

Photo Booth
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Photo booths are places of self expression. They are places to cathartically release emotion. Uniquely, unlike a pure self-portrait, they offer to capture a moment more fully with its format of 4 timed photos, allowing multiple poses or expressions in a time-lapse.

Photo Booth seeks to break down this moment even further by separating the emotions into two vector sums. Seeking to stay true to the original sense of timed self-exploration, the piece moves from a pure portrait through more extreme separations.

The separations themselves seek to represent the hidden, “ghostly”, nature of the underlying emotions against our surface expressions. A frozen smile can conceal a sullen, smoldering anger. A mocking laugh may be motivated by fear and shame.

Though photographed digitally, the only digital manipulation used is that easily recreated in the darkroom. Besides contrast curves, the pieces are authentic images, true to the shot, the effects of which may be recreated on any film camera without double exposures, overlaid negatives, or transparencies, captured as a single exposure.

The effect was achieved by using a long exposure (approximately 15 seconds) in dim lighting, TTL flash metering, and a series of remote flashes for proper lighting.