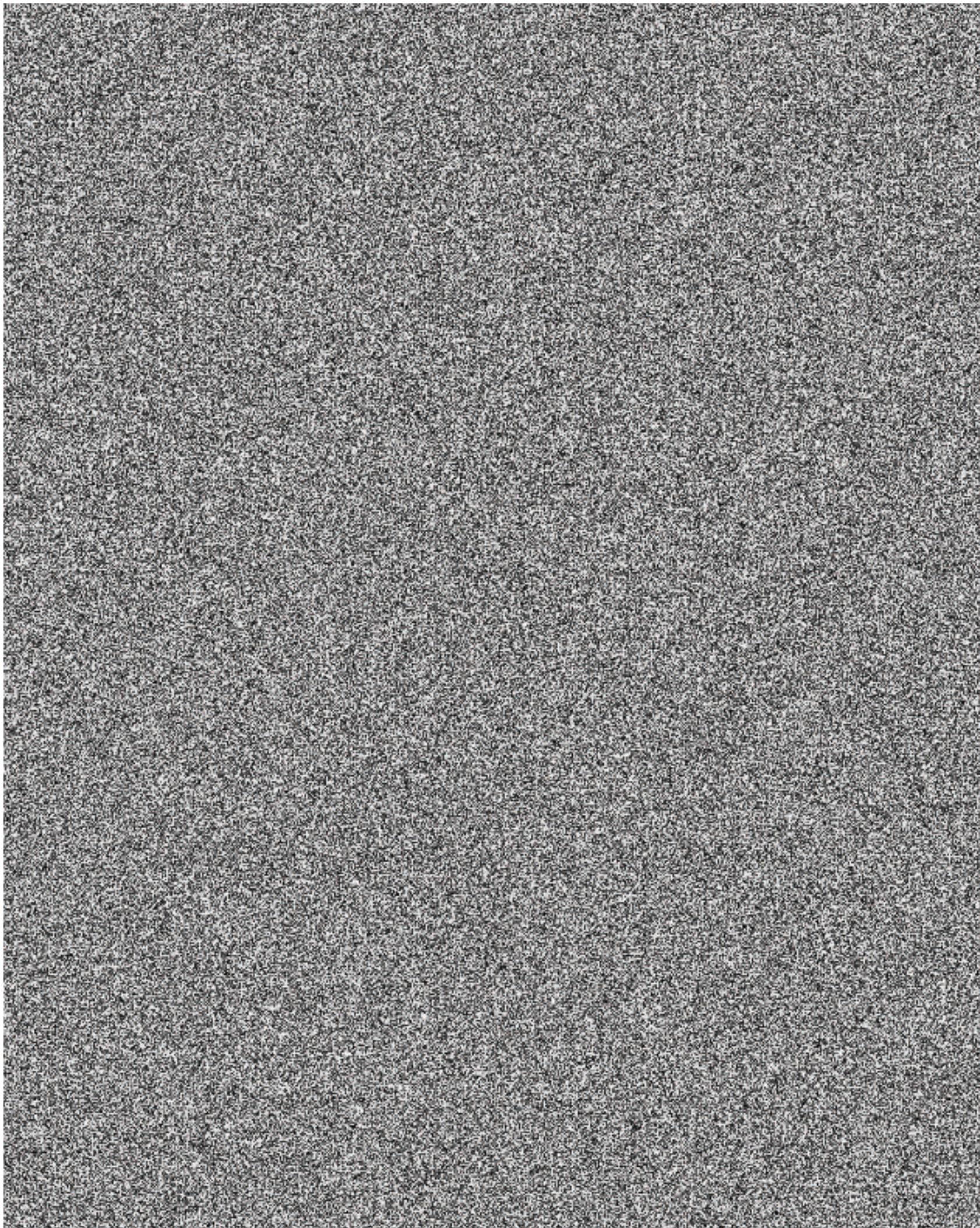


# **Universal**

**Bonilla  
Borowiak  
Brover  
Jonas  
Leonard**

# **Uncertainty**





***Deysy***

***Jack***

***Chloe***

***Isaac***

***Catie***

**Corcoran School of the Arts & Design  
The George Washington University  
Washington, D.C.**



**NEXT 2020 - Thesis Work**

BFA in Photojournalism

BFA in Fine Art Photography



# Introduction

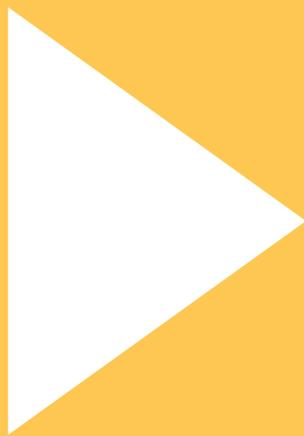
Graduating from college is always a daunting prospect; a pivotal moment that brings to the surface feelings of anxiety and uncertainty in the best of times. For the class of 2020, this experience is exacerbated as the COVID-19 pandemic reshapes our global economy, our communities, and our daily interactions.

Over the past year, I have watched this small band of students bravely face personal, professional, and creative challenges. They have all evolved as storytellers, as artists, and as human beings. I am fortunate to be able to play a small role in their journeys, and looking forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the years to come.

As their long-awaited thesis show has been postponed, these students have opted to present their work collectively in this publication, and to put it in the hands of people with whom they hope to build professional relationships. The small selection of images contained within is only a glimpse of their larger projects. And so, without further ado, please let me introduce you to the work of the class of 2020.

## **Matt Eich**

Assistant Professor of Photojournalism  
Corcoran School of the Arts & Design  
The George Washington University



**DEYSY BONILLA**

## ***Siwayul: Heart of A Womxn***

Transgender womxn of color have conquered many battles for equality and representation, but the struggle is far from over. My work as a visual storyteller advocates for social justice, empathy, awareness, and peace for communities of color who deserve recognition for their perseverance.

In poetic collaboration with Petrona Xemiyulu Manibusan Tapepechul, a two-spirit transgender womxn, I delve into her dynamic roles from performer to playwright to poet to lover as she inspires hope and authenticity within the trans womxn of color arts community in the DMV area. To capture the juxtaposition of her public persona alongside her private essence, I seek subtle ways to intertwine our dialogue through my intimate portraiture and her writing. This collaboration is to elevate her established platform and encapsulate the force she brings to society.





















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**JACK BOROWIAK**

## ***Walk By Faith***

Tyree Brown, 25, is an artist recovering from a car injury, which left her quadriplegic, in 2015. Her recovery manifests both in the physical and spiritual realm. She has always been spiritual from a young age, yet in recent years, her faith has grown increasingly important.

Family is a significant part of Tyree's life. She shares a close bond with Deree, her mother and full-time caretaker, who cooks her meals and drives her to physical therapy. The remarkable relationship between them radiates whenever I'm in their presence.

Tyree is ambitious, driven, and caring. She wants to share her story with a wide audience, so people understand that life with a disability is still abundant in love, joy, and creative fulfillment.

