

Jessica Y Kaminski

My work is a continuous exploration of two elements: environmental portraiture, and cinematic storytelling.

Placement of a character within a scene, as opposed to tight, close-up points of view, are evident in all of my work. The scene that the character is placed within either relates directly to the person in the photo, or to a character that the person is portraying. Typically, if a person is portraying a character, it is a character of their own volition, and thus the subjects within my photos are always an integral part in choosing a location for the images to take place. Similarly, the classic Dutch painters often had objects within their paintings that gave the viewer clues to the person being portrayed. I use this technique as well, and again, will consult with the person I am photographing to determine what key items may be placed within the composition.

I think that most people consider a vertical format when referring to portraiture, but I have been playing around with the use of horizontal, or cinematic compositions. I like the idea of the images representing a brief moment, whether a quiet introspective one, or a dramatic turning point of a scene, and I feel that the horizontal landscape can sometimes add to this element.