

# PEARL

by esther ellyn



FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT  
OCT. 4-22, 2021

# DOVE

Doves symbolize grace, love, beauty and peace

The first piece you will find in PEARL is titled "Dove." It is one of three images included from a pink editorial shoot done in downtown Columbus, IN. It is one of my favorites, so it can also be found on the posters for this show.

Grace is the model here, but because her face is purposefully obscured I hope you have the freedom to experience the serenity, weightlessness, and peace captured here as if it were yourself.

Her blush ensemble includes an Elie Tahari blazer, who I coincidentally found out after naming this piece is an Israeli designer. Her jumpsuit is thrifted, and the pink pearl bracelet belonged to my grandmother.

This photograph was something I knew would be in my show the moment it was captured in April of 2021.



# VERMEER

A nod to Girl with a Pearl Earring,  
by Johannes Vermeer

This photograph is the only one shot in a studio that has been included in PEARL. The model is Esther Ararujó, who is an artist from Brazil, a dear friend, and one of my classmates during a semester abroad in Paris. We never got to do a styled photoshoot together in France, so we made up for it with this chic Audrey Hepburn studio look.

The pearl earring (and title) is added as a reference to Dutch painter Vermeer's famous oil painting from c. 1665.



# SUNDAY



## PARIS, FRANCE

"Sunday" was taken in one of the many gorgeous gardens in Paris. It represents perfect rest, and the peaceful recharging that our bodies crave.

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MODEL: Sophie Riley

# EPHEMERAL



## THE INDIANA DUNES

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"Ephemeral" is one of two images included in PEARL that were taken at the Indiana Dunes. It's a fleeting moment, but one full of joy and beauty.

MODEL: Madeson Niehof

# GLASS HOUSE

The modern woman

This was taken outside of a large Ukrainian church with an impressive architectural presence. Gabby Long is the model here, and she is an incredible local artist and friend. I styled her in a thrifted London Fog trench coat, her own heels, and handed her several (very heavy) art books over the course of the shoot.

This image carries the "9-5" workday vibe but with strength, style, and a clear creative flair. The title is a play off of the "breaking the glass ceiling" metaphor in relation to gender discrimination in the workforce.



# GRACE

## A MARILYN MONROE MOMENT

I was immediately inspired by this gown when it came in at Sophia's Bridal, where I was a stylist. I was graciously allowed to borrow it, and took this photograph outside of the mid-century First Christian Church in Columbus, IN (designed by Eliel Saarinen).

It was a stunning silk pleated gown with a halter neckline, of which I can't recall the designer.

This is titled "Grace" for my sister, who was the model for this photoshoot and many others, and who is also one of my biggest supporters.



# MAGNOLIA

Psalm 1:3 ESV

"He is like a tree  
planted by  
streams of water  
that yields its fruit  
in its season, and  
its leaf does not  
wither. In all that  
he does, he  
prosperes."

Taken in Nicholasville, KY.





# FREE

"Free" was taken in the early morning light at the Indiana Dunes. However, it is not supposed to recall any specific location but rather the general feeling of freedom that comes from running barefoot on the beach.

The blur effect at the bottom of this photograph was created by having clear gel painted onto a layer of plastic wrap over my camera lens.



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# PEARL

Matthew  
13:45-46  
ESV

“...the kingdom  
of heaven is like  
a merchant in  
search of fine  
pearls, 46 who,  
on finding one  
pearl of great  
value, went and  
sold all that he  
had and bought  
it.”

Uncropped version  
of Pearl.





# INK

Portrait of artist  
Gabby Long, in  
reference to her  
art name,  
Gabby.Ink and  
her jet black  
gown pictured  
here.