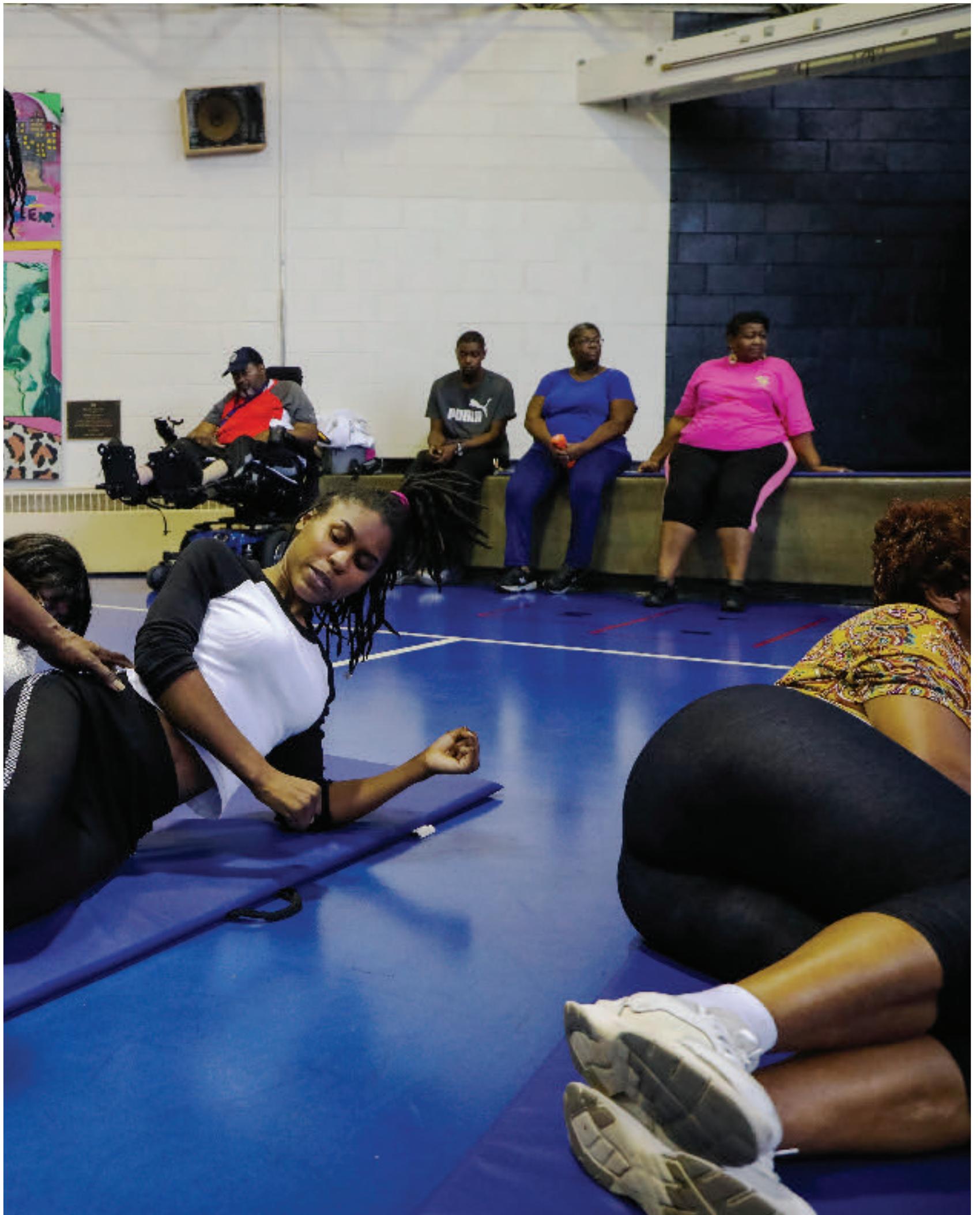
Despite challenging circumstances, Tyree's life demonstrates that one can find hope through family, God, or another source of inspiration. Through my time with Tyree, I've learned that doing what you love, in her case, making art, is possible if you remain positive and persistent.



















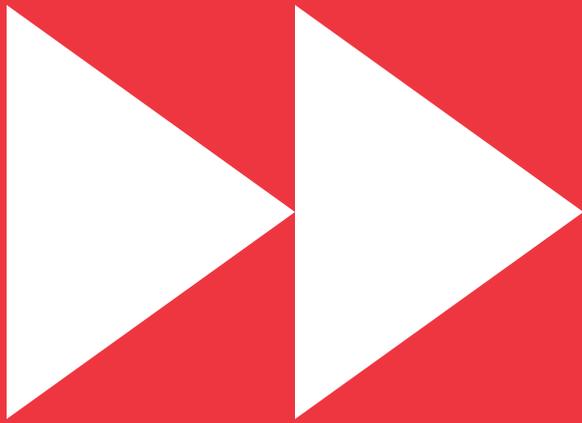






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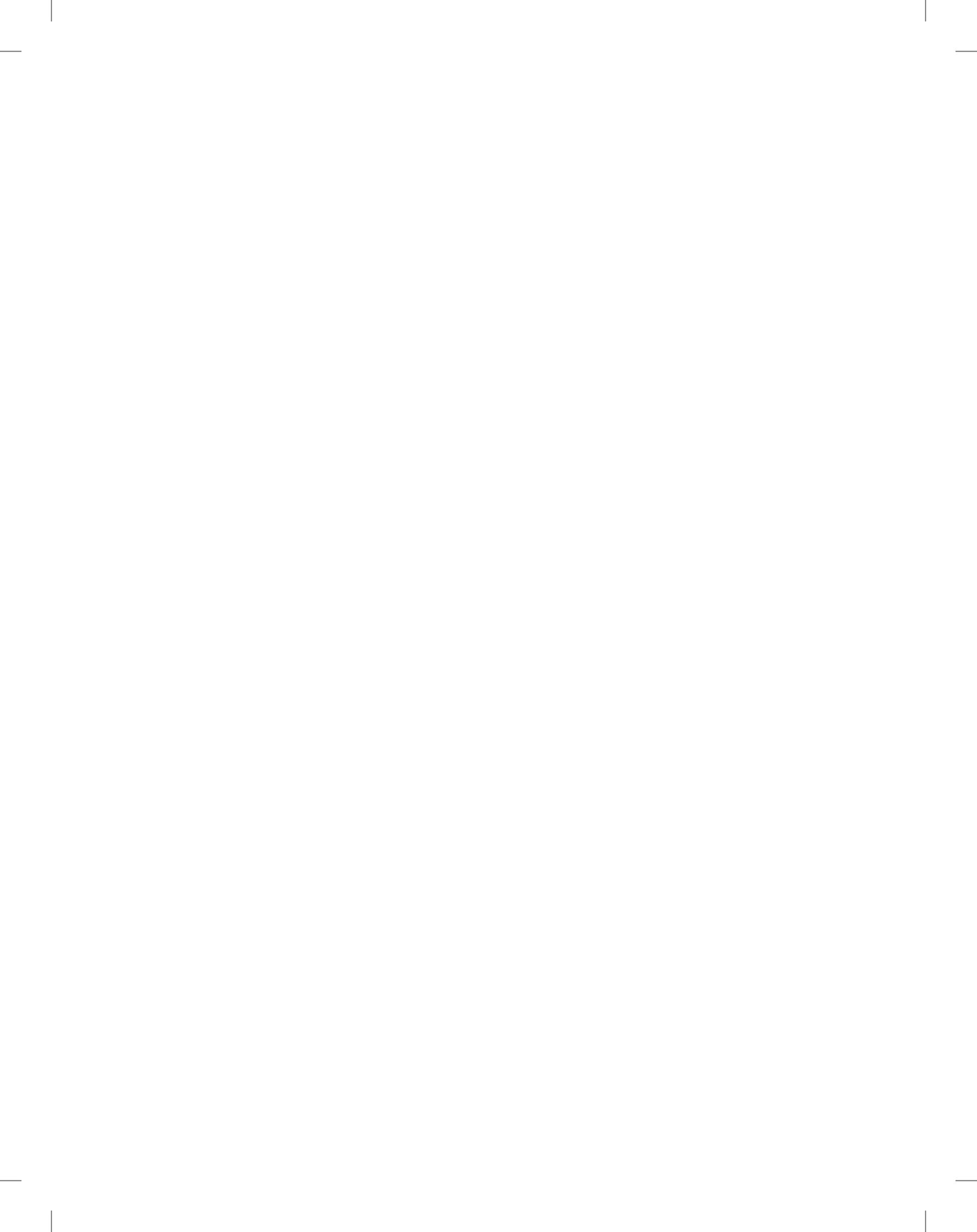
**CHLOE BROVER**

