Nicholas Kiesman
Artist Statement

My work deals with the atmosphere within the area surrounding Hannibal Square, and deals with the dichotomy between the changing landscape and the community at large. As a student of Rollins College, I am directly tied to Winter Park only through Rollins College, which instills the notion of economic abundance in one’s brain. So, I sought to challenge my connection to the town, as the newfound knowledge of Hannibal Square challenged my perception of Winter Park.

When ten people think of the same place, each one imagines their own slice of the same pie. In part, this is how I wanted my photos to come across, with each shot representing a different person’s “slice” of Hannibal Square. To keep with this idea of completeness through fragmentation, I want my images to be snapshot sized, almost as if my photo is on the front of a postcard being delivered anywhere in the world with a “Greetings, From Hannibal Square”.

My idea of a snapshot is simple, however the photos themselves are not meant to be happily construed as a postcards might be. To reflect upon the issues faced in the neighboring community of Hannibal Square, I felt it appropriate to reflect my own emotions on the matter into my photographs. The dead-still, taken-back, outsider coldness associated with these photos is how I view the issues happening in Hannibal Square. I know the premise of the situation and the ramifications of the gentrification happening, and although these notions are recognizable and familiar, all I can do is watch the events unfold as I am helpless in the matter.

Hannibal Square may be foreign to me, and it may not bring up strong emotions when I think of it, but it unarguably has roots and has created ripples in the annals of Winter Park’s history. As we see Hannibal Square change and transform in front of our eyes, I think it is important that these photographs operate as snapshots and at the same time as documentation of a community stood still.