**Ethos**: What is (y)our American Dream?

Looking at diversity is the greatest way to reflect on the spirit of a community. I created this work to pose questions about cultural, racial, and age diversity in the community. I wanted to portray hopeful aspects of the community, but also reveal the brokenness of the city. The power of the mirror reflection allows the audience to connect with different identities and to understand the life perspective of another member of their community. I arranged the mirrors in the window frame obscurely to raise questions about the connection between the placement and the portraits. Place your face within theirs, and create a different life.
In America, we have many luxuries. We are a privileged people, and our freedom enables us to purchase material things with ease. This material wealth can come to define who we are. Our identity becomes wrapped up in the quest for capital wealth. This restricts us from attaining true contentment. As Americans, are we sacrificing our spiritual and emotional well-being by investing in lifeless material items? The real question I’m trying to ask, is to reflect on whether the dreams are **about material happiness, or a spiritual one?**
Oftentimes urban materials are viewed as merely functional. I wanted the viewer to find beauty in his man-made surroundings. Our environments are made up of both natural materials and new, man-made creations. This piece hopefully creates a parallel between the beauty of nature and the unseen beauty of industrial materials. The viewer should not notice the individual materials but rather the new creation reminiscent of nature that is formed.