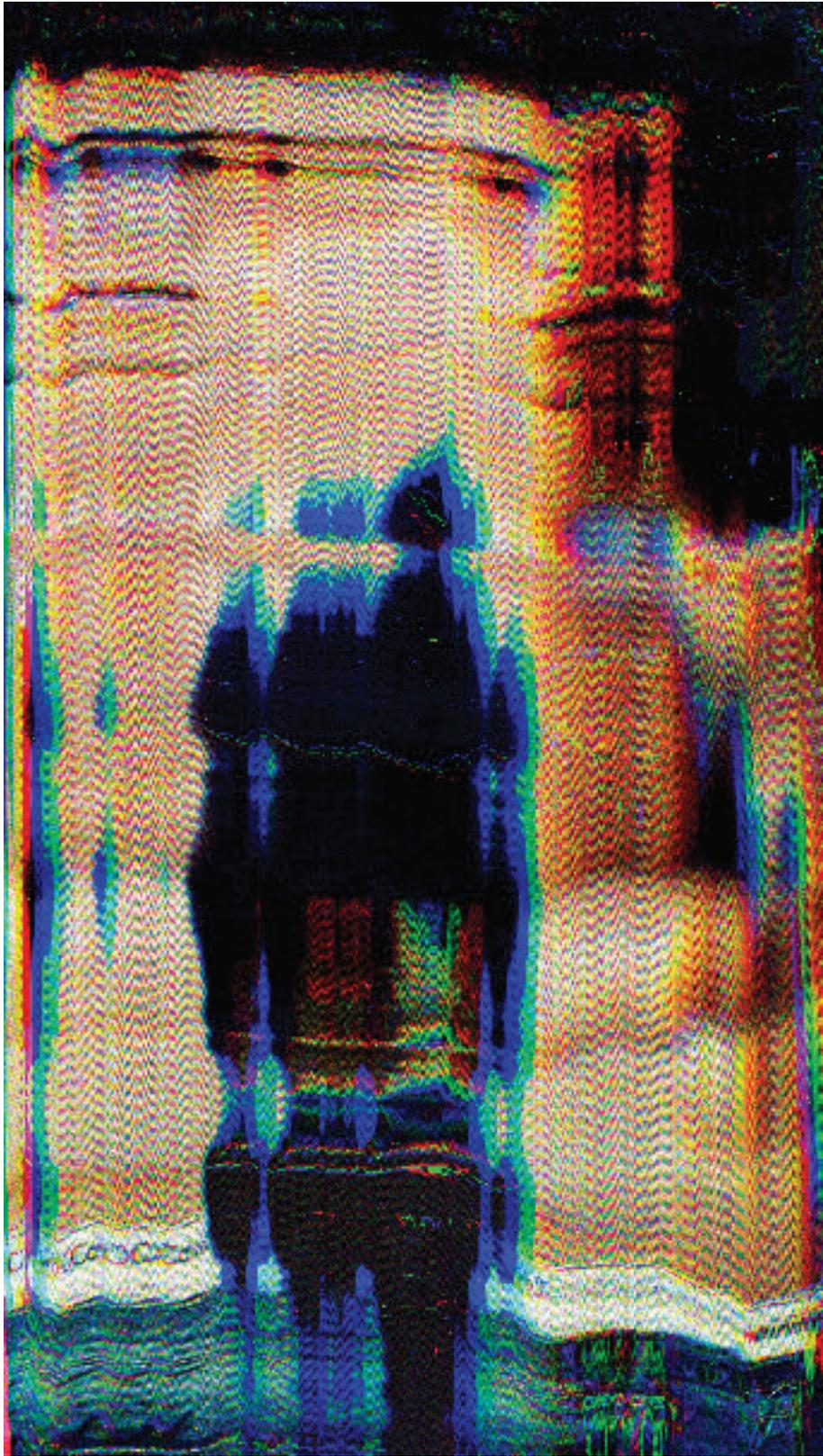
## ***Reflections From a Trick Mirror***

