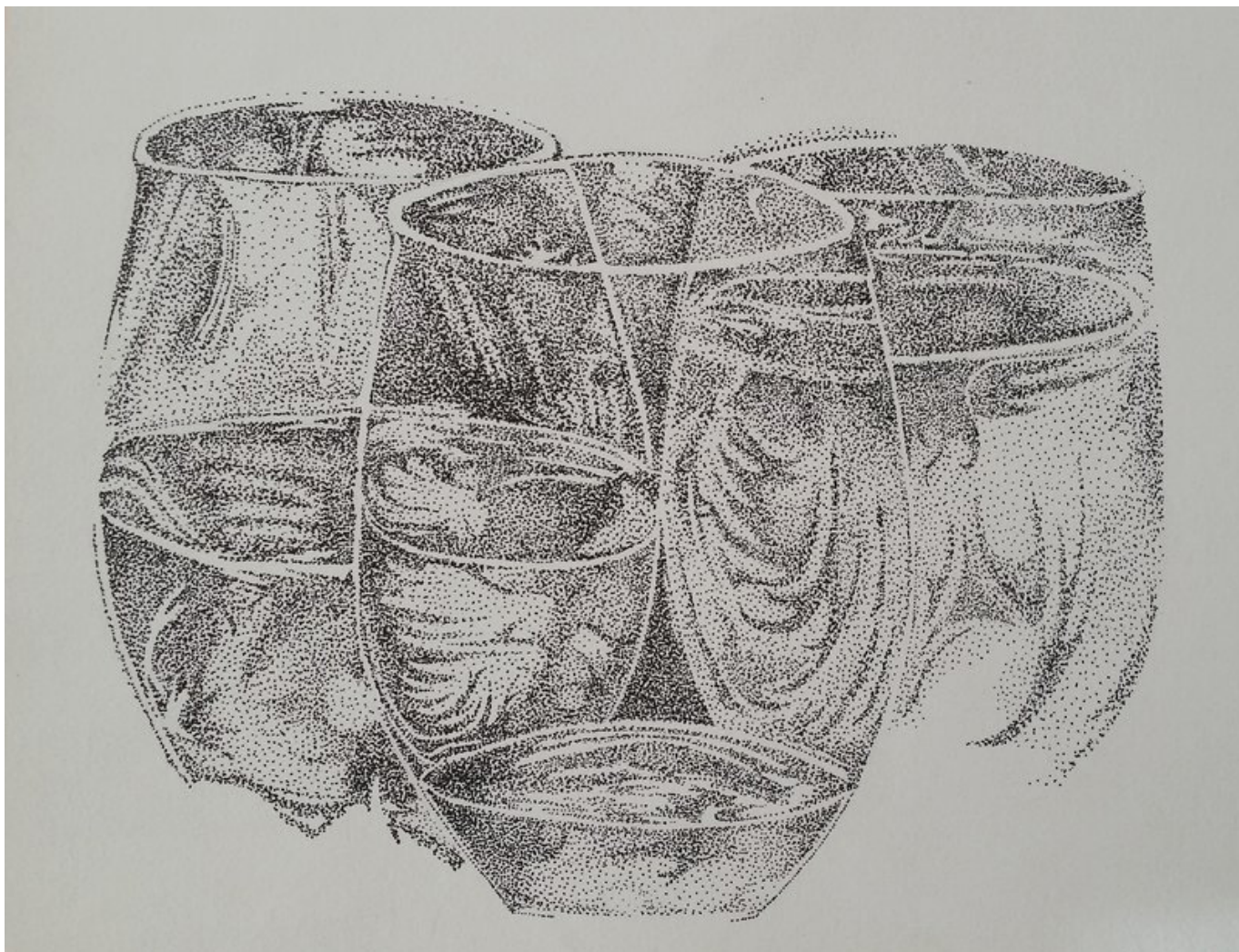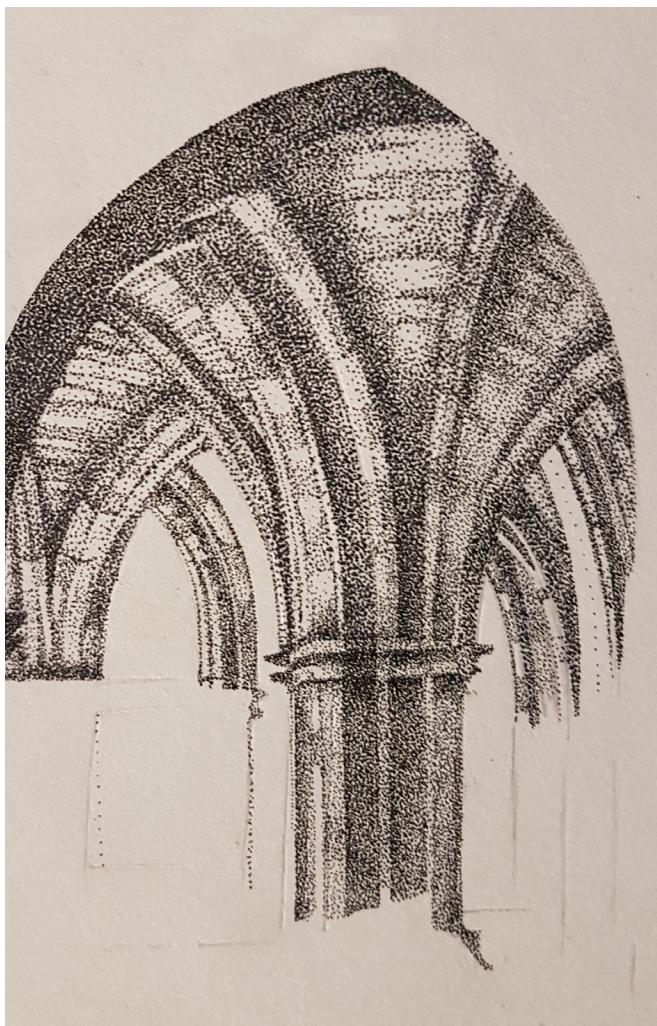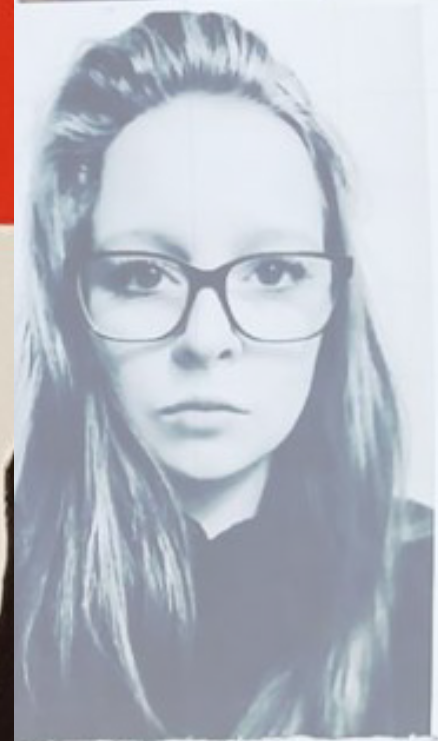
title   **Self Portrait**
medium Acrylic paint

