



Rocio Contreras

2023 Spring Semester

Capstone - Photography

Department of Art and Art History

**Artist Statement:**

The human experience is a complex and unique experience full of ebbs and flows that is centralized on the individual. Sharing these individual perspectives is what has proven to me to be one of the most crucial parts of humanity. Without our experiences, what are we?

Through my time I have found many avenues of expressing my experiences and viewpoints. Whether that is through poetry, performing or visual art, self expression has been a cornerstone in the creation of my work. I am extremely passionate in photography as it has a remarkable ability to encapsulate a version of reality while providing the viewer with a space to create their own narrative. My emphasis in portrait photography is directly tied to my need for interaction with different perspectives.

The DSLR camera with a 50mm lens is my tool of choice as it provides a comfortable setting for my subject without losing the closeness and intimacy in my photographs. Digital printing is my preferred avenue as it provides a higher localized attention to detail, allowing me to be able to accommodate my subject's specific needs. My work is a reflection of my life as it follows themes of immigration, queerness, activism, and loss.

As part of my thesis I looked into the concept of identity and growth within the LGBTIA+ community. Many times we are put into categories used to describe how palatable we are to other people. "Duality" talks about the presence of both aspects of a personality without the need to pick one over the other. We are both.

| <b>Title</b>           | <b>Original Format</b>       |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Figure 1:Stevie, 1     | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 2: Stevie, 2    | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 3: Marceline, 1 | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 4: Marceline, 2 | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 5: Kase, 1      | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 6: Kase, 2      | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 7: Q,1          | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 8: Q,2          | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 9: Mitch, 1     | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 10: Mitch, 2    | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 11: V, 1        | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 12: V, 2        | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 13: Ellie, 2    | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 14: Samantha,1  | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 15: Samantha 2  | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 16: Charlie, 1  | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 17: Charlie 2   | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 18: Ainsley,1   | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |
| Figure 19: Ainsley, 2  | Archival Inkjet Print, 24x36 |



