Raphael Arndt

Artist Statement

Starting this project, I wanted to focus on the development of Hannibal Square. The gentrification was easy to be seen in the sheer disparity of the residential places. Walking around the area, I noticed several old houses that were standing right next to new, ostentatious villas. While some of the old buildings seem to just be dilapidated houses in a wealthy city, they are so much more to their residents. Those buildings are not just places to live in, but part of the resident's identity.

After taking several trips to capture the clear differences in housing, I found myself identifying with the area and people of Hannibal Square. People were smiling at me, happily waving, when I passed. There is certain feeling of authenticity in the community that seems to be intruded by the shiny houses. Coming from a working-class family and being thrown into the country club life of Winter Park, I started to feel more and more comfortable in Hannibal Square talking to people and listening to their story.

These experiences allowed me to realize that my project should not be about houses and development, but about the soul of every residential area - the people and their identity. My pictures attempt to convey this by portraying the people of the Hannibal Square community in their everyday life. Through use of double exposure, the people are visually integrated within their homes, suggesting that there is a crossover between the home and the people's identity.

In the process of the project, I found that the community of Winter Park is not just the shiny Park Avenue, but also those homes and identities. Although these houses and residents are often forgotten, they are Winter Park.