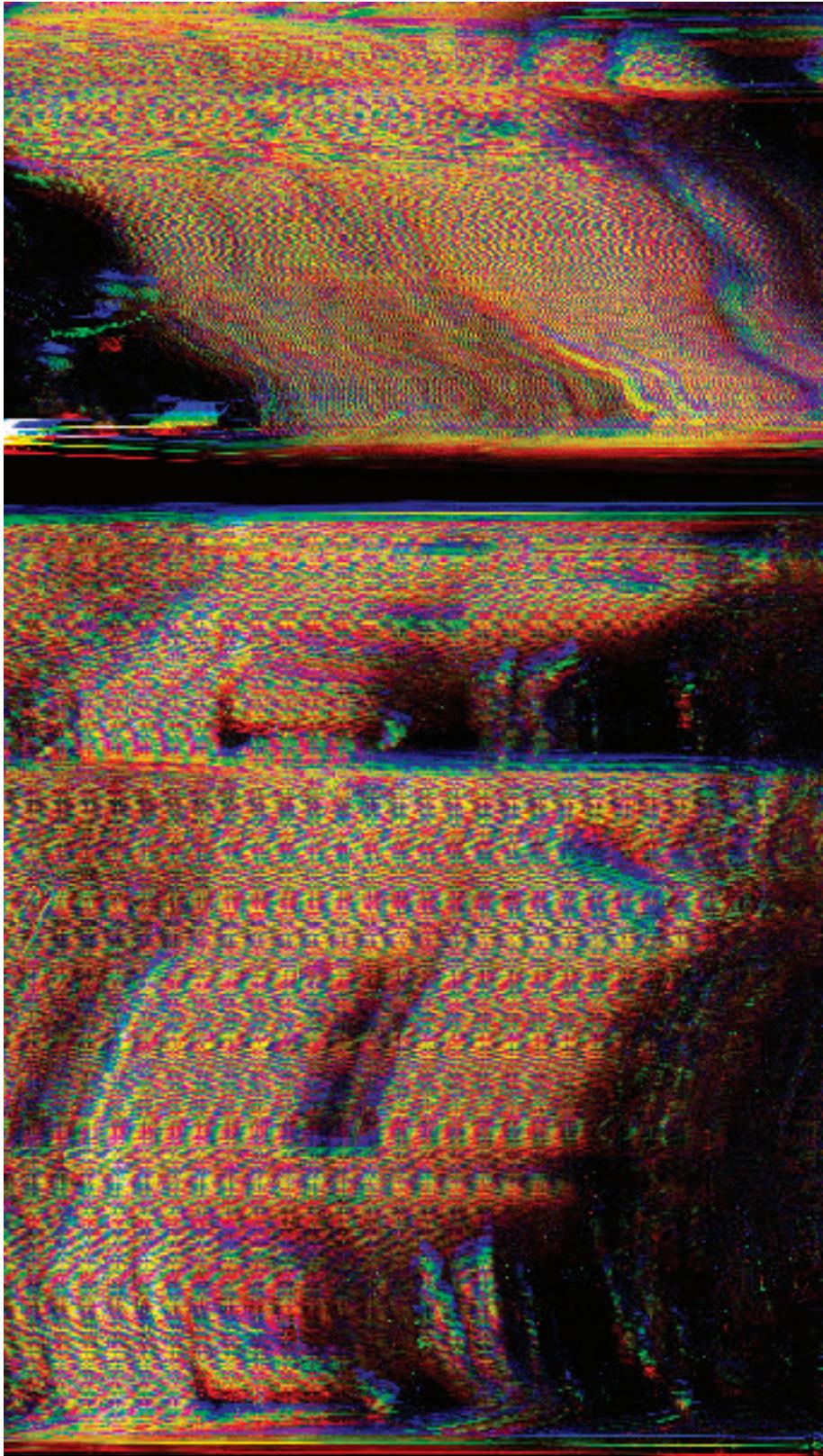
Social media acts as a misleading portrait—one where we choose what to show, but more importantly, what to exclude. The pieces of ourselves that we cut and paste onto our profiles are always the most marketable parts of us. How easily we forget this when we are staring blankly into our phones wishing we had someone else's life or body. Everyone is lying. Through the curation of our online presence, we become performative entities, completely dissociating from the core of who we are. Mindfully or not, we are constantly comparing our lives and experiences to others when scrolling through Instagram. Through this subconscious resentment, our outlook of the world is twisted, along with the understanding of our worth. Social media is hypnotic; it consumes us as we consume content.

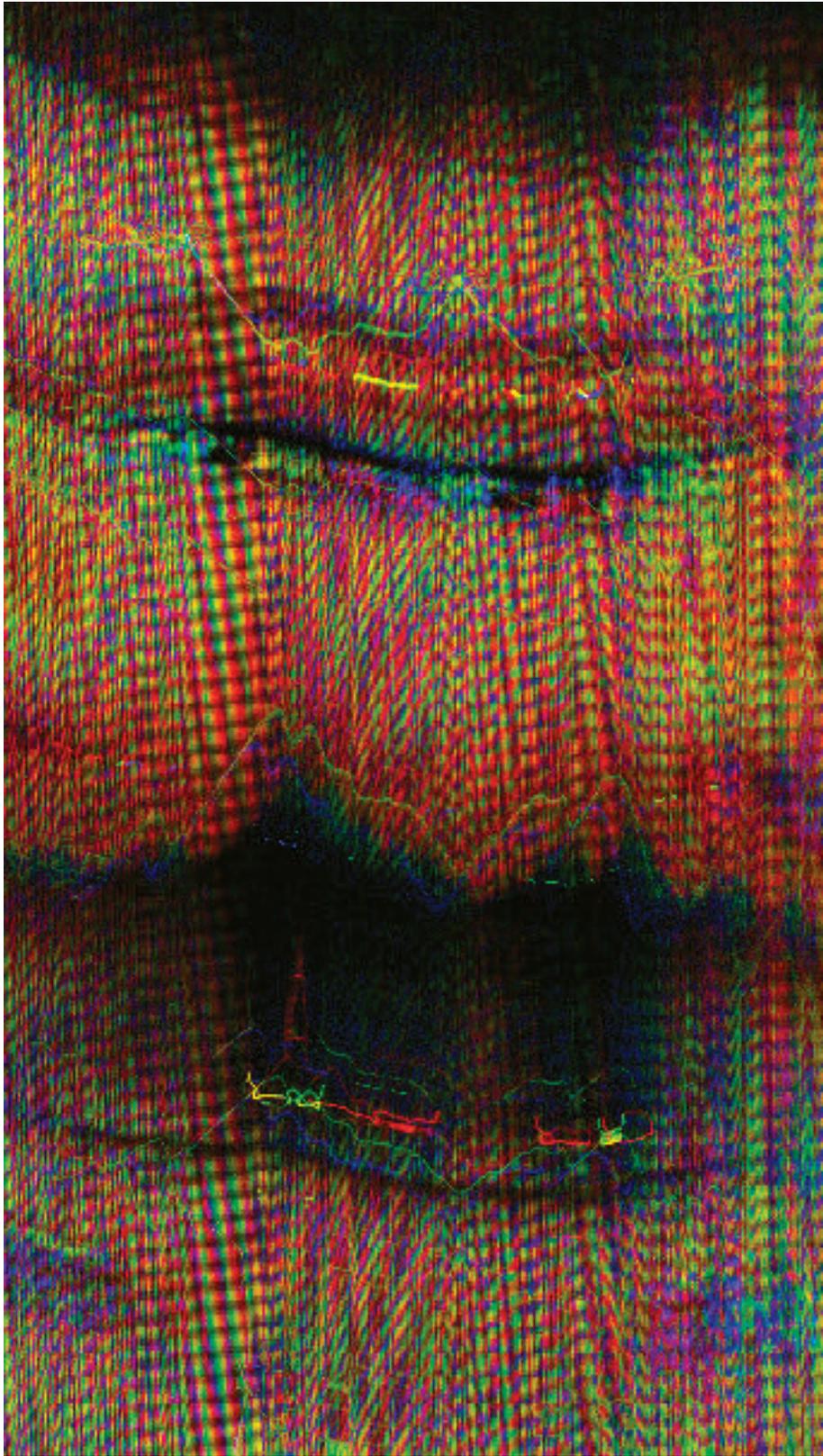
This series addresses the distorted sense of self that social media produces by appropriating and altering imagery from celebrities' and influencers' Instagrams. The images are warped by dragging my phone on a scanner, following the light as if scrolling in slow motion. This creates a glitch effect, warping the subjects' faces and pixelating their existence. The manipulation of these images mirrors the way social media skews our perception of reality while we lose ourselves in its algorithm.



