

Framing this project within the history of photography, my intention was to engage in a dialogue between digital and analogue photographic methods. To do so, I documented the otherworldly qualities of White Sands National Park in New Mexico. My technical goal for this project was to apply aspects of the Zone System to digital photography in order to increase compositional tonal range by concentrating attention on metering. My photos are inspired by the landscapes of Ansel Adams who was a founder of the Zone System, which is an exposure technique exclusive to film. My intention was to engage in historical and traditional photographic methods in a contemporary and digital setting.

On a more personal level, the project was also inspired by a variety of experiences of loss in my life. I've chosen to subtract color from my work to represent the severity of painful experiences throughout my life. While we can undoubtedly hide what we feel from others, I use photography as a way to depict the emotions we can not easily express outwardly as they are so deeply rooted within us.

More specific to this project, the location of this shoot is imperative to understanding the intention behind the work. As is often the case in the relationship between image and language, it is difficult to explain how we feel with words, but often we see things that trigger an emotional response. The size of the park feels intense and endless. While for many viewers it may embody a sense of hopelessness, for others it might also communicate a sense of a barren beauty. While for me personally this series of images is an expression of forced isolation, enveloping confinement, and profound lonesomeness, my intention is that there be enough interpretive space in the work for each viewer to have their own experience.