**Figure 1: Stevie, 1**



Figure 2: Stevie, 2



**Figure 3: Marceline, 1**



Figure 4: Marceline, 2

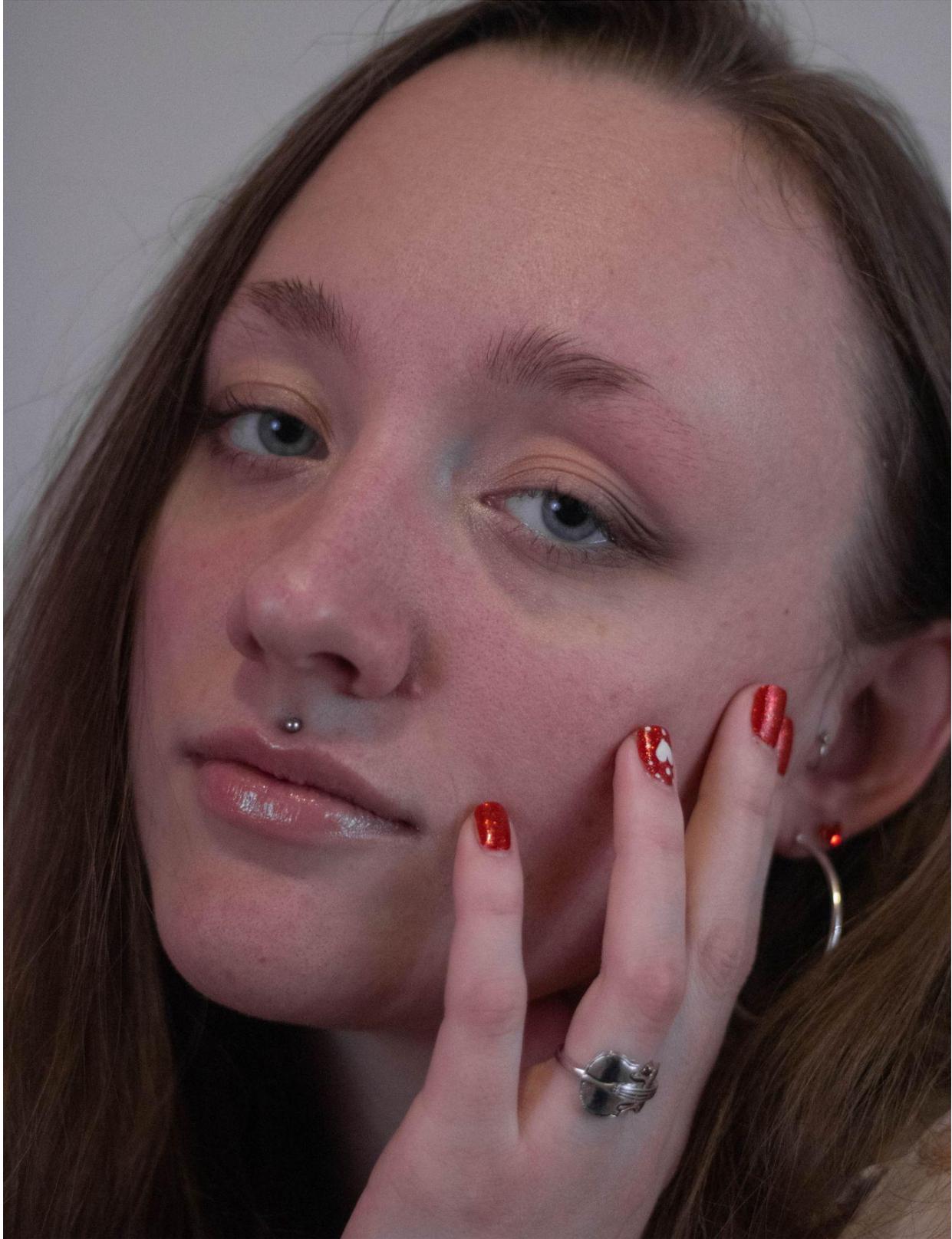


Figure 5: Kase, 1



Figure 6: Kase, 2



Figure 7: Q,1



Figure 8: Q, 2



**Figure 9: Mitch, 1**



Figure 10: Mitch, 2



Figure 11: V, 1