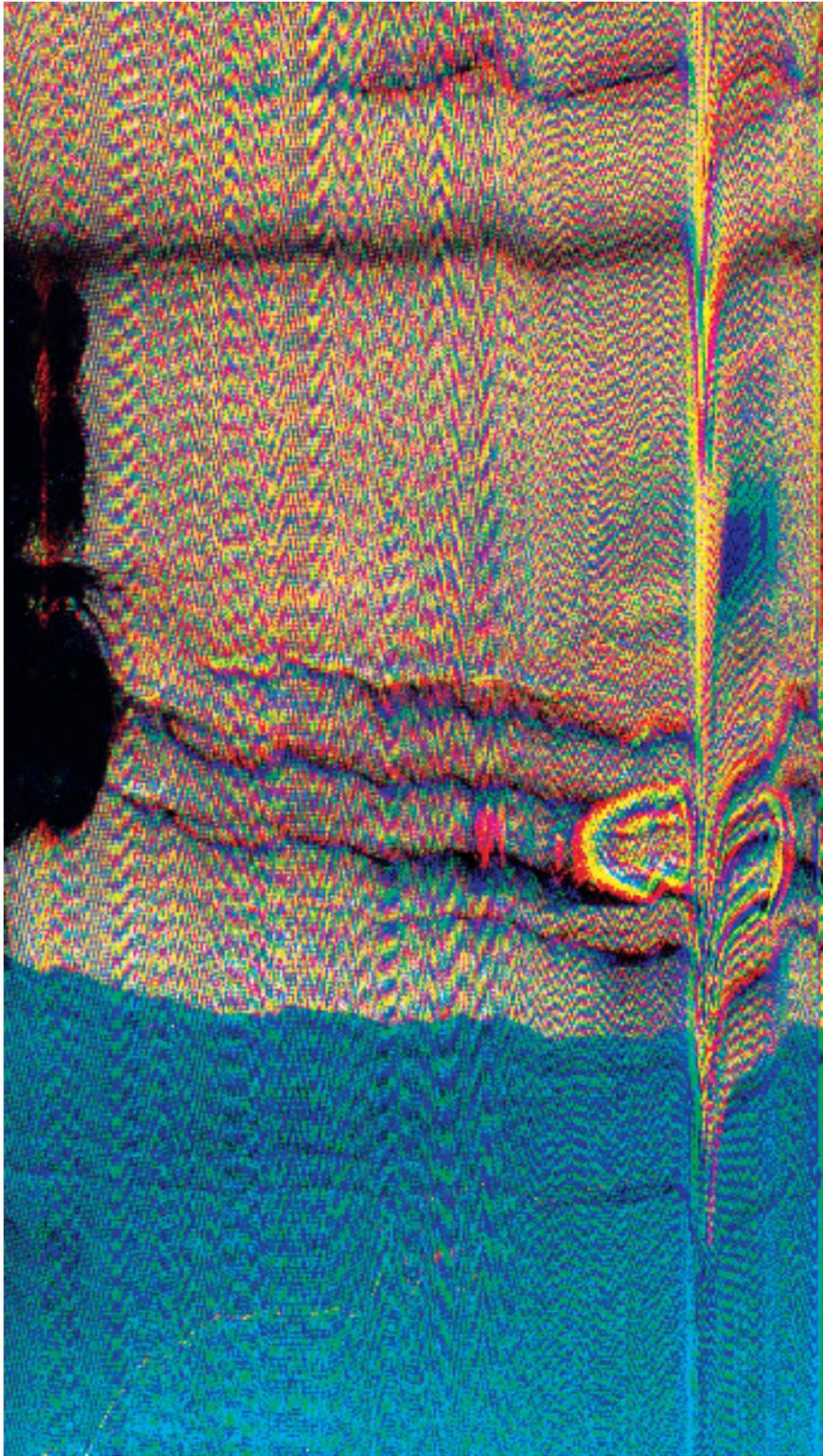


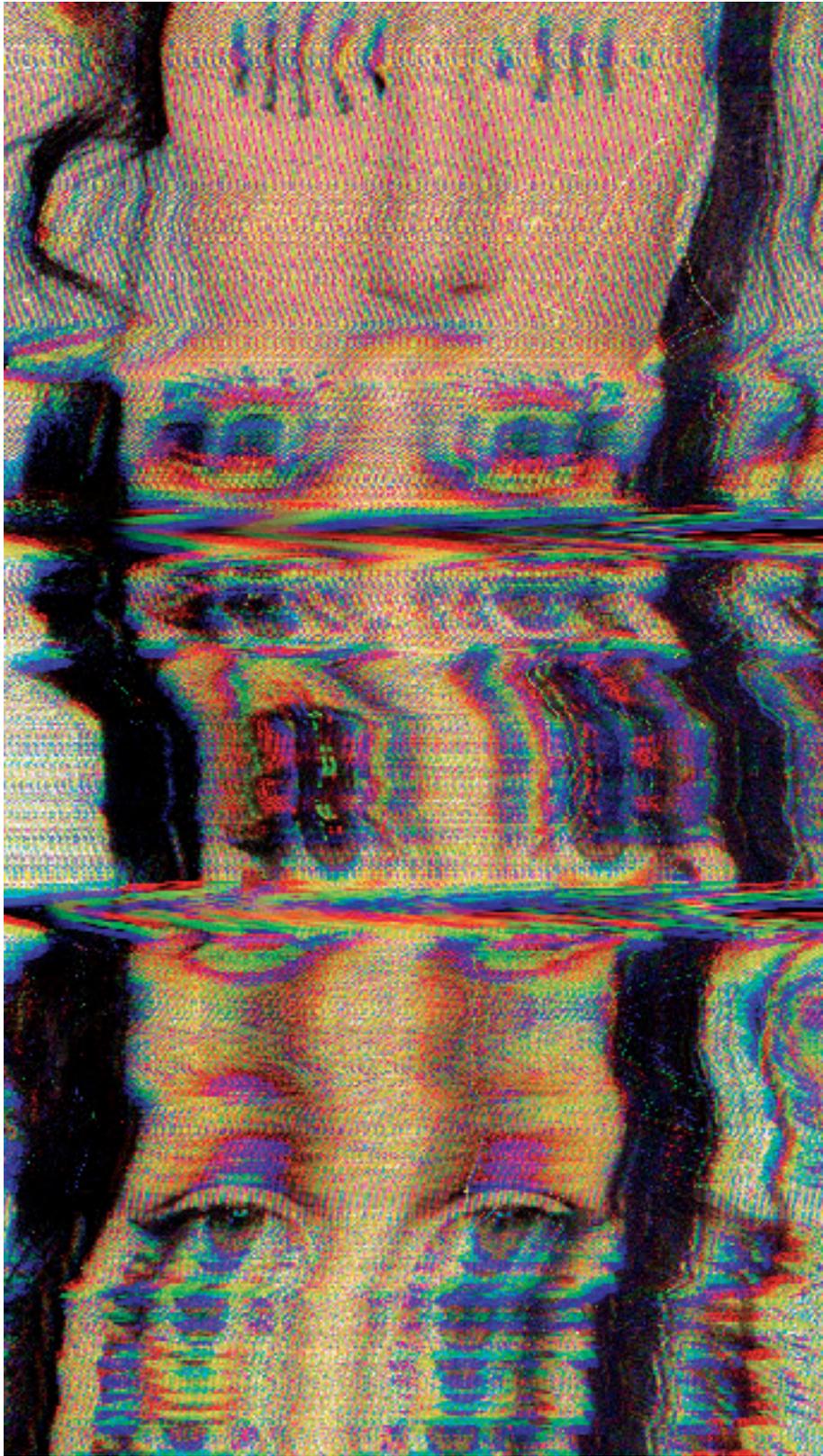












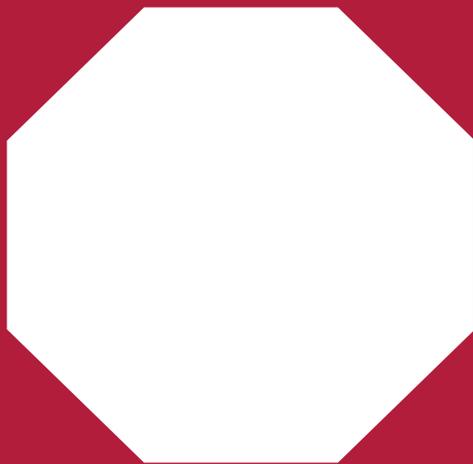








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**ISAAC JONAS**

## ***No Miraculous Ram***

This work explores my interpersonal relationships within American culture. While creating this work, I've come to recognize the fragility of relationships around me—things can fall apart in a split second. Doubt and insecurity can wreak havoc in a relationship, no matter how strong it is perceived to be.

This work also acted as a way for me to better appreciate my own role in my relationships, and realize how quickly those roles can be uprooted or changed. While my work is rarely so personal, this served as therapy and a way for me to deeply understand my surroundings.









