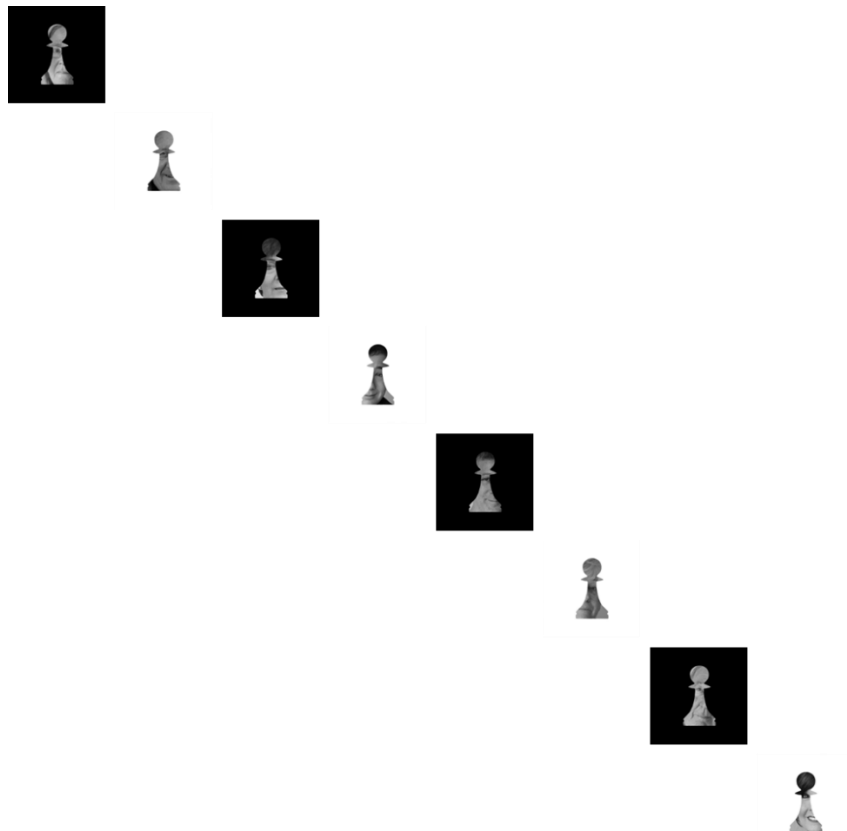


Exhibition Statement

Focussing on the pawn piece and its complicated relationship with the idea of control and manipulation, not just within the game of chess, but in society today, where it is now commonly used as a metaphor in the media and in general speech. My focus was on aiming to reshape the way we look at the pawn, and to hopefully challenge the negativity that accompanies the metaphor it is generally associated with. To be used as a pawn unknowingly or unwillingly brings to mind the feeling of shame or weakness, but to confront your role as the pawn consciously can potentially change the mindset. With the understanding of your role in the bigger picture not as a lone puppet, but as one member making up a much bigger, much more powerful unison. The viewing of the pawns as a united body made up of individuals rather than disposable pieces, is key to the development of a renewed perspective of the true power than unity can bring to otherwise weak and overlooked individuals. Presented in one of the strongest formations that pawns can create on the board, I organised these images as a 'pawn chain', in the hopes of conveying their true strength. Furthermore, this formation suggests a unity between the two 'colours'. This will, in-turn, hopefully force the viewer to consider the idea that when one really looks at the images, the individual pawn shapes are actually grey. Not just grey, but their own unique combinations of greys that each face is made up of.

I created *Chain* through the use of straightforward portrait shots of eight individuals. My main objective was to produce an ultimately cohesive set of images that would exhibit uniformity in their theme but also, crucially, individuality. I felt that eight was a good starting point for this project, as it serves as a subtle link to the foundations of chess, with there being eight pawns to a side.



Link to Instagram

<https://instagram.com/niajanephotography?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

(Link to Website in bio on Instagram page)