

# SOPHIA FORNERIS

## Not Paid to be Here

The cultural and social conditions I grew up with in Guayaquil, Ecuador informs my perception of what I see around me in Providence, Rhode Island. In my work, I examine social subjects in my immediate environment from the viewpoint of my culture and upbringing. For example, I documented the Women's March in New York City in the winter of 2016; I made a series of works dealing with campus harassment and the repercussions of sexual assault; most recently, I interviewed and photographed a fisherman in Narragansett, Rhode Island to explore the economic issues of this area. In all of these projects, I try to respect my subjects as I find formally compelling ways to communicate difficult issues.

My thesis exhibition focuses on the psychological effects experienced after an abuse or assault. Many victims have a hard time discussing their experiences, (this usually means that they will not seek therapy after the incident). As a community, it is our duty to guarantee these students are provided the help necessary in order to continue their lives after college.

Many of my projects incorporate a documentary style and a candid quality; whether using digital or film photography, I avoid drastic alteration or manipulation of the image. When shooting, I try to make my subjects comfortable and to create individual connections. This helps to create a sense of truth and directness in the final product.

My intention is to create a dialogue with my viewers around the issues I present in my projects, while questioning problems through the lens of human emotion and relationships. In my work, I explore our treatment of one another and consider whether our interactions on a small scale can be related to many of the larger concerns we face today.



*Untitled, Photograph, 12.5" x 8.5", 2018*



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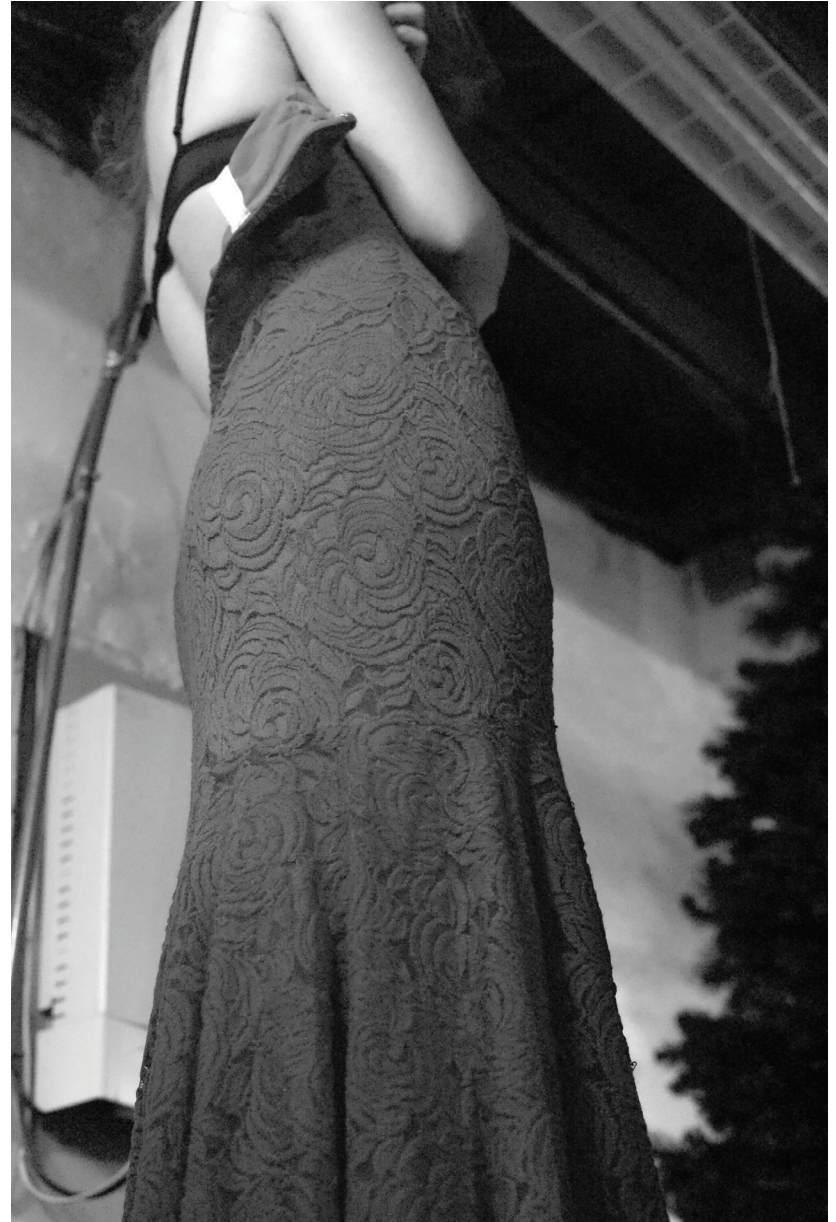


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