

AVA MARGUERITTE

Ottawa, ON

BIOGRAPHY

Ava Margueritte is a neurodiverse multidisciplinary artist, primarily focused on photo-based works and drawing, painting, and writing. Margueritte has a BFA from OCAD University in Fine Arts Photography and a Diploma from School of the Photographic Arts: Ottawa. Using various photographic mediums including, but not limited to, medium format, large format film, and digital, she explores different narratives to document physical reactions to other emotional states. By absorbing her surroundings, she evaluates the connection between body and mind. Drawing from several different mediums to execute her narrative, and is inspired by other multidisciplinary artists such as Egon Schiele, Wes Anderson, Cindy Sherman, Irving Penn, Tim Walker, and Suzy Lake. Margueritte has shown nationally, internationally and her work is in the collection of several personal collectors.

ARTIST STATEMENT – One Mile

“My whole life, I have been trying to forget the only world I know, wondering if there is a place for me to exist. There is somewhere that I fit— it’s just not in the realm of my current reality. The truth of knowing I do exist gives me hope. North Bay, my hometown, has largely shaped who I am as an individual; however, I have never properly photographed the area because it holds a great source of pain for me. I wanted to capture feelings that I was unable to verbalize and to focus on the odd things I hold dear. This series examines my life growing up. Family dynamics are shifting and forcing me to let go of a comfortable reality. There is the event and the deconstruction. Can we grow without adversity?”

I explore concepts like the temporary, change, meaning in the ordinary, and external factors, such as history, that impact us as individuals. *One Mile* features intimate moments taken on medium format film. This is an ongoing project that examines human dynamics between people, mortality, and time.

By approaching real-world problems that are out of my control, the camera allows me the space to regain an element of control that I crave. Every photograph I take within is an attempt to

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regain control. As children, we fantasize that being an adult will be blissful and things will fall into place, but it is not that easy. We are continually navigating envy, loneliness, and trauma; trying to make sense of how our minds and bodies fit into the world surrounding us. There is no such thing as permanence. Things are always in motion.

When we think of photography, we believe that it represents reality. I beg to differ. The choices that go into the photograph demonstrate the relationship between our mind interacting with the outside world (light, geometry, geography) mixed with the artist's personal feelings and the subject matter. Photography is so subjective that it becomes the only way to relay these experiences. It is not a medium of connection but of disconnection.

Some days I feel like I was born in two pieces: one half I know intimately; the other I only connect with through the photographic process. The rest of the time I feel as though I fumble around unknowingly. We all have an inner world and this series is a part of mine.

One Mile is a form of visual poetry that allows me to connect authentically and vulnerably with others through a darkness we often ignore. I have an obsession with light, and film allows me to adequately capture it. The richness of colour and lighting, alongside my subject matter, alludes to my own personal struggle with romanticism in relationship to my lived experiences regarding trauma and mental health."

The creation of this series was funded by the City of Ottawa's Youth and Culture Pilot Program.

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CV

EDUCATION

2020 Diploma, School of the Photographic Arts: Ottawa (SPAO), Ottawa, Canada

2017 BFA, Fine Art Photography, Ontario College of Art and Design University (OCAD U), Toronto, Canada

AWARDS, RESIDENCIES, CURATORIAL + OTHER

- *The Marc Guertin Craftsmanship Award*, in recognition of outstanding photographic craft, Received from SPAO, 2020
- *Award of Visual Merit, Portfolio: Level 2*, In recognition of outstanding achievement in Portfolio Production, Received from SPAO, 2020
- One on One Private Mentoring
- *Award of Visual Merit, Portfolio: Level 1*, In recognition of outstanding achievement in Portfolio Production, Received from SPAO, 2019
- Completed PWB (Photographers without Borders) program, 2018

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2021 *You're On Mute*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON

2021 *Begin Again*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON

2020 *Exhibition No. 15*, SPAO Gallery, Ottawa, Canada

2019 *Figureworks*, Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts, Ottawa, Canada

2019 *Suburbs*, LoosenArt Gallery, Rome, Italy

2019 *The Grey Zone*, SPAO Gallery, Ottawa, Canada

2019 *Exhibition 14*, SPAO Gallery, Ottawa, Canada

2018 *Bones*, SPAO Gallery, Ottawa, Canada

2017 *INTAC Exhibition*, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan

2017 *GradEx 102*, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada

2017 *Gender and the Lens*, Ada Slight Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario

2016 *Wearable Arts Show*, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario

2015 *NifTea*, Art on Main, North Bay, Canada

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- 2020 *Do It for the Grain*, Issue 8
- 2020 *PhotoEd Digital Portraiture Edition*
- 2020 *Quaran-Zine Magazine July Issue*, featured on cover as well as assistant editor
- 2020 *The Northern Appeal Magazine Issue No. 7*, featured on cover and back
- 2019 *OPAL Magazine Issue No. 3*
- 2019 *The Northern Appeal Magazine Issue No. 6*, featured on cover
- 2019 *OPAL Magazine Issue No. 2*
- 2019 *PWB's Magazine No. 12*
- 2018 Featured in *SPAO's newsletter*

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