

Mikayla Tuttle
Artist Statement

All of my current work focuses on capturing the unseen beauty and detail found in everyday life and objects, particularly in decomposing iron pieces. The images are found composition studies based primarily in shape, form, and texture. I originally worked with pure process, digital photography, but since starting the program at USD, discovered a love for film and manual manipulation of the images. Currently, I am utilizing the historic photographic process Van Dyke Brown, combined with drawing in both graphite and colored pencil, to bring focus to certain details of the images. My interest in the Van Dyke Brown process is that it uses an iron based emulsion, which relates to my imagery of iron radiators. I originally was inspired to start this series when asked to really look at the world around me for another class. Furthermore, my experience in sculpture and interest in iron pours helps to inform the content for my work. My own drawing style also affects the final appearance of the photographs as the final product has been abstracted by the addition of hand drawing directly on top of the image. Due to this final step in the process, each finished piece is completely unique. While I do continue to be involved in the iron pour process and community, this series of images helps keep me tied to that interest, while allowing myself to explore it in a different way. I hope that my work influences people to stop and really observe the world around them, as I was encouraged to do.