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Sookyung Bae

Claremont Graduate University

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Sookyung Bae
“Since 1980”
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My photos are focused on revealing what is hidden. The objects of my photos are people and the persons in the photos are hiding in their comfort zone. I concentrate on capturing them in their comfort zone, in their moment of hiding. I do not aim at taking the covers off and revealing what's underneath. I believe that true moments of a being, of existence aren't always crisp and clear cut and easy to define. Agony, happiness, confusion, ennui, ecstasy, these are emotions and state of being that is easy to surmise and capture. However I believe there are moments when a being is alone in absolute silence focused on private thoughts or the lack of thoughts influencing them to be themselves without external influence.

Many photographers capture images of people carrying out their daily activities or people's actions and expressions in their decisive moments. My photos are aimed at capturing people during their non decisive moments, when their actions or expressions can't be easily defined by adjectives because of the complexity of their psyche. Those are the moments that you know for yourself, that which you reserve for yourself. I do not induce any specific feelings from the objects of my photography. I just want them to be. This may seem obscure for the viewers as the images cannot be easily defined by one of few adjectives. But it is this exact feeling of obscurity, conflict, and tension within oneself that I aim at capturing.

I use technology to further augment the images so that the vagueness of the moment captured is enhanced. The reproduction of images or obscuring the photos are my methods of showing the private-ness and silence of the moment the photo was taken. In wanting to capture the tension between the inner private self and the show we put on for others to see, I distort my pictures as if I have wrapped their faces with a plastic wrap, as if I want to hide them from looking in the mirror at the same time, protecting them from the outside influence so that I can create for them a bubble or a vacuum to be inside and to just be.

Life is an accumulation of time we spend alive and breathing. Not all of us run with a goal, not all of us spend every day towards achievement of a certain goal. If there were one universal standard that gave or took away an individual's worth, then so many moments in life are lost, lost in the goal. Perhaps, my personal aversion towards the rat race of the society and observing so much that is lost due to it has led me to pay attention to what is not remembered in the end. In my photos I want to capture the moments in between success or failure, misery and ecstasy, the non decisive moments for most, but still a moment; my moment that no one can judge with their standards; a moment to oneself to step aside from the rat race and to just be.

When one puts down the façade and in absolute privacy, one becomes oneself ; as if an actor is remembered for the scenes in his movie, while he was making the movie I between takes he was himself, not the actor, not the glamour, but just your private self.