

# **THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE**

## **Honors Thesis**

**Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts**

In the College of Arts and Sciences  
at Salem State University

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## “The Finer Things in Life”

Over the semester I was required to submit at least six photographs every two weeks for a critique by my advisor, professor, classmates and any member of the art community that wanted to join. These critiques provided an invaluable experience and aided in my personal growth as a photographer. During these critiques, my colleagues would give feedback on which photographs they enjoyed best and why. They were also encouraged to say which ones they did not like, and, again, why. These opinions were very important because they gave another perspective from your work. Through these comments I was able to understand how others perceived my work and if the message I was trying to convey was being understood. This criticism also made me become critical of my own work. In previous photography classes, I would go out shooting once for a project and pick the best ones out of that bunch and hand them in. I would do this even though I knew they were not my best work and I was not proud of them. Completing this class and this project has caused me to be reflective on my own work and be conscious of the work that I am producing.

Richard Lewis was both my professor for the class and my advisor for this project. Professor Lewis pushed me to be a better photographer. He made me answer the tough questions about the art I was producing. It was not enough that I liked photographing antiques or that I certain that photographs because I liked the composition. He forced me to think about the message that the photographs were sending the viewer. He also made me realize that the message that I am trying to get

across may not be the one that is received, especially with the subject matter that I was photographing. Professor Lewis brought to like that antiques bring up memories, even if I thought my sole purpose was looking at the small details and repetition in everyday objects. This revelation made cognizant of the objects I chose and the message that others may get from them.

The most meaningful part of this class and project was when professional photographers came in to view our work. This public display of my work was one of the most nerve-wracking experiences I have ever had in my life. I have never been that confident in my work and felt that people around me liked my work because they liked me and were just being nice. These strangers instilled confidence in me. They were critical but supportive. They chose pictures they loved and picture they did not feel were as good. They talked about little details that would make the later better, but they also discussed what made the other pictures so great. I left these portfolio reviews feeling that my work was good; if these professional photographers thought my work was good, it must be so because they had no reason to be nice. These reviews sparked the idea to make this book for my thesis project. I thought that if these professional photographers liked my work this much, maybe others would like it just as much.

I've always loved coffee table books. I would spend hours in the bookstore looking thorough these types of books, ones that just contained pictures. I thought that this would be a good way to display my photographs so that many people could

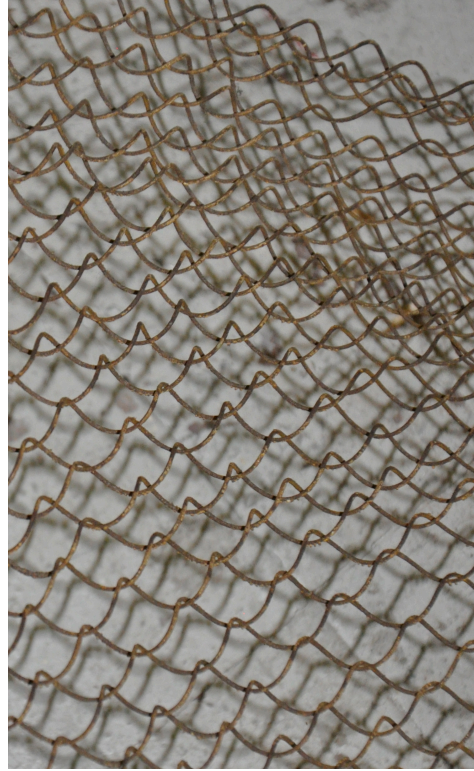
see them. This book will be left in the Honors Lounge for the Honors Program and the general public to enjoy.



