

2013/14 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Young Photographer's Alliance



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Photography, for me, has never been solely about capturing a piece of time or a subject, as much it has been about documenting my thoughts and fears as I progress from adolescence into adulthood. I want my images to document the growth and decline of my imagination as I grow into maturity. George Santayana once said “An artist is a dreamer consenting to dream of the actual world.” My goal as an artist is to not agree with the actual world, but instead juxtapose it with a tortured fantasy that expresses the struggles we, as humans, face in day-to-day life.

As a child I was forced to grow up very quickly because my mother was sick and, mentally, could not care for me. She did her best to give me as much love as she could but she had four other children. So, me being the eldest of the five, I was more or less left to fend for myself. This is not something that I feel sorry about. It has taught me to function on my own and to come out fighting from every situation.



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Although I do not regret the way I was raised, I think it is the reason I love things that only exist in the imagination because I never really grew up. I often find myself stuck in a world where I am trying to live out the childhood I didn't have but also dealing with the reality of life. This is prevalent in most, if not all, of my work. I became infatuated with the gender roles of women. Although women's rights have progressed immensely over the past decade, there are still standards and roles that women are expected to deal with. As a young woman, I have found these roles to be intensely terrifying. The focus of most of my pieces are women stuck in surroundings that are literally crumbling around their feet, their doom close in sight. They are daydreamers stuck in a harsh reality, trying to escape from what has become their hopeless reality. I hope to portray a sense of helplessness but also immense beauty that I feel reflects back upon my own life and my childhood. I want the viewer to experience this; no matter how hard one tries to escape social roles one cannot, and if one thinks she can she is living in a fantasy world.

Photography is everything to me. I realize that I will never make a large amount of money but I don't care as long as I can do something that makes me happy. I also realize that photography is definitely not an easy field to break into, especially as a Latin American woman. It is said that some succeed because they are destined and others succeed because they are determined. I am determined. I intend to obtain a job with a magazine or newspaper and work as a photographer. With the power of a photograph, I will help to fight gender and race roles in society today to help make the world we live in a better place for women and people of all races.

