Artist Statement

Karen Eichel

"We tell those things that we feel have a chance poetically of fitting back into life. That means fitting back into the feelings of other people." – Emmet Gowin

I am inspired by the people around me. These photographs are simply my own experiences of life.

The action of photographing a person allows others to see aspects, features, and characteristics about a person that create comparisons and evoke emotions within the viewer allowing them to relate the images to their own life, and the people around them.

Through these images I explored my own experiences, and the time of which I am living my life at this very moment.

All of these images address a unique time period in a person's life; the time of young adulthood; a unique time period that is ever changing. Each photograph captures a moment in time that will never be again for that person or for us as a viewer to experience. It only exists as an image.

Self-Assessment Paper

Throughout my four years in college I have bounced from interest to interest. I was uncertain of what I wanted to do. Through a long self-discovery I have found that where I am truly at my best is when I am around people and when I am interacting with people. This has taken on different forms, but it has led me to taking photographs of people.

I have been inspired by so many artists and without a doubt; it has led me to where I am today. The first photographer that caught my eye was Richard Avedon. The way in which he captured the essence of a person in a single image has inspired me. His use of a full negative and black and white gives a simplistic feeling that allows viewers to take in all that a person is. Most of the time these photographs were not glamour shots, they were not distorted or changed images. They simply were what they were and that is what I found to be so beautiful about them. As I have become more aware of more artists working today, I became fascinated with the work of Fritz Liedtke. His work draws attention to an issue or aspect about a person or population and addresses that issue or aspect, and above all of that, his images are beautiful. He has sorted through his own experiences and struggles in life through photography, and with that is where I make a comparison to myself. I have recently had a renewed fascination with Emmet Gowin. The way in which he has photographed his own life and has made it interesting to others is something I strive to do myself. There are so many artist out there, but these individuals have been able to stand out among the rest for me and continue to inspire my own work.

I am constantly inspired by the people around me. Through to my job working for Orientation at CSU, I am constantly interacting with diverse populations of people. Each and every person is different. I find it fascinating what each person brings with them. It can be as simple as a facial expression, the freckles on their face, the almost unrecognizable asymmetrical orientation of their face, a hand gesture; I could go on forever; but they are all things that are a part of them whether they are aware of it or not. Each person is unique in that way, but in the end, they are all people, and that is the similarity that draws me to them. When I put a camera in front of a person it is amazing and beautiful what I can capture. The depth of a person in which

you can capture in a single image is what has attracted me. Portraits are all descriptions of a person. From their physical appearance to their body language and surroundings, each and every aspect of a portrait tells something about that person. There is truly nothing else like capturing a moment in time that will never be again for that individual person. People are constantly changing and moving forward in their lives. A photograph of a person serves a memory of a time that once was and will never be again.

Photographs of people evoke some kind of emotion in the people viewing them. Whether that is a comparison that they make or a memory of their own that is remembered, it is impossible to look at an image and be detached. Being an emotionally based person myself, I have been able to sort through my own ideas and experiences in life through photographing people. At one point in time, my work has fit into the category of raising awareness of an issue within populations, but to me, I have just been photographing my life and sharing it with others. It has also been a candidate for fitting into a category of people in their environment. However, just like many photographers have said, their work doesn't fit into a specific category in their eyes, and I don't consider mine to either. I am simply just photographing my own life around me and sharing it.

I have photographed various subject matters but I have always come back to portraiture and have always wanted to continue on with it. What comes next? I will all ways take photographs of people, I think that will always be a part of me. However, I am more and more interested in the way in which two people interact with each other and may move on to portraits of two individuals in one frame; whether they are strangers, family, teammates, I am not sure yet, but that dynamic and the setting it brings, interests me. I feel that there are never ending possibilities of the beauty and depth that can come from a portrait and I feel that that will never be something I stray very far away from.

	Title	Media	Original Format
Figure 1:	Abigail	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 2:	Abigail 2	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 3:	Anna	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 4:	Bryn	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 5:	Connor	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 6:	Courtney	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 7:	Dawn	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 8:	Erin	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 9:	Julia	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 10:	Luke	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 11:	Mackenzie	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 12:	Morgan 2	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 13:	Morgan	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 14:	Sammi	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in
Figure 15:	Vanessa	Color Projection Print	20 in x 24 in

Figure 1: Abigail.

