

Liminality

Grace Kemp

To be in a liminal state implies that something is in a transitional phase, often marked by ambiguity and uncertainty. It's the period of transition from a familiar identity without fully entering the next phase. I've chosen to create a photographic display that captures a person in this transitional phase, which I refer to as the 'Liminal Place.' Through this exploration, I aim to showcase the threshold that exists, shedding light on the unique and intricate experiences that lie within this intriguing state of being.

As I transition from childhood to adulthood, I find myself caught in a stage of confusion, a state that straddles the boundaries between innocence and responsibility. I am of age to be an adult, yet I lack the freedom and control over my own life that one might associate with adulthood. This transition between major life stages is frustrating to navigate and comes with a sense of mourning for the life I am leaving behind. Personally, I have found this stage to be filled with darkness whilst I madly chase the light that I am supposed to feel during what is meant to be the best year of my life.

As I travel the intricate path from childhood to adulthood, I am acutely aware of the nuances of this transitional phase. While I am labelled an adult, the reins of freedom and control over my life continue to elude my grasp. This juncture, marked by a profound shift between major life stages, proves to be a difficult path to navigate, filled with mourning for the life I am bidding farewell to. On a personal note, this transitional period has oftentimes been shrouded in darkness, as I chase the elusive light that represents 'The Best Year of My Life'.

The creative inspiration for my work draws from the brilliance of artists such as Bill Henson and Denis Smith, both of whom have masterfully harnessed the power of light in their respective art forms. Bill Henson, renowned for his use of minimal lighting to create moody and evocative images, has been a significant influence on my artistic journey. In my quest to refine my skills in manipulating light and shadows, I embarked on a practical exploration of Henson's techniques, using his work as a blueprint for my own artistic growth. Additionally, a transformative workshop with light photographer Denis Smith opened new avenues of creativity for me. Smith's expertise in light painting techniques and his guidance on camera settings and image capture have been instrumental in shaping my artistic vision.

To capture the image "Liminality," I meticulously crafted the composition. I seated the model in the centre of the frame, shrouding the background in darkness by extinguishing all ambient lighting. Using a handheld bar of light, I positioned myself on the left side of the model. Employing a long exposure setting on the camera, I maneuvered the light down the length of the model, then swiftly transitioned to the other side of her, all the while encouraging her to turn her head. This dynamic movement generated the captivating blur effect that serves as a powerful visual metaphor for my artistic message. Subsequently, the image underwent a delicate editing process before being framed.