

Memorial is a project dedicated to the lives of all victims of unsolved homicide in Portland, Oregon. I want to connect myself to a population of victims who are quickly forgotten, a population of largely disenfranchised individuals, whose families desperately seek closure. I was keenly aware of the passage of social history and the development of this city's current landscape. For each individual, I photographed what I hoped would be a memorial for them in the location where they were found. Each life on this list was equally important, in the connections they formed and in the legacy left behind. Though the locations are an end point for the lives of these individuals, they were often important locations in the lives of the deceased, and the image may allow a brief glimpse of the life once lived.

I have standardized my process and presentation, giving equal time and attention to each individual memorial. This democracy is paramount because privileges and prejudice led to many of these individual's cases going unsolved. For the sake of the disenfranchised, the camera democratizes and forces a viewer's eye inward, so they may meditate on the nature of their own community and examine its reality. I found this reality at times disheartening, filled with anger, fear and visceral sadness. My images are shaped by experience and the procession of death through this city. I hope to lead you to an interaction with these individuals, people who would be your neighbors today were they not killed. The images are projected and supplemental information given, in order to facilitate a personal exploration and connection. This photographic record will hopefully stand for the victims, in the empty space once filled, where a photograph gains existence, through the light.

My initial exhibition of the work was a projected video in the Hoffman gallery at Lewis and Clark College. The projection included one image made for each victim of unsolved homicide in Portland. These two-hundred-forty images will each be displayed for sixty seconds and accompanied by an audio recording which reads the name of each individual. My intention with these particular means is to create an intentional and natural space for emotion to develop.

I am currently working to produce a more accessible version of the project, which will live either on this site or in the pages of a book.