Figure 1: Abigail 2.

Figure 3: Anna.

Figure 4: Bryn.

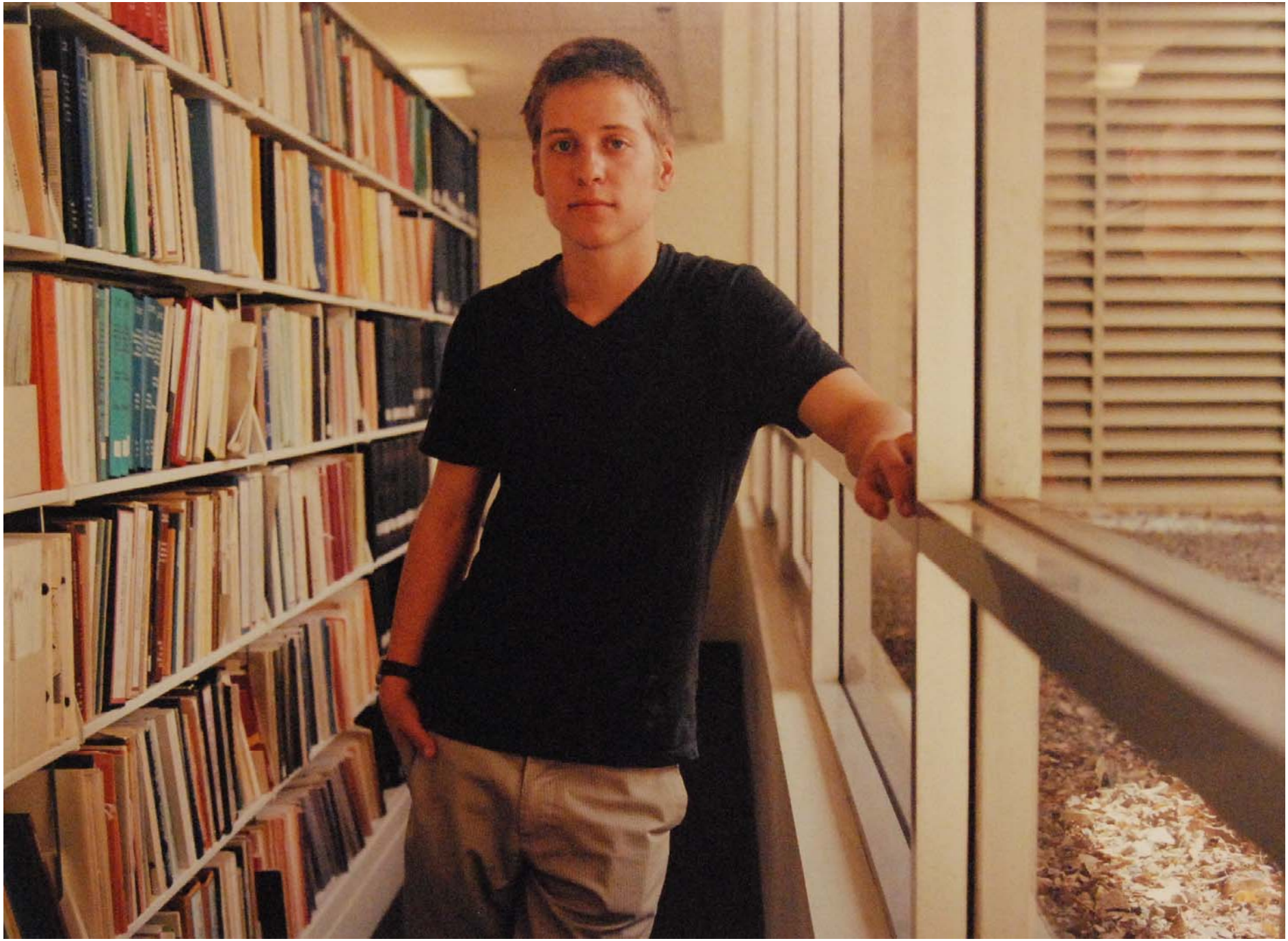

Figure 5: Connor.

