Connor Kostyra  
Artist Statement  
Reckless Abandonment  

“All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work.” - Calvin Coolidge

The work I have produced attempts to offer an objective standpoint toward the changes currently happening in Hannibal Square. My photographs show the way in which new developments are overpowering the old and historic parts of Hannibal Square’s community. I’m objectively viewing this situation to be able to understand both sides of the political issue of gentrification occurring in Hannibal Square.

Development is inevitable in affluent communities. Winter Park, Florida happens to be located on the outskirts of downtown Orlando, which makes it a very desirable living location for higher income families. I try to depict the unique parts of Hannibal Square while also depicting the actuality of what the community looks like as of today. The community of Hannibal Square has a beauty to it but it is destroyed by the neglect of actual use towards the new amenities.

Many of my photographs include neighborhood cats within the frame. I deliberately include images of the cats to provoke a sense of vacancy and loneliness in this community. The idea comes from the new developments compared to the old residential houses. The cat helps to symbolize a sense of scarcity. In this case, a sense of abandonment and ignorance towards the issue of new developments in the Hannibal Square area. The ideas that my photos convey are open to interpretation and symbolism towards a greater theme of social connections to materialistic parts of the world.