The role of women in society is something that has always interested me, however, before traveling to Vietnam I had not considered the role Vietnamese women play in society. Accounts from the tour guides, Howard, and personal experience allowed me to see that there is a major difference in the role women play in Vietnam than from what is common in America. In America, women are still struggling to receive the same equal rights as men. Traditionally, the role men play in society has been superior to the roles women have played. Women are essentially second to man, however, in recent years it has been progressing and steps have been made to ensure equality. It is apparent that in a developing country such as Vietnam women are not as fortunate as some living in America. From my experience in Vietnam I have seen women working in the market, taking care of children, and sewing. Whereas, men can be seen working construction, driving taxis, or working in security. Not once through the entire country did I witness a woman working in those male dominated fields. My series of six photographs seeks to explore gender roles in Vietnam and women’s ongoing inequality.

Upon our arrival in Vietnam, we spent majority of our time in the relatively large cities of Hanoi and Saigon which are comparable in size to Philadelphia and New York City. These cities are loud, busy, and have streets that are impossible to cross much like any major city in America. While exploring the cities, I ventured off into alleyways and areas that seemed to be abandoned. One could walk a block away from a major street and stand in complete silence. Being in such a populated area, I found it surprising and unique to Vietnam. This body of work is a visual representation of the quiet, empty spaces I came across. It also explores the deteriorating feel that much of Vietnam has within its architecture.