Figure 6: Courtney.

Figure 7: Dawn.

Figure 8: Erin.

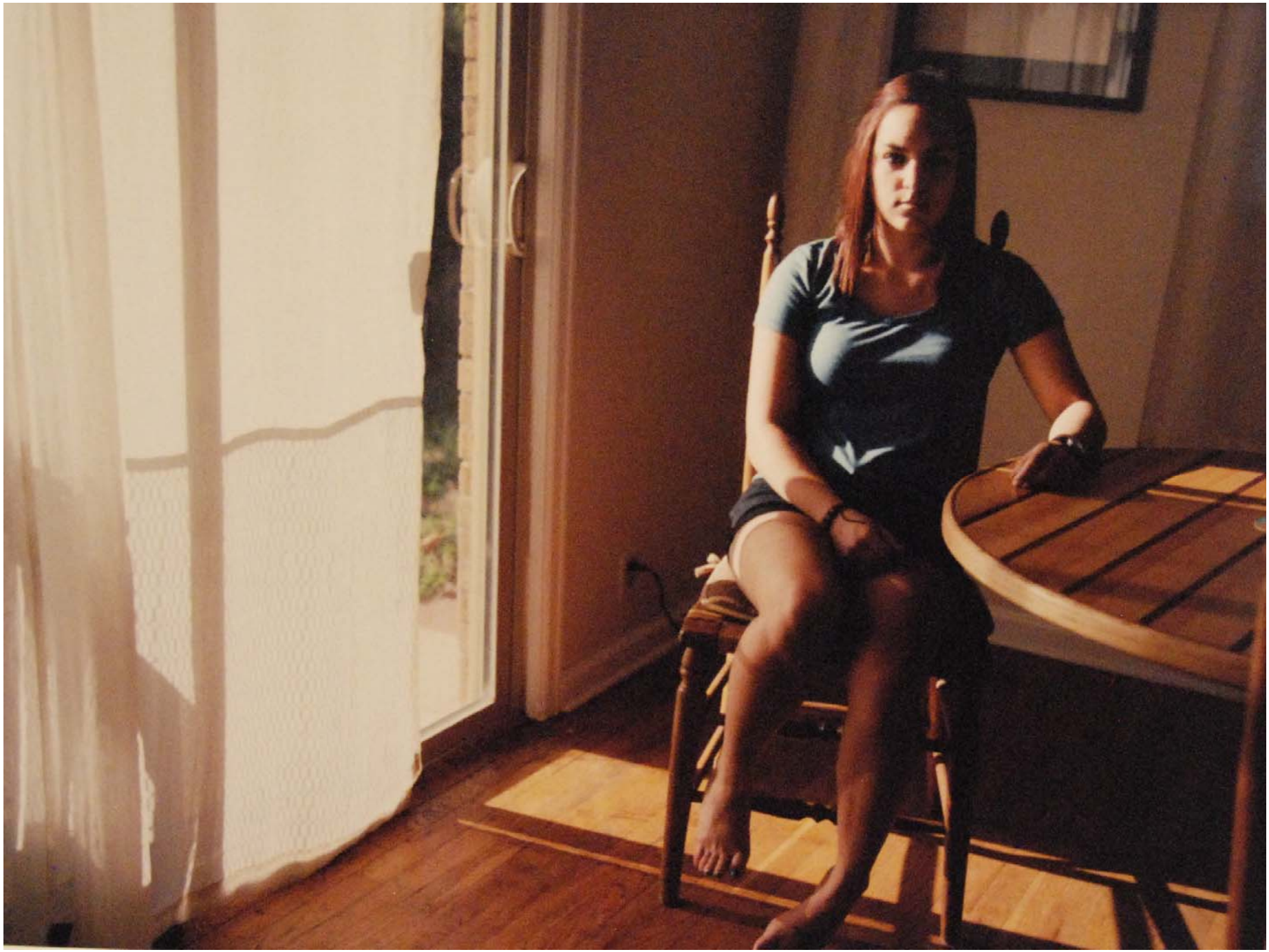

Figure 9: Julia.