PARIS, FR

# FRONT ROW



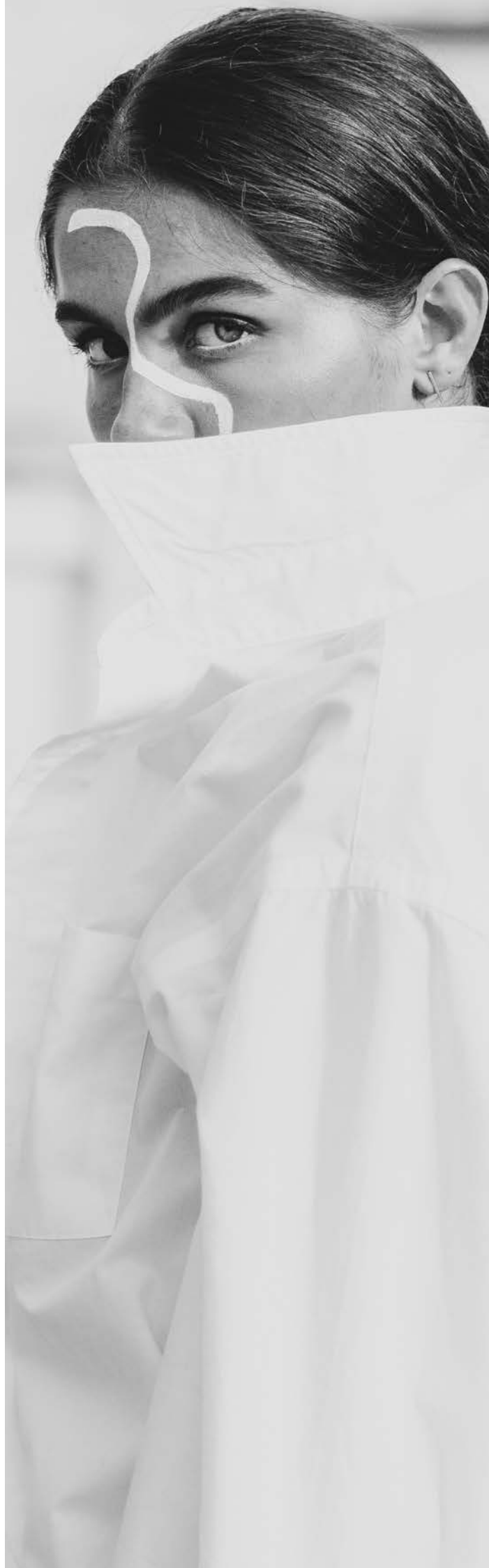
"Front Row" was taken during Paris Fashion Week, during an attempt to locate a specific designer's fashion show happening that day. While we did not find the correct location, we did do a styled photoshoot out front of the Louvre, and this image of Madi Baldwin is one of my favorites.

Madi ended up attending several other fashion shows during our stay in Paris, and even had a front row seat for one of them. She kindly gifted me with the incredible experience of attending a show as well, which I will never forget.

# MONARCH

## A MODERN MINIMALIST MOMENT

Shot in Wilmore, KY outside of a large white warehouse. The inspiration for this photoshoot was athleisure mixed with structure, and the juxtaposition of smooth curved lines painted on her face with the sharp angles of a mens white dress shirt.



LILIUM



Lilium is a genus of perennial flowers grown for their very showy, often fragrant flowers. Full uncropped photograph is shown here.

# STILL

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Psalm 46:10

ESV

“Be still, and know  
that I am God.  
I will be exalted  
among the  
nations,  
I will be exalted in  
the earth!”

# WILLOW



## A GREAT LITTLE PYRENEES

"Willow" is surprisingly just a puppy, and is captured here with her owner, and my sweet friend, Margaret Hughes. This styled shoot was inspired by Willow's cream colored fur, and we matched Maggie's outfit to that, as well as the beige stairs leading up through the image.

MODEL: Maggie Hughes



# DANS LE JARDIN

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## PARIS, FRANCE

This was taken in the Luxembourg Gardens. Sophie and I witnessed a surprise proposal by this very pool right before we shot there,

This photograph was cropped when printed to display in PEARL, but the version to the left is the full image.

# PERENNIAL

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## A CLASSIC MOMENT

"Perennial" reflects on the classic nature of this in-between moment. It is "lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time; enduring or continually recurring," and this woman seems to be caught in a beautiful rose-colored world all her own.

Contrasting with the classic elements in this photo, as well as the woman's contemplative gaze and dressy attire, are the almost-neon tones. This was shot at night under the lights of an old bank, and I brightened it to bring out the cotton candy colors.

\*Definition from Oxford Languages

# BLANCHE



"Blanche" is one of the outfits featured in the variety of PEARL's styled photoshoots. It can be seen in "Free" and "Ephemeral." The dress itself was thrifted, and I added a long gauzy sash with other second-hand fabric. This was done to exaggerate the asymmetrical feeling as well as add the ability for more movement in photos, as seen in the 2 prints featuring this dress.

# PROCESS

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## A NOTE ON FRAMES

This is an environmentally conscious show. Each of the 17 frames hanging in this gallery were thoughtfully sourced second-hand over several months. This was done in an effort to reduce waste, and to repurpose old pieces. The frames were refinished with 2-3 coats of matte black chalk paint, but both frames and glass still carry some imperfections.

SPECIAL THANKS TO  
THE FOLLOWING  
PEOPLE FOR THEIR  
SUPPORT, GUIDANCE,  
AND HELP WITH PEARL  
AND THE WORK THAT  
LED UP TO IT.

Reeves & Victoria Flint

Grace Flint

Hayden Bartels

Madeson Niehof

Prof. Keith Barker

Prof. Park Smith

Prof. Elissa Morley

Prof. Josh Smith

Dr. Linda Stratford

Prof. Chris Segre-Lewis

Gabby Long

Sophie Riley

Maggie Hughes

Embrey Flener

Mz. Hughes

Tasha Mathews

Esther Araujo

Paige Taylor

Madi Baldwin

Rebecca Sams

Brett and Mica Bartels

Hannah Bartels

Kelsey Lucardie

Joanna Lucardie

Emily Popham

Connor Bates

Caitlin Donner

Sophia's Bridal & Tux



PEARL IS DEDICATED TO MALINDA GOBER,  
"GRANDMOMMY."

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