

Poetry and Photography at Kent Island

Brennan Clark, Class of 2020

I tackled two large projects on Kent island, one in writing and the other in photography.

My writing consisted mostly of poems, exploring four different concentrations: 1. Short verse poems on the different birds that inhabit the island mimicking the style of Kate Shilling who was a poet on the island in 1967. 2. Longer verse pastorals on the landscape and natural beauty of the island, specifically looking at the island as a natural refuge not just for animals, but for the humans that inhabit it. 3. Structured poems exploring my background of religious faith. 4. Poems exploring modern interpretations of Greek myths.

For my photography, I used 35mm black and white to mimic a historic feel of the island. This was similar to the film used by the founders of the island in the 1930s. I focused my lens on human interaction the island. Although the island is a wildlife refuge, many animal species benefit from human interaction. There are tree swallows and large amounts of chickadees on the island only due to nest boxes. One of the largest scientific studies on the island, the savannah sparrow project, is only possible because of the field is mowed ever half a decade. The gull population on the island fluctuate directly with the landfill on Grand Mannan. The animals on the island are how they are because of the humans on the island, and I tried my best to capture that.

In all, I not only wrote a large number of poems, and made many pictures, but grew a new appreciation for birds, and also the environment. Living on Kent Island there is little to no environmental footprint, and it helped me realize how little one can be happy on.

Faculty Mentor Elizabeth Muther

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