



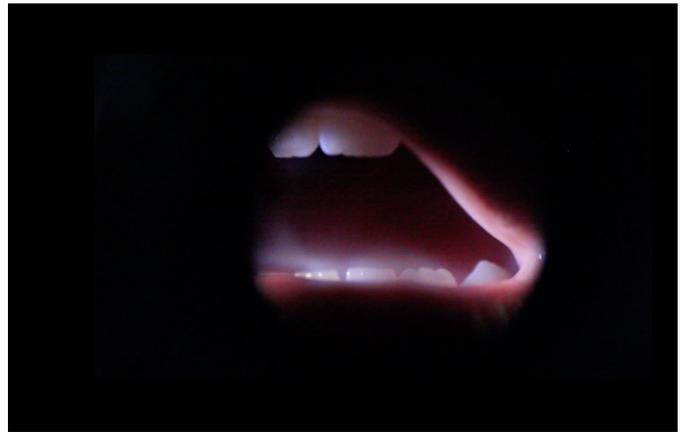
UHPDM 16: *Assuming Identity* | www.uhpdm.com
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For Immediate Release:

The Photography and Digital Media Area at University of Houston Announces BFA Exhibition



Installation image of *Transit* by Andi Valentine



Video still of *Introspicere* by Stephanie Williams

The 2016 BFA Candidates from The University of Houston's Photography and Digital Media Area are proud and excited to announce the upcoming opening of their collective senior show. *Assuming Identity*, curated by owner and director of Capsule Gallery, Sarah Sudhoff, and Allison Pappas, Assistant Curator of Photography at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Rudolph Blume Fine Art Artscan Gallery
1836 Richmond Ave
Houston, Texas 77098
April 9th – 23rd, 2016
Opening Reception: April 9 (6-9pm)
Artist Talks: April 15 (7-8pm) and 23 (5-7pm)

University of Houston PDM 16: Assuming Identity

Artists: Amer Alnasrawi, Andi Valentine, Andre Brooks, Angel Lartigue, Ashely Merritt, Jackie Andrade, Lizette Belen Soto, Orlando Flores, Scott Martin, Shannon McDonnell, Sidney Mori, Stephanie Williams, Taylor Cox, Tere Garcia, Teresa Dunham, Velma Cariaga, and Victoria Gonzalez

In today's world, identity is understood as a multiplicity of social roles that morph and are discarded, encompassing physical, psychological, sociological, and philosophical selves. We acknowledge different facets of identity—internal and external constructions, both cultural and individual—and believe that the true, full self develops somewhere in the balance of these opposites, shaped by every encounter and experience we have from birth to death.

From its earliest days, photography has been taken as a matrix for the exploration of composite or performative identity, mapping out the tension between surface presentation and underlying self in the relationship between artist and subject. In the nineteenth century, photography was often called the democratic medium for enabling people of all classes the power of self-presentation that the high cost of painting had made prohibitive. Today the medium is granted a greater degree of agency in the exploration or formation of identity. The photograph not only allows the presentation of self; it aids in the discovery of self.

The artists in this exhibition explore the nature of identity through the varied lens of photography. Some allude to the complexity of assuming identity can be understood at a visible, surface level, by giving viewers just enough characteristics of the subject's life to infer their own narratives, acknowledging that each will come away with different conceptions of the subject. Others incorporate themselves into this dynamic, inviting viewers into their own lives and environments. Some of the artists employ photography to explore their personal relationships with social constructions such as race and gender, testing isolated imagery against normative cultural expectations. Others focus on the more introspective side of identity construction, communicating emotional or ideological perspectives to illuminate their subjective experiences of the world. Each uses photography to uncover the manifold relationships between artist, subject, and viewer, forming a dialogue between individuality and social constructions.

Allison Pappas
Assistant Curator, Photography
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Sarah Sudhoff
Owner and Director
Capsule Gallery

Important dates

April 9 (6pm-9pm) – Opening Reception

April 15 (7pm-8pm) - Artist talks with Amer Alnasrawi, Jacqueline Andrade, Taylor Cox, Orlando Flores, Ángel Lartigue, Sidney Mori, Lizette Belen Soto, and Stephanie Williams

April 23 (5pm-7pm) – Closing reception/artist talks with André Brooks, Velma Cariaga, Teresa Dunham, Tere Garcia, Victoria Paige Gonzalez, Scott Martin, Shannon McDonnell, Ashley Merritt, and Andi Valentine

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Saturday (11am-5pm) and by appointment. 713-807-1836