





Time Is Money

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District: West Valley School District

School: West Valley High School

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Time Is Money

Medium: Photography

Artist Statement

Some things are just worth more than money. The main subject of this photo is a pocket watch that I've had for about 12 years. I got it for Christmas from my grandmother when I was probably five years old. Now I've never been the type of guy to carry a pocket watch, seeing as it's no longer the 1900s. However, the watch is without a doubt one of the most meaningful things I own, not to mention it's just really cool. I don't think it's ever accurately told the time, and for me it never needed to. I couldn't care less that it didn't work, it was still everything it needed to be: a present from my grandmother, and a reminder that time is a surprisingly abstract concept. For something as mathematically precise as time, I think it takes on a lot of different feelings the more you think about it. Time is so much more than "school starts at eight" or "be there by eleven". Time is the ever-swaying dance of the threads of life, shifting and changing as a higher power works constantly towards weaving our stories. The odd thing for me is that time is always different depending on your perception. Maybe last year felt like a week ago, maybe your favorite childhood memory feels like it was yesterday. Or maybe your 55 minute math class feels like four hours when you don't know what's going on. If you asked your parents they'd tell you your first steps were only a minute ago. Or maybe there's someone amazing in your life that could make days feel like minutes, and no amount of those minutes would ever be enough time.



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Artist Statement continued

And I think this is because the amount of time you spend doing something means absolutely nothing, it means less than nothing, compared to what you do during that time. The funny thing is that this broken pocket watch is what reminds me of all these big important concepts and philosophical ideals, it's this old pocket watch that makes me think of what the time in my life should mean. And that's why the watch is worth more than all the money in the world.

Description

This was quite possibly the least-planned photo I've ever taken. I threw some change and a few bills on the dining room table, set the watch on top, and took the photo. It was really all thanks to the lighting that it turned out this good. It was a little earlier than midday, and this was about the only sunny day we'd had in weeks. That's what made the shine on the face of the watch. It also has a lot to do with why there's such detail in the photo. I took the photo with an app on my phone that lets you almost pre-edit your photo by changing settings like contrast, white balance, exposure, and set the photo to monochrome. Very little editing was done in post. I'm really not sure how this photo turned out better than all my others, but I'm happy it did, and I love that I used the watch as my subject. I think the level of detail, the lack of color, and the high contrast really draw the eye across all areas of the photo. These factors all combine to give the photo a level of depth that lets the eye sink into it, and stay there.

Status: Exhibit only