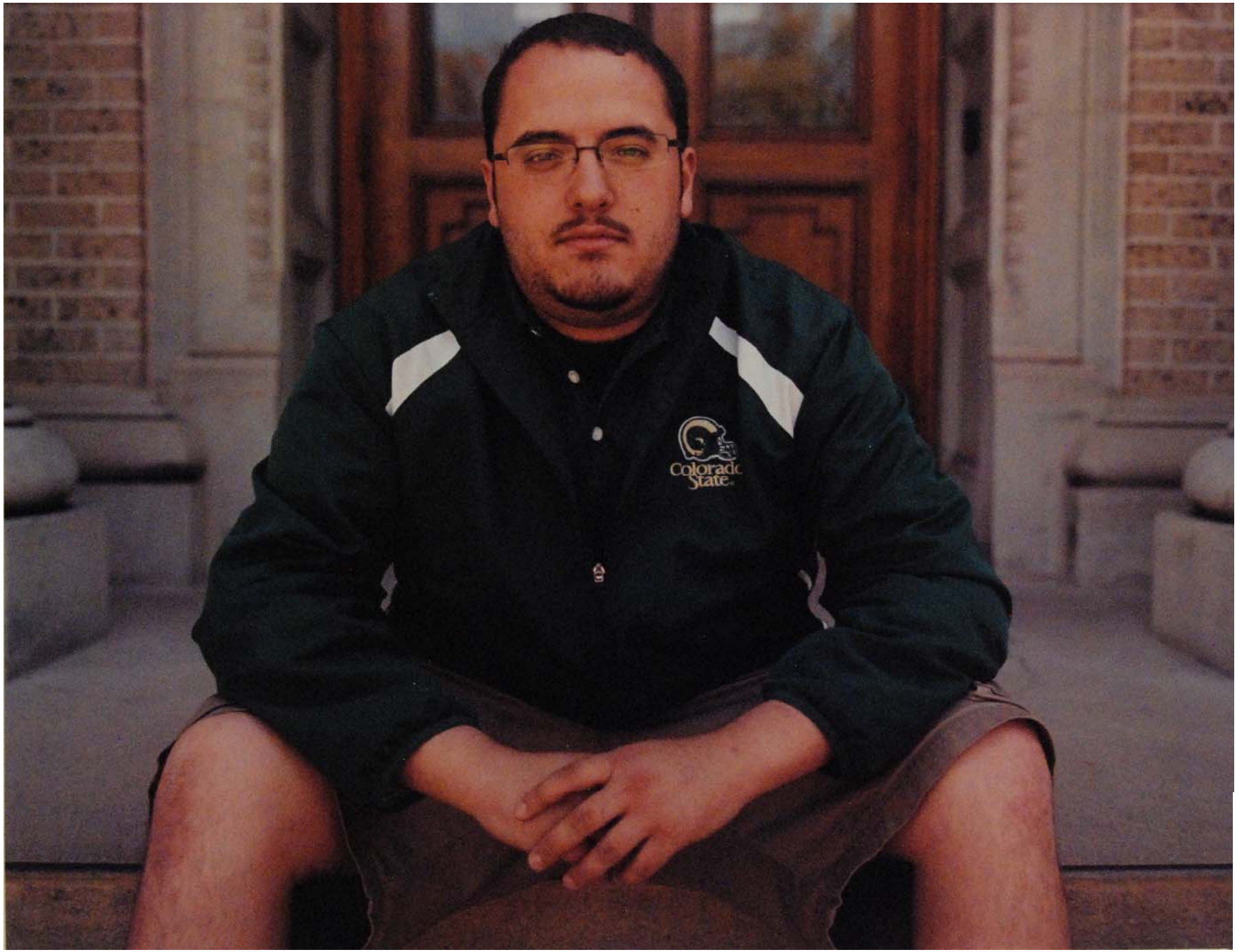

Figure 10: Luke.

Figure 11: Mackenzie.

