

Natasha Rajaratnam

“Perception and Images Through Creative Writing”

Creative Writing

Advisor: Jamie Hutchinson

Hometown: Ridgefield, Connecticut

I have come to pay great attention to the role imagery and images play within writing. As a student who has taken various writing courses, ranging from fiction, to poetry to creative nonfiction, I've realized that imagery plays an essential role in all of these genres. Literary imagery also couldn't exist without perception of the world around us.

How we see the world and connect the images we derive from it greatly influences the way in which we use imagery in writing. My thesis, which will consist of a collection of original works of fiction and nonfiction, along with a body of process writing (the latter in journal form), will explore how we see, what exactly it is that we see and how our perception shapes who we are, what we believe and how we go through the world.

I plan to write as freely as I can, while still focusing on perception. Down the road I will also be revising each of these pieces - for instance if the language needs to be improved or if I can approach my writing from a different standpoint in order to better accomplish my goals with it. I'm also very interested in how other writers use images in their own writing. While this will not be the main focus of my thesis, I am particularly interested in the work of Gretel Ehrlich, Joanna Klink and a few others.

Through writing, though certainly other forms as well, one can deconstruct what something really means. It's fascinating to me that seeing can play such a huge part in some writing. Although it's creative, creative writing isn't a visual art form. Yet in order for the reader to get a feel for what the writer is trying to accomplish, they need to be grounded in the piece and able to visualize what is happening.

I am looking forward to being inspired by the outside world in my thesis. Not simply what we see every day, but also in the case of creative writing based off of visual art, songs and even old poetry that I have written. Through this entire thesis process I feel as if I'll learn more about who I am as a writer, as well as what it is that works best for me.