about
This piece was the second done in a three part series where I chose a triadic colour scheme using the primary colours to create an expressive style self portrait.

title   **Realism Portrait**
medium   Acrylic paint

about
This was the first self-portrait I completed in a three part series. The objective was to paint a realistic portrait that would serve as inspiration for progressively more expressive and abstract versions.

lessons
White the shadows on the cheeks from the glasses were true to the reference photo, not balancing the non-symmetrical shadow on the right changed the shape of the face. A larger and more accurate shadow was needed.

title   **Jan Van Eyck Portrait Abstraction**
medium Acrylic paint

about
This piece is a full abstraction of Jan Van Eyck's Portrait Of A Man. Using a bright triadic colour scheme to contrast against the original painting, I flipped the image and identified the key shapes. The square in the center of the image, while a large and flat, acts as a secondary focal point to the textured red fabric.

2018 MOUNTAIN DAY

LAKE LOUISE | MARCH 09
SPA | SKI | SNOWSHOE | BOARD

lemay+TOKER

ART BY JACK VANZET

GRAPHIC DESIGN.

title   **Mountain Day**
medium   Digital - Adobe InDesign

about
This invitation was created for an internal company event, and was my first attempt incorporating manipulated graphics in InDesign. Using artwork by Jack Vanzet, I created a graphic that was supposed to be subtle and interesting. The geometric shapes of the overlaid triangles hide the mountain shapes. This was the result of my attempt to make the mountains a secondary feature to the underlying artwork.

title   **Integration**
medium Digital - Adobe InDesign / Adobe Photoshop CC

about
Using photos I took of downtown Calgary and the University of Calgary campus, I brought together the two contrasting photos to create a single image that drew attention to the different emotions and feelings that accompany busy urban scenes and lush green spaces. By stacking the image so the trees reach from the top, it shows a separation from nature, where nature seems unattainable or "opposite" to the environments we find ourselves living in most of the time. However, it also shows how natural spaces can affect the beauty of these concrete environments.