Figure 12: Morgan 2.

Figure 13: Morgan.

Figure 14: Sammi.

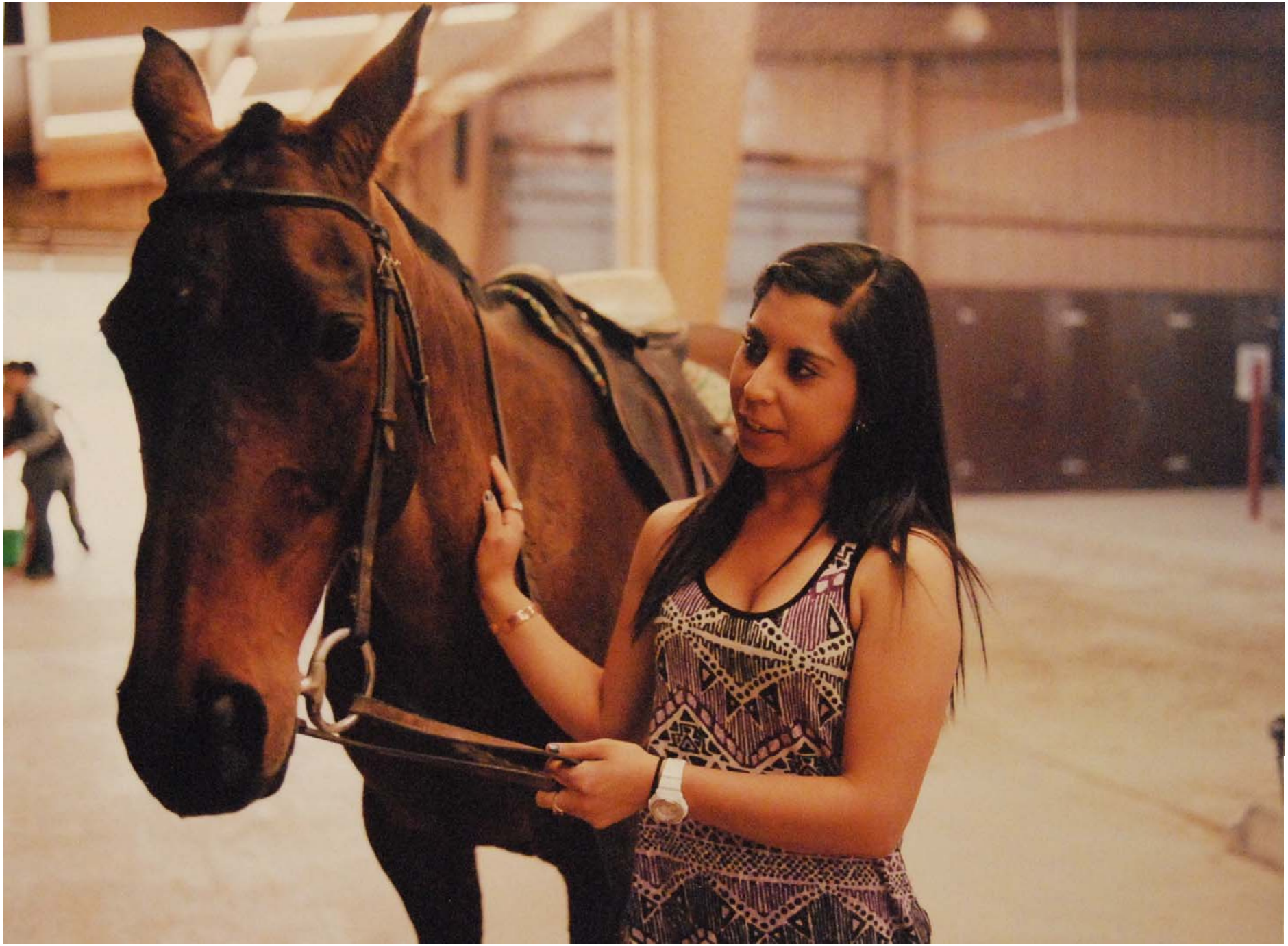

Figure 15: Vanessa.