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PHO 182
Project Explanation
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Our assignment for the Photographic Explorations: Iceland class challenged us to exhibit personal connections through our images of an unfamiliar land. This was, indeed, a challenge since all of us would be recording the same scenes and landscapes throughout the trip. I wanted to further challenge myself with this assignment by combining typography, graphic design, and photography. All of these elements were important areas throughout my educational career at MCC. I also felt these additional elements would help tell my story while differentiating my images from my classmates. I wanted to do this in a way which would show my journey of self-exploration through the symbolic landscapes and elements of nature in Iceland.

One of the first days at our destination, we had a lecture from a local professor about Iceland's art history. He emphasized the importance of poetry to the Icelandic culture. I began reading a book of contemporary Icelandic poetry and became inspired by many lines. I decided to pick a few of these lines, which represented pieces of my story, as the text element in my photographs. I also became inspired by the geometric shapes of Viking Runes, and chose to use these as an additional graphic design element. This made me feel more connected to the culture, as well as, helped me personalize the project. I chose to do diptychs in order show how the different parts of Iceland connect to each other to tell an overall story. I brought several props from home to add personal touches into the epic and unique landscapes of Iceland. These helped connect the nature to my story. In the end, balancing all these elements did prove to be difficult. I continue to experiment and find new combinations. The few I have completed I feel accurately represent myself and my story while still evoking the feeling of Iceland.