

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I work with the intention to document and explore the effects of oppressive states, displacement, and change. In my photography, I play with the idea of anonymity and nature to explore the relationship between body, movement, and land. Drawing from my life experiences with grief, love, and joy, the camera is where I put myself under the microscope to see if my world can be reflected in a moment.

When my maternal grandmother passed, I watched my mother try to reconnect with herself, rebuilding her life through pictures, writings, and stories. Since both of my parents are immigrants, there is not much else that they have to recount where they have been; I've always had the delightful misfortune of imagining the worlds that they inhabited as children.

Using non-narrative visual imagery and soundbites from interviews about reconnection, I create the parts of my family that I was never afforded the privilege of witnessing. The videos are collages of portrait and landscape images that represent how you mold collected information into part of yourself to create an identity of your environment. Starting with conversations with community members, I work to build individual pieces and worlds that combine to describe a greater understanding of the relationship of land, body, and culture.

In this body of work, landscape and portrait photography are used to explore the connection of body to space, community, and nature. In the portraits, the subjects are usually looking directly at the viewer or looking up with their eyes closed. This allows for the privacy of the subject as they retreat into their own world, usually in profile or part of the face not visible, closing them off to the viewer. It is only when they are choosing to perceive the viewer that the viewer is allowed to see them fully.

I use the medium of film as a visual collage. The layering of specific scenes create the environment in which the scene is taking place and further describe moments, where photography cannot. The sample of my experimental documentary *re:rooted* in my portfolio showcases the way in which I use still photos, nimslo 3D gifs, and landscape shots to create the environment, and the addition of audio, video interviews, and fictional scenes, builds upon the narrative.

I work to build a visual world that we can all live in, with the ultimate goal of breathing life into my art.