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Final Project: An Experiment in Ridiculosity Using Color Printing

Over the course of the semester, I have discovered that I get the most enjoyment out of photography when I am taking pictures of people. Additionally, I really love the look of bright, saturated colors in photographs. For my final project, I decided to come up with a theme that would unite these two characteristics.

I needed an interesting topic, and I looked no further than the halls of my dorm: my friends in Senior House take every possible opportunity to dress up and act like kids, so I asked them to put on ridiculous outfits and frolic (yes, frolic: is there really any other term that works better?) in Killian Court while I took pictures of them. They were more than happy to take part – in fact, they took it even further than I had imagined, bringing parasols, bubbles, sock puppets, and glitter; climbing trees; and doing cartwheels in the grass. I then worked with the group to narrow 80 pictures down to 10 that we thought most accurately captured the spirit of the day. I reprinted these photos in the Edgerton Center darkroom using RA4 developer and blix solutions; each photo has between 0.6s and 1.0s exposure time, along with a 50M filter (to emphasize the abundance of green grass in each shot) and either a 20Y or 30Y filter (to add to the bright, saturated appearance of many of these shots). The final product was too large to scan, so I scanned the negatives and used Photoshop to create a digital reproduction of the overall result.