

SHANE LUITJENS

Literary Artist / Photographer

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ARTIST STATEMENT

I do not understand the world, as it is. My work has always been immersed in the landscapes that languages give us to both connect and often misinterpret intention, success, failure. I use language as elements of pattern (within poetry and essay) or as textures (within photography) to display dialogs we do not often have in our everyday lives. I often think of them as exposing my own ecstatic intimacies.

Unable to limit myself to a single medium, I explore the possibilities of combined text and image. From photo transfers to digital post-production, I use the dynamics of layering stories to yield unsettling discoveries. This fuels my desire to create themes that often center around identity (Internet chat, written communication, self-medication, crowns, etc.).

I explore various papers, color qualities and elements to offer up opposing positions about identity. Currently, with photography and soon with collaborative artforms, I am focusing on the complexities of class. Vivid colors and often secondary statements produced in the images (digital and print) share with us a primary narrative that can only be inferred and never directly discussed about what makes up our everyday life.

ARTIST BIO

Born a Midwest son in Central Illinois, my family moved often but never far, quickly compiling a history of divorce, second marriages, alcohol and cancer. My interest in writing came early when paper proved to be more stable a relationship to have. Much of my youth through college was spent as an over-achiever, collecting national and regional accolades for writing and journalism. After graduation, I abandoned a career in news and discovered spoken word, which revived my interest in working creatively with my writing. With spoken word, I gained national exposure, and after seeking to further explore literary work, I discovered the possibilities of photography which coincided with my career as an award-winning graphic designer. Now, I work to combine styles and actively learn new methods of creating to further my interest in combining text and imagery.

EDUCATION

**B.A. in Journalism and Mass
Communication**

Drake University – Des Moines, IA

Minors: Russian Studies, Cultural Studies
Summa Cum Laude, College Honors

PHOTO EXHIBITIONS

2002 – *suspect thoughts*
'Open Letters'

2001 – Sex Workers Art Show
'Naked Online'

2001 – *suspect thoughts*
'Divide'

LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

February, 1997 – *Resonance*

March, 1997 – *Resonance*

Spring, 1997 – *Link*

Summer, 1997 – *Anything That Moves*

October, 1997 – *Independent Voice*

November, 1997 – *Independent Voice*

December, 1997 – *Independent Voice*

December, 1997 – *The Drifter*

January, 1998 – *Independent Voice*

February, 1998 – *Independent Voice*

March, 1998 – *The Drifter*

Summer, 2000 – *Spout*

Summer, 2001 – *(this)*

November, 2001 – *Revolutionary Voices*

Summer, 2002 – *Lodestar Quarterly*

September, 2002 – *suspect thoughts*

November, 2004 – *Aut (Italy)*

February, 2005 – *Bullets and Butterflies*

November, 2005 – *Sodomy & Me*

Online Artwork Portfolio:

<http://www.lethalwhitetrash.com>