

2012/13 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Young Photographers Alliance/APA Award

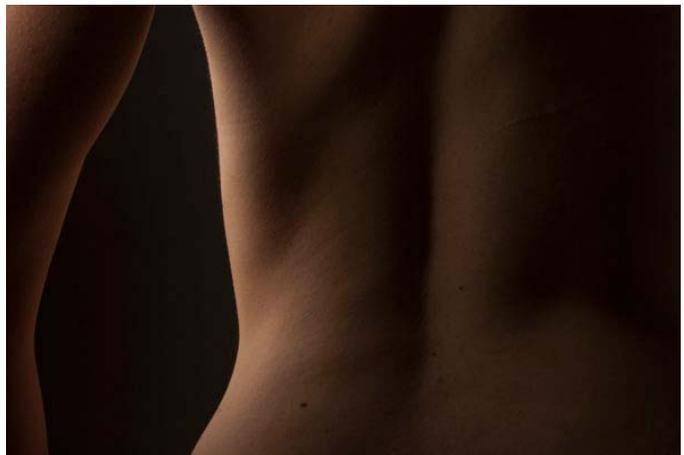


MADISON PERRINS
Photography
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I can tell a lot of sad stories, and they would all be true. It is not the sadness of the stories that is important. It is how I have turned out even though I am wearing these stories on the backside of the front wall of my heart; like a badge that hides itself in the way I talk, so all those who have been through some kind of hard time can hear it. The thing I am most proud of telling is that I never give up on myself.

I have heard that the more sorrow carves out of you, the greater your capacity to contain joy. In an upbringing like mine, where there were not many good things to latch on to, I would listen to praise from teachers and classmates about my little stories and paintings. When they would proclaim or breathe out, "You're so creative," I held on to it tightly. My creations were important to me because they made me excited while I worked. They were my defense against talk that took place in hushed tones or behind hands as eyes rolled in my direction.



MADISON PERRINS

Photography



My dad let his mental illness run unchecked and abused alcohol. He is bipolar. I knew from a very young age I wanted to go college. I never questioned that I wouldn't, even though my parents were more than flat broke. I believed there was something better, and that I would get to it.

My work is a place for all the parts of me to exist beside each other for examination. I don't have a hometown, only myself to come back to again and again. So I look into that deeply. I am a young woman, very young, but I have something to say. I want to make work that presents, lucidly, an account of girlhood and womanhood—work that peers into the human experiencing the illness passed down through her family. I want to be creative because when I was little it was what helped me live. It's that important. I fought hard for the chance to be educated, and now I am fighting for the chance to keep making work.

Kids born into bad circumstances deserve a fighting chance. I plan to start an outreach program for teens in low-income families approaching graduation to apply for college and financial aid. The focus will be on those who wish to go into the arts.

