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Creative Work/Project: Excavating Desire: Poetry Manuscript

Manuscript Title: A Place Made Red

Student Research Conference Abstract

Separated into five sections, the poetry manuscript I have written reflects on the many facets of desire. Experienced by a series of persons, the poems I have written relate to my understanding of the triumphs and heartbreak that emerge from human longing. The purpose of my collection of poems is to explore the ways in which the concept of desire is discovered in the ordinary and the extraordinary.

Moreover, after creatively considering the ways in which desire has informed ancient myth, folklore and fairytale, I used my findings as stepping stones to my own perceptions of desire. In pursuing this avenue, I endeavored to merge the personal component of my poetry with the ancient tropes of desire, themes which continue to resonate in our own time.

Thus, in drawing from creations that have outlived such poetic muses as Homer and Dante, literary artists Gertrude Stein and Sylvia Plath, and even the iconic marriage between pop culture icons Michael Jackson and Lesley Marie Presley, I attempt to expand upon the desires already inherent in our awareness of human experience.

My collection is cemented by the various threads of ancient storytelling that course throughout my personal inspirations, revealing how the stories before our time permeate our own obsessions and thus maintain a stronghold in our shared desires as human beings.

Children are a subject I particularly focus on because we can trace the maturity of their longings through their increased experience with the world. A persona voice I employ frequently throughout the manuscript is that of a mother of a daughter.

I intended for the poems in this collection to have the feeling of longing at their center. I would hope that my work in this genre challenges and teases the insatiable sensation of desire, a feeling so inherently human.