I conducted a sustained investigation on the elemental absences in water after dark. By asking if humanity could thrive in the void of life-giving substances like air and sunlight by taking advantage of the overlooked necessities of water and nighttime, I ended up learning a lot about humanity's relationship to the Earth. (photos numbered in order of appearance)

The majority of perception around these topics revolves around fear and even death, which provided me an excellent starting point for the beginning of my investigation (1), where I rebutted these stereotypical horrors by highlighting the beauties of the ocean at night. I continued this contrast forwards by pushing the boundaries of my theme, and finding new places and pathways to shine light upon our greatest mysteries. When some locations (3) required more grit and dedication than felt right to ask of another model, I was forced to resort to self-portraiture; this opened up a new door entirely, as I began to explore my own personal relationship to water and nighttime. I found myself in more bizarre, and even dangerous situations- underwater, after dark, in the dead of winter- in an attempt to capture with self-portraiture the true workings of a world without the life-giving substances to which we’ve grown so close (10). To emulate the laws of nature here, I favored practical effects over post editing for some of the more surrealist photographs. This trend towards surrealism in the face of a quest to discover humanity’s overlooked strengths in such environments continued as my exposures lengthened, blending together with the changing natural elements around me (6). My connection to these elements deepened as I continued to learn of their energy, and I began trying to exhibit like Thoreau some of their overlooked splendors. After realizing how truly vital these elements were to my own life and to humanity as a whole, I gave myself up to the conditions of water after dark, in hopes that my theme would find me, and I could pick up some way to tie off this seemingly infinite trail of thoughts and imagery. After making it through the unrelenting burdens of that which makes up most of our bodies as well as most of our time here on Earth, I learned how to embrace them rather than run from them, and my investigation ended as a new beginning. (5) The embryonic surrealism captured in the dying light of someone who suffers the same fate as Ophelia is a shining symbol in the darkness- a martyric beacon of hope that humanity can live, and in fact thrive in the midst of water after dark. My sustained investigation taught me that this environment is not a void at all, but rather an opportunity.