

SKIES ABOVE ARE CLEAR: A VISUAL & WRITTEN JOURNEY THROUGH THE
HUMAN EXPERIENCE

by

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HONORS THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Poetry is a cathartic art form, connecting humanity through common experiences. The Texas sky radiates its own special beauty that has the power to evoke strong feelings in those who stop to appreciate it. This book combines pieces of poetry I have written with my photographs of the Texas sky. Melding these two distinctive visual art forms creates an opportunity to enhance the reader's emotional experience of both. The poems are separated into four sections, each speaking to a different part of the human journey. The text is paired with photos of the Texas sky that emulate a similar feeling. Readers are given these two different forms of visual stimuli to explore and deepen their understanding of themselves, others, and the universal human condition.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Hello, lovely humans!

Before the book begins, I believe that it is important for me to give some background information, as well as my hope for you in reading this piece.

As a native Californian, I had not experienced Texas skies until I arrived for college in 2017. I can honestly say that I have never witnessed anything like them. They are very special. They truly evoke an emotional response when I see them and I have been capturing them with my iPhone camera over the years (& yes, all of the images featured throughout the book are taken on my phone without any editing). I am so excited to share them with you.

As far as the writing is concerned, I am very aware that art is a medium that is up for interpretation. I value knowing that each person who approaches this text is coming from a unique set of life experiences and views on the world, just as this text has stemmed from mine. I encourage you to take away your own meaning and find what resonates with you!

This book is structured to flow chronologically, but it does not have to be read that way. I arranged the pieces specifically to have a nice arc if read in order, but they are also grouped by feeling/topic. This allows you to open to a section of specific emotions if that's something you need to hear that day.

Enjoy!