

Tri-Cities Community Action Team presents:
Peer Photo project - Humanizing the Tri-Cities: Day in the Life Of
“Perspective: Skating through the Brick Wall”

Present: Dizz, Roxanne and Samantha



Interview:

TC CAT: Thank you for completing this project with us.

Dizz: Of course, it was a, it was very fun.

T CAT: I'm glad to hear that. Yeah. We're interested to see how this turned out.

Dizz: Yeah. I don't know if you want me to talk. Do you have questions?

TC CAT: Well, we have questions, but if you want to start off, we want to go through the pictures first and then we can get into like the questions or...

Dizz: I guess, just for context. When looking at the images, it was kind of a combination of like a day in the life mixed with like coping mechanisms kind of thing and just showing the, the main parts of my day, I focused the most on.

Yeah.

And, Yeah. That's, that's the deal, right?

TC CAT: You can correct me. I think a day in the whole life. The coping mechanisms are probably apart of your everyday life,

Dizz: They're the biggest part for me. So that's what i kind of tried to. I, i tried to start the focus series of me kind of leaving my neighborhood.

And

Then the things that i'm actually kind of like, completely obsessed with all day to kind of get myself through that day.

And

Then finish off the series with kind of a contemplative image.

TC CAT: The questions are more based around like it backstory, um, the contribution project and stuff like that. So it doesn't really go talk about the photo so much. So if you wanted to start like we go through the photos and then we can start asking questions.

Dizz: So the first image is me leaving my neighborhood. It's the angle. It's like a shot of the walking path. That goes out to the main road that takes me to like the corner store in the morning.

The second image is me skateboarding. It's just kind of a bird's eye view of what i see. Well, i skateboard. It's like an action shot while i'm actually rolling down the road.

The third image is the box at Lafarge skate park. It's my favorite obstacle to kind of like warm up on and skate on there at that skatepark. I've been skating there for over 20 years now, so it's the thing i'm most familiar with.

TC CAT: thats a long time, huh.

Dizz: Yeah, Yeah, it is a long time.

The fourth image is a brick wall because usually the point at which i stopped skating is either if i'm exhausted or if i kind of reach an impasse with what i'm trying to learn. And then i'll just kind of take a breather and depart from the park.

The fifth image is the overpass in Port Coquitlam, that goes over the train yard. It's something i take commonly to go to the art gallery that i work at Um, That space is actually being completely converted, so i don't have to go there anymore, but this is something that i did every day for three and a half years.

The sixth image is. The train yard itself from the overpass. I always take. 5 - 10 minutes to just kind of stand in the middle and look at the trains. Try to see some graffiti if i can. Try to see if there's any activity going on in the train yard.

Uh, usually after skateboarding or work, i would then Spend some time with my daughter, we'd go to the park nearby our house.

So The first image with my daughter is me. Standing there taking the image. Taking the picture of my daughter's shadow on a swing. Um, this one features both of us, so it kind of sets the scene for the next image.

The second image featuring, my daughter is just my daughter, swinging as fast as she can on the swing.

I wanted to kind of feature her really prominently, she's a big part of my day. My big part of me kind of dealing with my day. And having kind of a focus and the concentration something to concentrate on.

The last image is, An eagle spotted during the day with the moon in the background. And

something i try to do every day. If not at the end of the day, just at some point is take in Something nature just kind of enjoy it a tree, a sky, or just kind of like a moment, you know.

TC CAT: So that's pretty cool.

I like how you tell a story.

Dizz: Thank you. Yeah, i tried to make it somewhat narrative. Like have, have a progression. Yeah,

TC CAT: That's awesome. I like that. And i have it written down in order. So, we won't mess up your order.

TC CAT: The first question is, what brought you here to this place. What is your back story?

Dizz: .. i resonate with anything that kind of focuses on. The concept of Addiction, sobriety. living post addiction anything to do with that kind of thing, because it was a big part of my life for near a decade. So, Um, it was just Something I instantly gravitate towards, I want to help people who want to help themselves. I want to be there for support for people who need it. I want to show people that support is there and possible. All those things.

TC CAT: Is there anything else you want to add to the backstory?

Dizz: What Nitty gritty details do you want?

TC CAT: Thats up to you

Dizz: I Had a long. Stretch being homeless in my teen years. So, Something i also wanted to focus on in this photo series was kind of like how far i've comes since then... Skateboarding is what got me through a lot of those moments too, but so i've kept with that, but i've also now kind of stabilized my life a little bit. I have regular routines, and Yeah, there's more stability i guess.

TC CAT: What did you hope to gain by contributing to this project?

Dizz: Uh, i hope to just be like an extra perspective just like an extra like like scope into what lifestyle post addiction can be and I guess i still have my fair share of addictions, with energy drinks and stuff, but it's You know, just I wanted to share my perspective and i think every perspective is important.

TC CAT: Totally, it's all unique.

Every perspective is important, but

TC CAT: i think every time there's something that somebody says that resonates with that person and it becomes like this natural theme

To their day in the life.. It speaks for itself.

Dizz: You start to notice the pattern when each people each person's kind of focus series. Yeah, yeah.

TC CAT: What is one thing you want people to know about you that they cannot tell by looking at you?

Dizz: I don't know... I'm a reliable dad. No, i'm joking. Um. I'm hoping people can see that.

Um, I don't know. That's a weird. That's a hard one. I don't.

I Don't really expect anyone to have any expectation of me, so, I don't think i can make that assessment for them.

TC CAT: What does your hope?

Dizz: I hope. That the affordability of housing goes down. Um, That's probably our biggest issue right now. Other than the addiction stuffs. But i think a lot of affordable housing might help you others out, maybe. Might give people a little bit more hope over here so it might help over here.

Yeah. Maybe,

You know,

TC CAT: What is your message you want to share?

Dizz: Um, I guess i've already iterated it but that like every perspective was important, it's good to take as many of them as you can. Um, to really Be open to at least hearing people out hearing their story. Observing their art listening to their doing whatever, you know? Just being open to people. And being Not too quick to shut people down, you know?

TC CAT: Have substances changed the way we see community?

Dizz: so am i speaking for like society or kind of my, my view

TC CAT: It's coming from your view?

Dizz: Okay? So i would say it's made me see substances and my experiences with them. Have made me more empathetic I've, i've gained a larger understanding of kind of like, where people Uh, or why people may end up, where they end up or, You know. And understanding of, Starting place isn't Necessarily where you're going to end, you know, or the place where I need them isn't where they're going to. End up, you know. People all have a big, big journey. And who knows why they got there? And how they get out? Yeah. Just made me more empathetic to people.

TC CAT: Are there any other comments that you wanted to add when we share.

Dizz: I want to this was super fun i don't do projects like this so this is like i'm very selfish in my photography. I just kind of like come up with weird photos to take and then i take them. So This

was really difficult for me and i found it. Very fun to kind of force myself to take pictures of things. I would never take pictures of normally. Yeah. I'm very curated and my photography where this was kind of like, i guess i'll shoot.

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