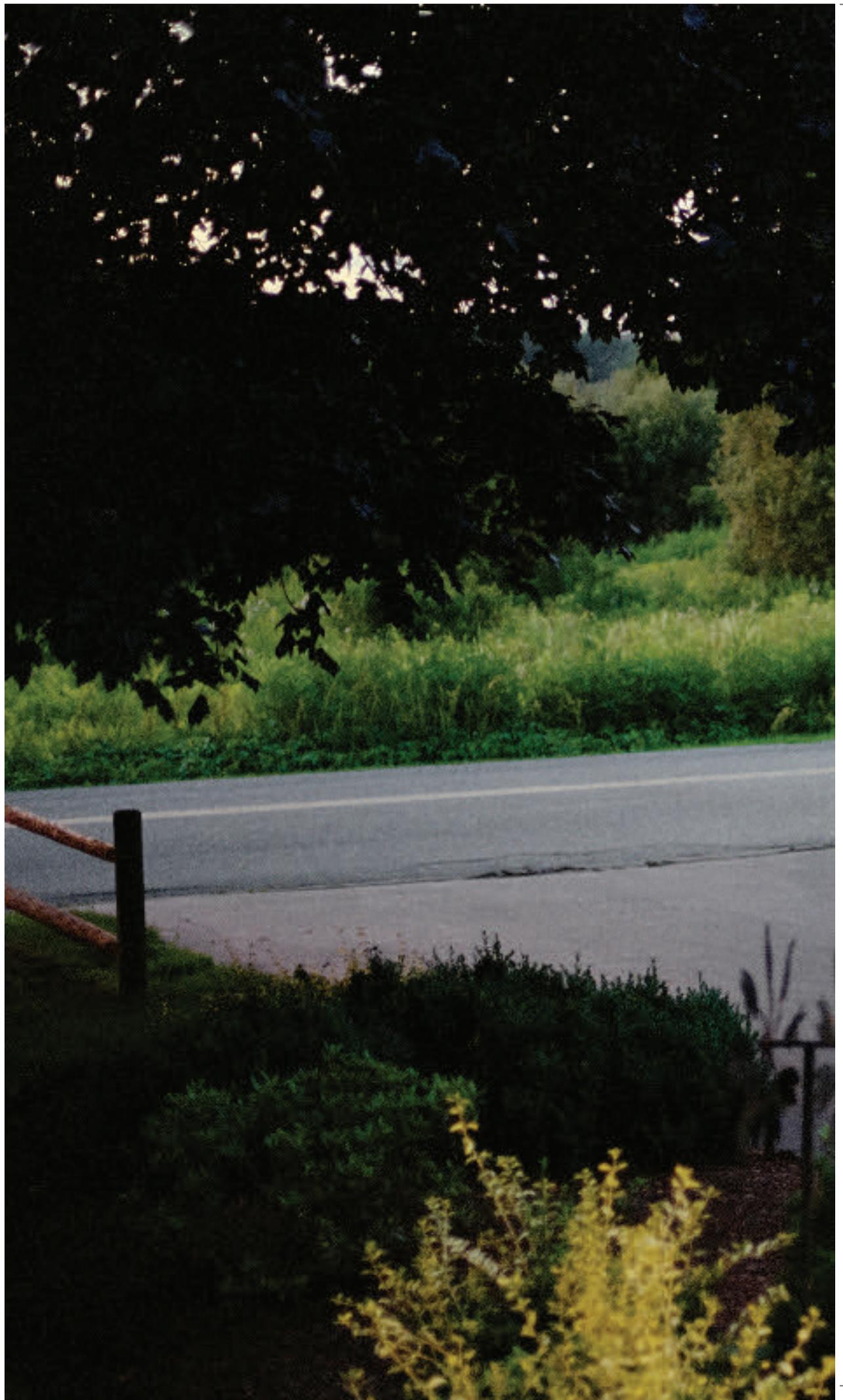








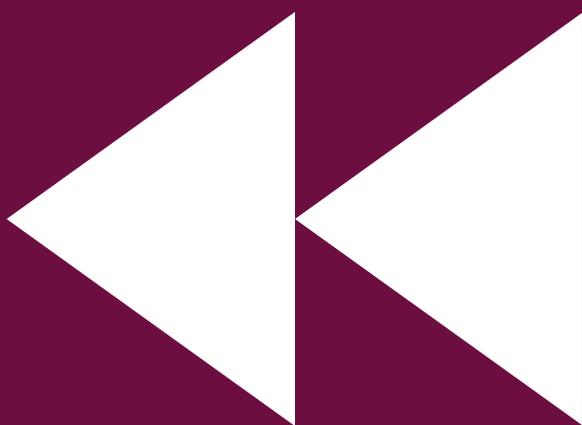








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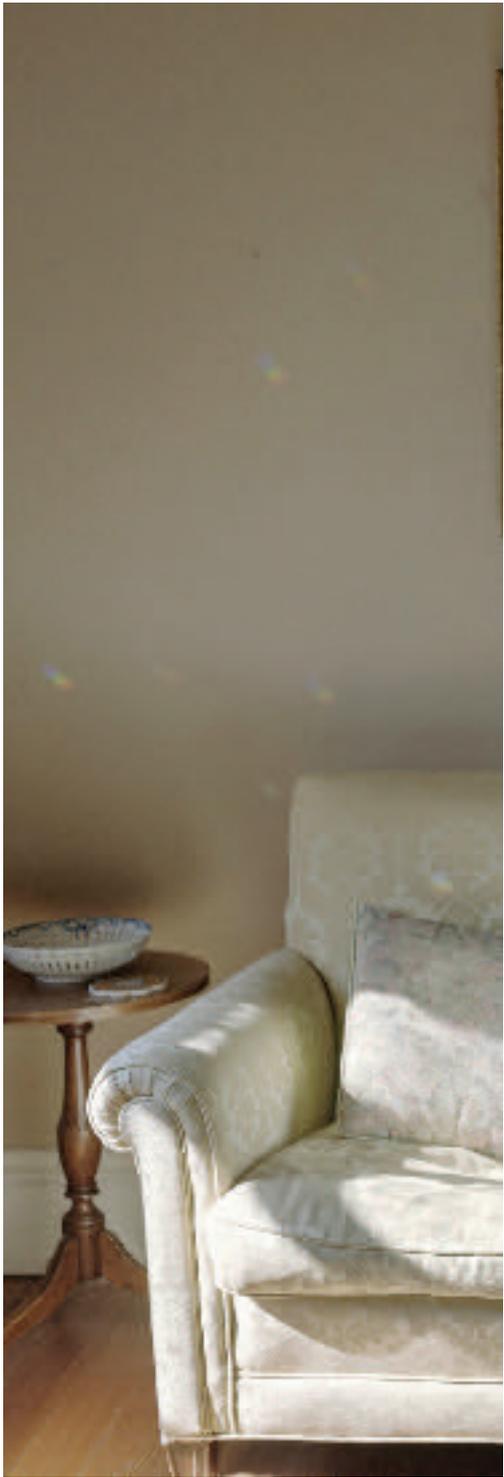
**CATIE LEONARD**

## ***The Way By Which I Came***

In 2011, a series of events greatly affected my family. In addition to my mother's unemployment at the beginning of the year and my father's job loss in April, my grandmother passed away in June. My grandmother lived with my parents and two brothers since I was the age of four. She held together our rituals and solidarity. I yearn for the moments when we would sit together to share a meal, feeling content existing in the same room with each other. While there is no solid definition of what a family is or should be, I am left longing for what was.

Her death led to our gradual physical and emotional distance from one another in our home. What she left behind has now become an archive that I use for research. Like me, she was an artist, experimenting in many mediums. Upon searching through her archives, I came across a series of poems, labeled