Cover



Pages One and Two



Pages Three and Four





Pages Five and Six





Pages Seven and Eight

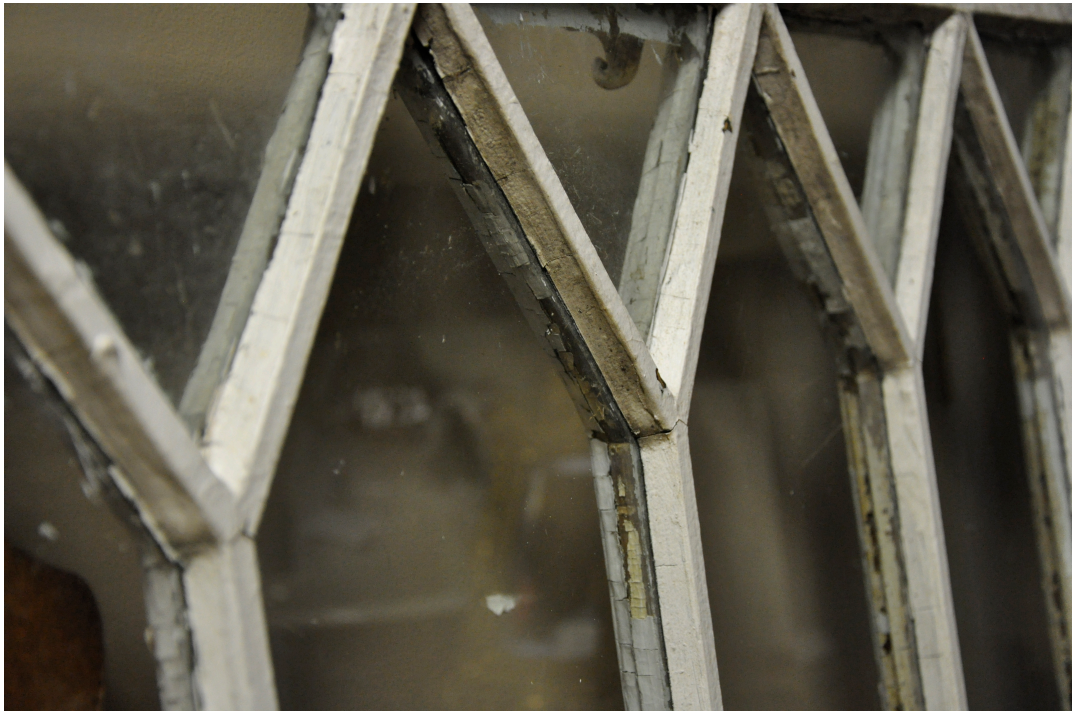


Pages Nine and Ten

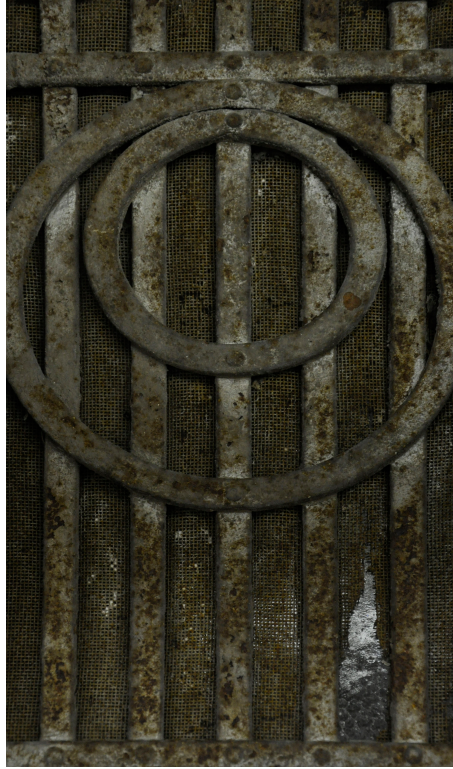




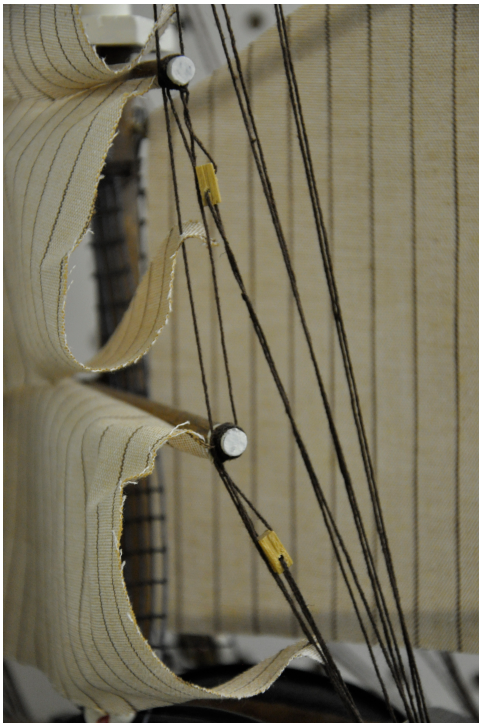
Pages Eleven and Twelve



Pages Thirteen and Fourteen



Pages Fifteen and Sixteen



Pages Seventeen and Eighteen