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Unveiling Emotion: Point Park University's *A Space for Trust* Exhibition Dares to Be Vulnerable

By Audrey Shull



Befriend the Numb, courtesy of Madeline Marco

“You can usually tell whose art you are looking at when walking around the room,” says Madeline Marco

Marco, a junior photography major whose work is a part of Point Park’s juried show, “A Space for Trust,” says her work explores the link between artists and their audiences. It’s an unusual experience, she says, to exhibit work in a small community like Park. The familiarity creates a bond not only between the artists, but also between the artists and their audience.

“It also doesn’t hurt that Point Park is a fairly small school” says Marco.

A Space for Trust offers viewers a chance to delve into a highly personal and reflective creative experience in art photography. This showcase, from March 6 to 13, 2025, at Artists Image Resource (AIR) in Pittsburgh, includes 33 works from 13 students across photography, film production, multimedia, and dance. Under the guidance of local photographers Sue Abramson

and Jake Reinhart, the exhibition explores themes of trust, self-expression, and emotional depth. The exhibition features a variety of personal stories, creative material, and thematic complexity, is a promising presentation of Point Park's student artists.

According to Marco, "This name of the show gives a sense that the work is going to be more vulnerable."

Marco says the exhibition provides a platform for the audience to be able to relate to the artwork in a way that they are understood, without the audience having to necessarily express the emotional or psychological state that the subject may be in'.

Alex Olszewski, a sophomore in photography and a contributor to this exhibit, says their approach to trust in making and showing their work. "I had to trust myself to be able to make the work. So I guess now I'm kind of putting that trust into the audience—are they going to perceive it how I want it to be?" The theme of the show is not only the artists' individual experiences, but gives the viewers a chance to look at these stories from their point of view.

To Olszewski, the show also gives a platform to make people aware of important issues like mental health and sexual identity.

"At the end of the day, it is something serious, and you're taking that first step in bringing in that awareness," says Olszewski, "from what I've seen from other people's work, it does have that more vulnerable aspect to it."

A Space for Trust, featuring a variety of personal stories, creative material, and thematic complexity, is a promising presentation of Point Park's student artists. The opening reception is free and open to the public and will take place on March 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. at AIR 518 Foreland Street in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.