in roman numerals, tucked away in a slowly deteriorating sketchbook. Utilizing my grandmother's narrative poetry, in context with my images, I combine my grandmother's past and my family's present to understand how our losses caused a degenerative shift in our family dynamics. In my series, I attempt to harness photography as a tool to bring my family closer together.













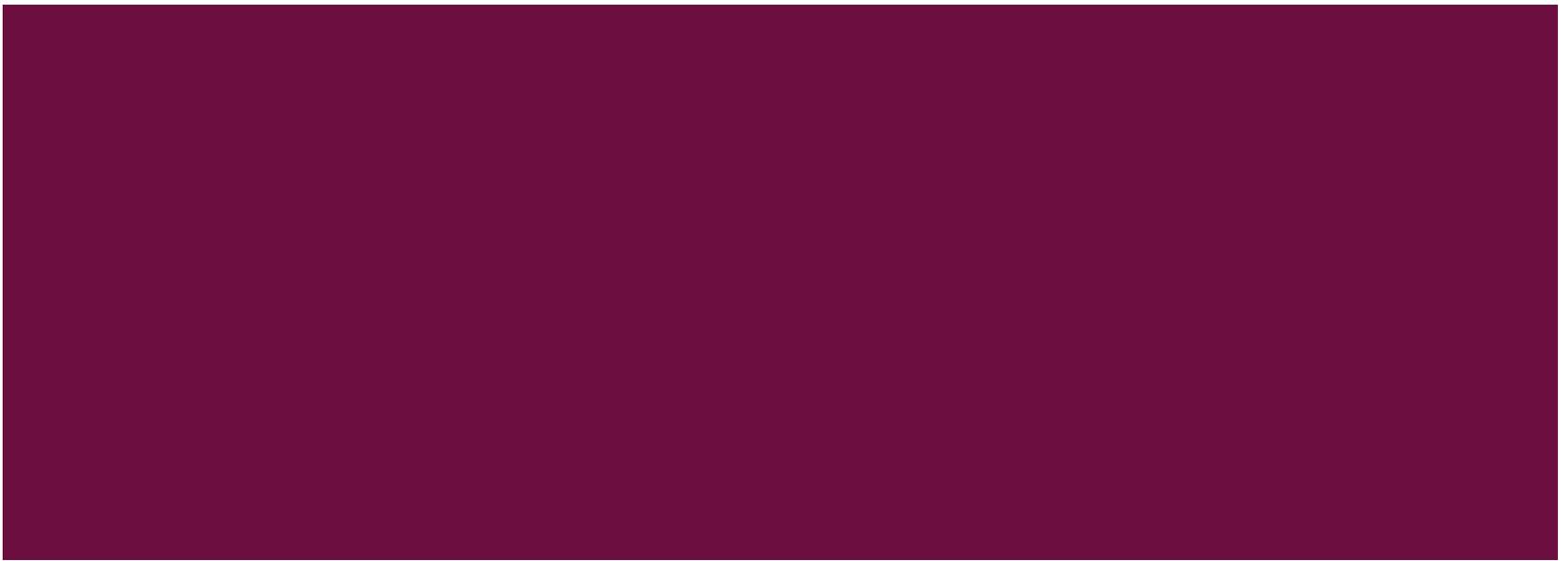












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# Deysy Bonilla

BFA Photojournalism

Deysy is a visual storyteller based in Houston, Texas, with a BFA in Photojournalism from the Corcoran School of Arts & Design at The George Washington University. Her stories advocate for empathy of immigrant communities as they navigate their realities of prejudice and injustice in the United States. Through her poetic imagery, she seeks deeper insight and meaning behind the lives of her subjects to emphasize their strength and authenticity while stimulating a healing aspect in hopes of shifting and progressing our society for the betterment of every individual.

