



Artist Statement

Reg Murphy went to China in 1972 and captured the essence of the people and their everyday life. In using his images, I created my own interpretation of what China was. As I read his images, I noticed the emotion in his subjects leaping off of the page. Whether it be the over exaggerated laughter of a child or the secretive smile of an adult, I found them to draw me in closer. The overarching goal of my visual essay is to pull from his collection photographs that represent expression in the culture of everyday China; focusing specifically on women and children. People think that because China is a communist country, that the people cannot enjoy the culture and everyday life they live. Through Murphy's interpretation of 'photo-worthy China', the eyes, minds and opinions of others have been opened to the beauty of China. Through my interpretation of emotion in the Chinese culture, I hope to expand any notions the viewer may have on the joy found in the culture.

This visual narrative was created with the intention of portraying emotion of everyday women and children in China. On my open canvas, I chose to represent China in way that exuberated happiness in the culture. Each of the subjects in my visual essay depict daily life and emotion of living in China. I chose to focus in on women and children because historically, those are who embrace the culture more and are often times not encouraged to speak out.

The breaks and fractures of my piece, as Staley calls gutters, are placed in a way that separates aged emotion. I feel this shows the truth in faces that each age group can, no matter the circumstance or background, can enjoy and embrace the culture of China. You will notice that I placed focused on the same group of children in the top 'collage' because to me, there was an innocence in the way they moved and the vibrancy of the colors. Not only were their faces expressing emotion, the lived emotion with their movements. There is a sense of isolation from others in the singular pictures on the sides. If you divulge into the picture some more, there is still a serene vibe that comes from the individuals. One can be happy and alone at the same time. Happiness, and emotion is in the eye of the beholder.