

### **Final Project: Gray Spectrum**

#### **Concept and Motivation:**

Throughout the semester, I wanted to capture an element of Cambridge and pay tribute to the place I've called home for the past 4 years.

I often walk past Central Square on the way to work and enjoy seeing the richness of the sights and sounds along the way. Although it can be quite scary amidst all the drunken homeless people, there are so many interesting facets of life that could be pictured. One particular sight that I always see has to be this alley right next to the Central Square T stop. It's full of brightly colored glass and the walls are stained with graffiti. During the right time of day, it's full of color.

Since this alley always grabs my attention, I felt like it would be the perfect image to represent the beauty of Cambridge as well as summarize what I've learned in photography.

#### **Methods:**

First, I started with a single photo of the alley way by Kendall Square.

Next, I opened the image and duplicated the background. After this step, I desaturated the image. The image was now in black and white.

Then I added a layer mask and set the foreground color to black. Then I used a tiny brush to paint the areas within the picture that I wanted to highlight.

Finally, I altered the opacity of the brush areas to create different levels of color and great a gradient from black and white to color.

By accenting the edges, I highlighted the texture of the walls and the pastel coloring of the graffiti art. I really wanted to make these elements stand out against the background. This effect made the ripples of color that reflected from the spectrum of glasses stand out as well.

As a result, I felt like this image represented a juxtaposition of color and included Cambridge's urban and industrial feel.