



by CAMIBAart

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MAYU NAGAOKA

I began documenting and archiving moments in my daily life. Things that I saw, people I interacted with, the food I ate, and my pets. By recording these (moments), I created a practice where I began collecting and studying these images in hopes to find where I belonged/ who I became... Photographing these quiet moments in my life, with no ulterior motive but to document - created quiet and honest images.

Two and a half years ago, my former partner lost a battle to mental illness and took his life, and I made the conscious decision to stop making art. Something that was innate at one time grew unfamiliar. I had to relearn how to observe my surroundings and how my photographs and I fit into this world.

Along with the loss of his presence, I felt my inspiration, support, and encouragement dissipate. How could I exist as an artist when so much of who I was as an artist could be attributed to him? It was through him that my work was grounded.

After his death, I didn't make art for a long time. As time passed, I realized what a disservice it would be to not only myself, but to his memory, if I never made art again. When I made the decision to make work again, I was unable to. With an integral part of myself now gone, I felt like I was learning how to photograph all over again. What began as capturing, collecting, and preserving my life has evolved into remaining curious of my surroundings and looking at the world with an empathetic eye.

EDUCATION

2011 BFA, SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (SAIC), Chicago, IL

EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 ETHEREAL, Sixth Street Gallery by CAMIBAart, Austin, TX
- 2016 ARCC ART ALUMNI EXHIBITION, Riverview Gallery, Coon Rapids, MN
- 2015 FIELD STUDY, David Weinberg Photography, Chicago, IL
- 2015 TIME, Streit House Space, New York, NY
- 2015 MOBILEMAGIX XIX, LIGHTBOX Photographic Gallery, Astoria, OR
- 2015 COLOR SHOW: PHOTOGRAPHY NOW, Blackbox Gallery, Portland, OR
- 2012 INTERSECTIONS, MCAD Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2011 SAIC UNDERGRADUATE EXHIBIT, The Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL