Ben Hayden
Artist Statement
Beauty in Hannibal Square

Although I am most certainly an outsider and trespasser in Hannibal Square, it has been a place where I have found a hidden beauty in. There are many places in Hannibal Square of considerable beauty. Looking at some of the smaller places where the details are quieter and less pronounced, one sees many soft and peaceful sights.

The pictures taken for this series are meant to capture Hannibal Square in a very natural setting. There is not meant to be any dishonesty in the pictures, and instead, it is only an attempt to capture the beauty that sometimes seems to be forgotten in this place. I utilized a shallow depth of field in many of these pictures, again in an attempt to stress looking at some of the smaller, more hidden places where one finds beauty. In many places, the beauty of place may not be found in the grand views and sights, but rather the smaller places where beauty hides.

I chose to work with fewer photographs for the final draft to stress the beauty of the places without forcing the issue. The beauty should be seen clearly in the photographs, and too many pictures may distract from some of the smaller details in each individual picture. The final picture, a self-portrait taken in the field, is an important finalization for the series in order to remind myself, as well as the viewers, that my perspective is that of an outsider. I move in as quietly as possible so that my presence is not a disturbance to the place, as I wish to capture Hannibal Square in its natural state.