title **Self Portrait**
medium Digital - Adobe Photoshop CC

about
This piece is the result of a technique I was trying to teach to myself for a few months using online tutorials. Inspired by double exposure photography, this image combines a self portrait and photo of Johnston Canyon. I intend to continue working on this technique in the future and think the technique can be applied to landscape overlays and combined images for concept drawings and planning.
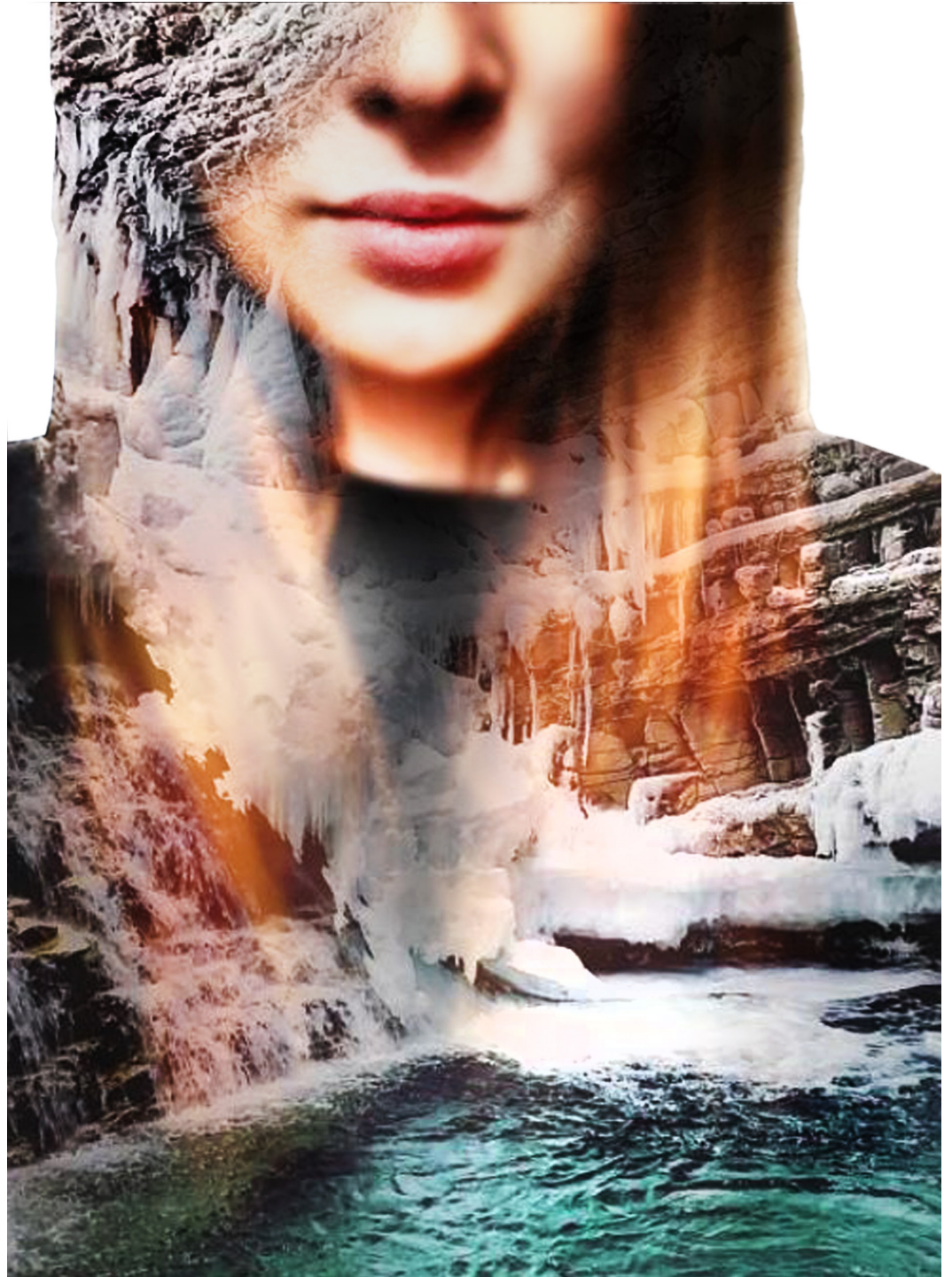
PHOTO**GRAPHY.**

The Eddie | Calgary, AB

Reflections | Calgary, AB

Yucca Garden | Naramata, BC

Maverick | Oliver, BC

Lake Deer | Smith Dorrien Trail, AB.

Of the Black & White Variety   Drumheller, AB | Helen Lake - Icefield Parkway, AB | Spray Lakes, AB