In her free time, she meticulously composes Spotify playlists for every mood, while exploring her own healing and spirituality through nature, meditation and collecting crystals.



# Jack Borowiak

BFA Photojournalism

Jack grew up in Buffalo, NY on Lake Erie. Living in Washington, DC, he loves shooting everything from politicians, sports, and protests to longer form daily life stories. The hustle of the city makes for countless opportunities and Jack is always out with a camera. Aside from documenting the people in Washington, he has a genuine love of wildlife in Africa. The past two summers led him to South Africa for an internship in wildlife photojournalism. Jack believes that the threats the animals face are closely tied to the surrounding communities. In his free time, Jack loves flying drones as well as enjoying any water sports on Lake Erie.



# Chloe Brover

BFA Fine Art Photography

Chloe Brover is a lens-based artist who splits her time between Washington, D.C. and New Jersey. She graduated from the Corcoran School of Arts and Design at The George Washington University in May 2020 with a BFA in Fine Art Photography. Her work explores the complexity of memory as well as how imagery in the media affects social conscience. Through the use of alternative processes, both analog and digital, she delves into what it means to be truly present in a digital age.



# Isaac Jonas

BFA Photojournalism

Isaac is a photographer and photo editor based in Washington, D.C. Isaac has a B.F.A in Photojournalism from the Corcoran School of Arts & Design at The George Washington University.

Isaac uses visual journalism to deliver important stories in innovative ways, with a focus on social issues. Isaac combines his traditional fine art background with a journalistic sensibility to deliver media that is strong and impactful.

In his free time, Isaac enjoys eating tacos and listening to his record collection.



# Catie Leonard

BFA Fine Art Photography

Catie Leonard is a photographer and artist from Silver Spring, Maryland. Her work over the past four years has been an intimate and personal approach to her familial dynamics, investigating how relationships within family structures can change overtime. Using film, a slower and traditional photographic process, she is able to obtain a closer bond between herself and her subjects.

# Special Thank You to Matt Eich

Matt has been an incredible teacher, mentor, and friend. The projects in this publication took an incredible amount of perseverance, and without Matt's guidance and patience, we would not have accomplished half of what we did. We're so grateful for all the time Matt's invested so far in our careers and our livelihoods.

From class visitors, to welcoming us into his home, Matt has gone above and beyond to ensure our success and self-actualization as both photographers and people. He has worked hard to help build a sense of community both within our class and at the Corcoran that we know we will continue to foster long after we graduate.

We're incredibly grateful for everything Matt has done for us and will carry what he's taught us throughout our careers.

- Chloe, Catie, Deetsy, Isaac & Jack



# Credits

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Universal Uncertainty

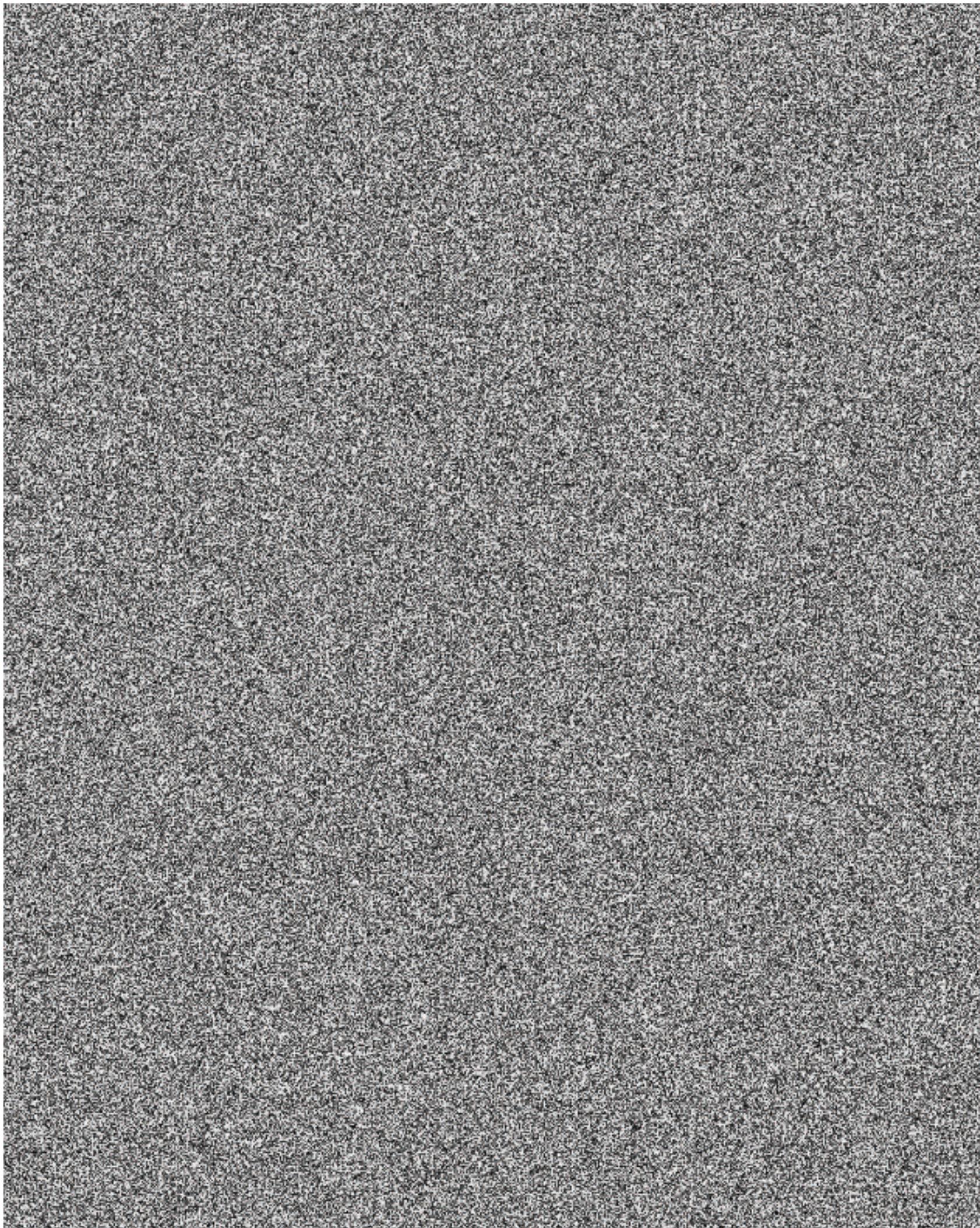
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