Figure 12: V, 2



**Figure 13: Ellie, 2**



**Figure 14: Samantha, 1**



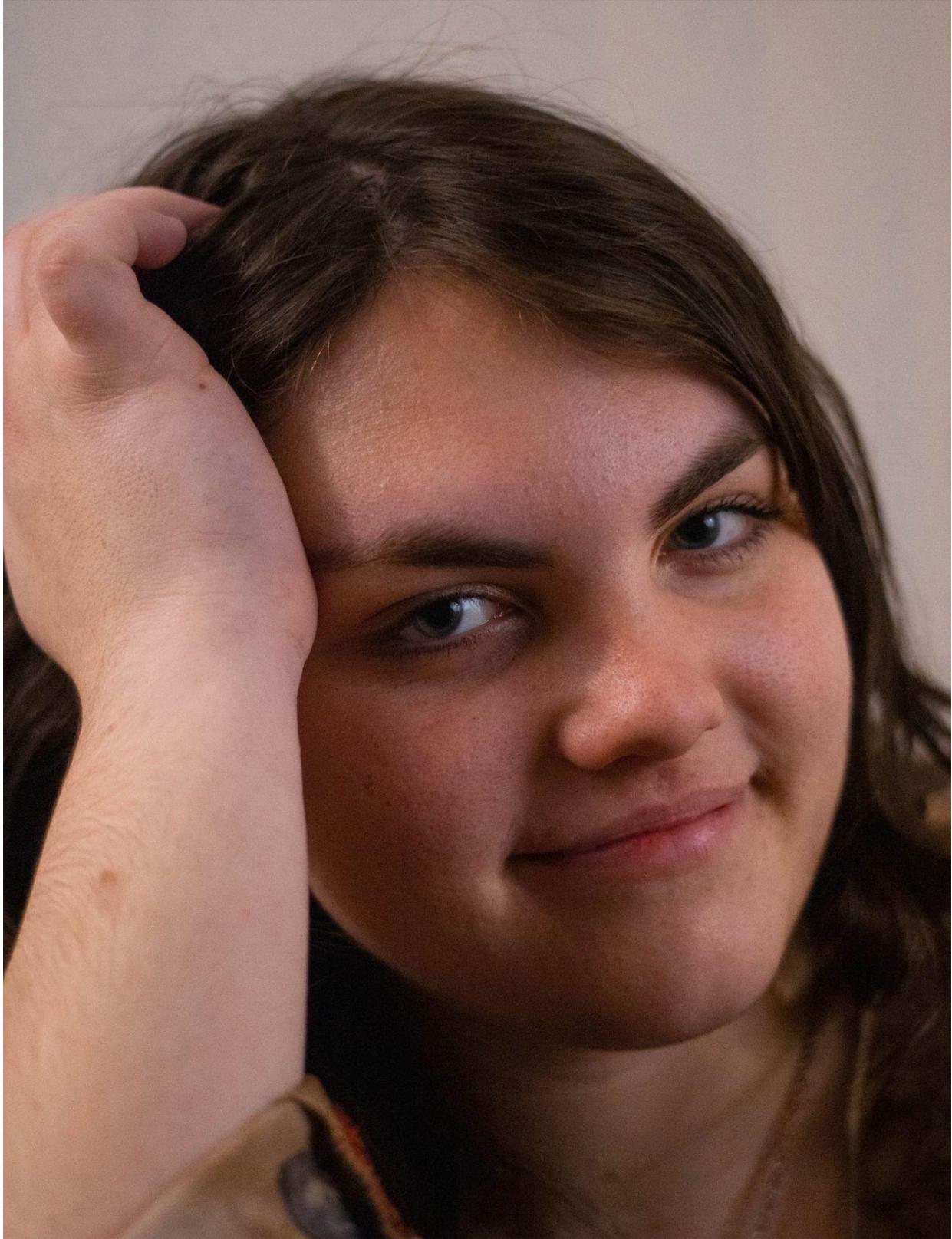
**Figure 15: Samantha, 2**



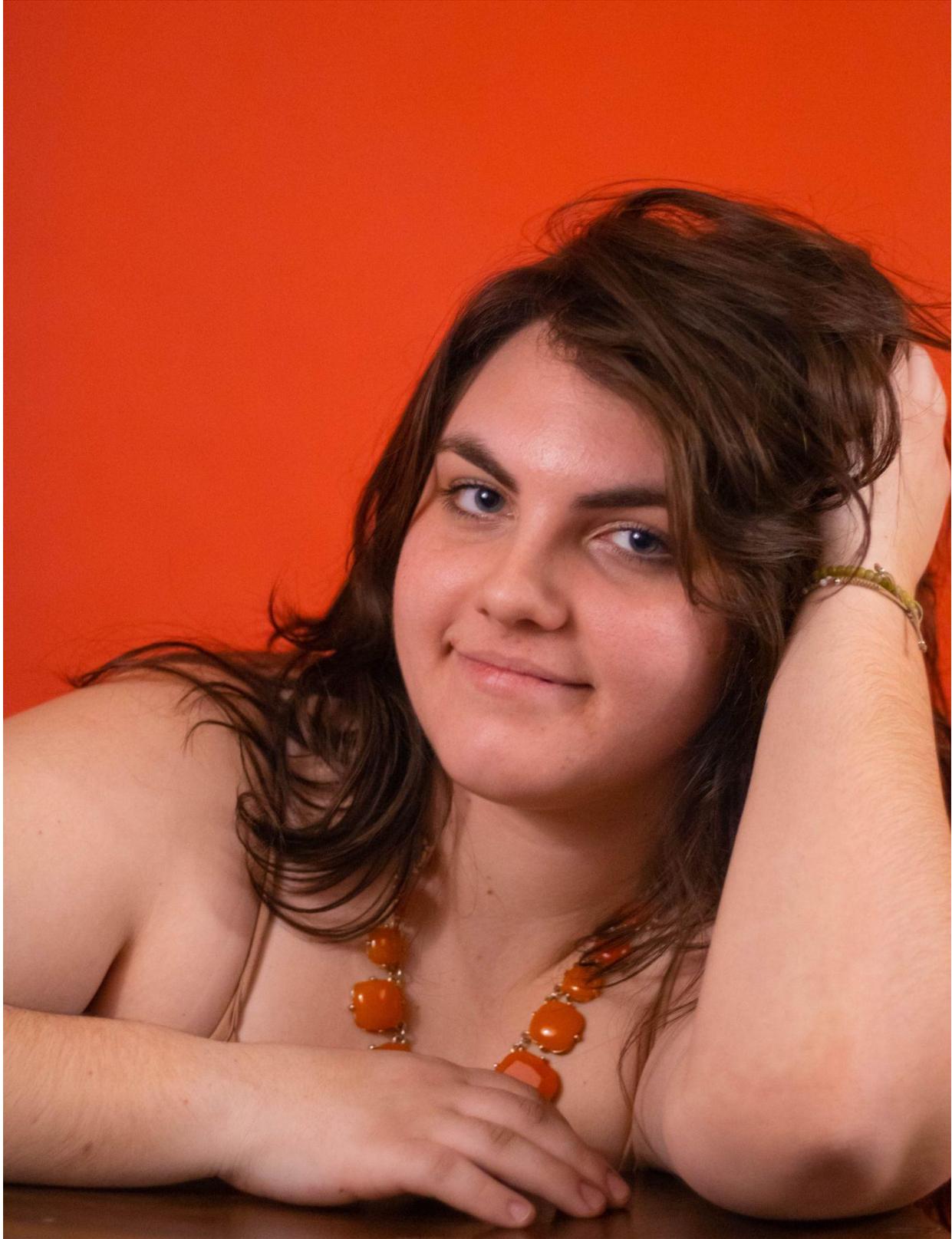
**Figure 16: Charlie, 1**



**Figure 17: Charlie, 2**



**Figure 18: Ainsley, 1**



**Figure 19: Ainsley, 2**