Artist Statement
Erin Briggs

My body of work didn’t really start with a theme, I was just taking what I thought were “cool” pictures. After going through my images, however, I found that I photographed a lot of people, doing ordinary everyday tasks. My 10 images are a culmination of people with the exception of 2 images which depict the traditional conical hat. I included the 2 images of the hats because the hats provided shelter from the elements for all people, and everywhere I went the conical hat could be seen atop someone’s head. Even after someone had passed, the conical hat was placed atop the person’s grave. I also wanted to touch on the subject of communism and how it was an ever present entity, and sometimes not as easily visible as other times. For this I hand tinted small parts of each image red, because red was the color I’d seen the most while in a communist country. Overall my work represents my personal growth as an artist because I had to go up and talk to people in order to take their picture, which was something way outside of my comfort zone. My images also do a great job at documenting my time in Vietnam, because the images I chose span from the beginning to the end of my trip. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that I had to travel to such a beautiful, exotic country and I hope my work reflects that.