

Transparent Follies of Society

In my series Transparent Follies of Society, I explore the shift in gender roles from the 1900's to the present day. I focused mainly on the change in a women's role in society and how women have gone from being strictly man's property to being their own individual. I chose to span the last century because upon researching gender roles, I found that woman didn't really make any advances in society until the last 40-50 years. In the 80's there was a huge push for women to seek education. In the 90's many women were being told to pursue business and finance courses while at college. The current state of society has many women pursuing higher promotions and higher wages. Women are making a change for themselves, and it is only recently that society has started to accept that shift in gender norms. Nowadays, it is not unheard of for a man to be a stay at home dad while the woman is the breadwinner of the family, whereas 50-60 years ago that kind of idea was so repulsive that you would be considered nuts for thinking like that.

In my work I incorporated found images with digital photography to help express the evolution of the gender roles. I used the found images to further elevate my own digital photography. In a few images, I show the same subject repeatedly, doing different activities within the image to explore how a woman has evolved and is able to have many different identities. In other images I used chains to represent the weight of the patriarchal society at the time. I used a black border on all but one of my images, that imitates a 120 film image to represent the old ideals of women that have been used by society to constrain women up to this day. The last image doesn't have a border because this image represents the future, hopefully a future without constraints holding women back from their full potential.

Erin Briggs