**What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?**

I always had a certain sixth sense in photography. Back when I first picked up a camera, a small, compact Nikon from my dad, I used to take pictures for fun while subconsciously correcting myself in every shot I took. My 10-year-old self was unbeknownst to any photography techniques. I was simply having fun and kept taking pictures wherever I went.

It wasn’t until college, when I took a photography class at UCSD, that I realized the love I have for photography. I took the class solely to fulfill my General Education requirements whilst, as much as I’d want to sugar code it, get an easy-A. To my surprise, I was exposed to so many things beyond photography techniques: the history, the artists, and their styles.  While techniques were great to learn, I was primarily intrigued by artists that had a passion for nature based photography. For one artist, “a people-less picture bears a unique perspective on mother earth, due to its liberation from political correctness.”

That quote struck something in me. After looking at my recent and old pictures, going way back to my first Nikon picture, I saw a pattern. I had gravitated towards nature pictures too but with a twist: a lot of them involved the contrast of infrastructures. I found it surprising that I haven’t noticed this pattern. But after knowing that some artists had chosen to avoid taking pictures involving human activities due to political correctness by opting to take nature pictures instead, I begged to differ. I saw the idea of taking a picture that portrays the effects of human obstruction to nature without necessarily portraying them in it.

Hence, I soon curated my photography account to convey just that, leading to my interest in working on innovative machine designs that prioritize environmental sustainability. Thus, I am thankful that photography has pushed me to ask questions about myself, about what social impact I could make in my life. That is why photography is meaningful to me. Not only has my photography journey led to my skill improvement, but also led to identifying myself towards the kind of Mechanical Engineer that I want to be. I will continue to pursue both photography and the development of environmentally sustainable technology simultaneously.