

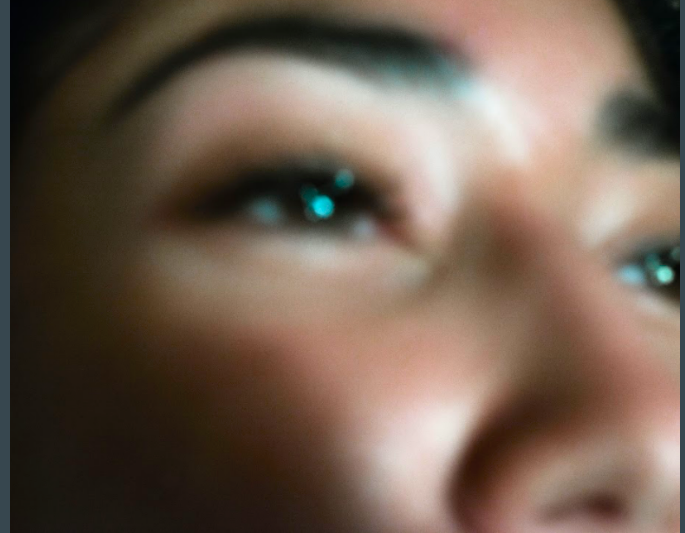
Artist: Andrea Carvajal

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Interview by: Rachel O'Hare

What is an Andrea? Where and when was it created?

Along with 358,649 other babies, Andrea was born on Monday October 13th, 1997 in Bogota, Colombia.



She is described as, “Andrea”, a “Freak of Nature”, and a “Force to be Reckoned With”. But when asked initially, Andrea does not know who or what she is.

Photography related goals perhaps?

OH Andrea has *GOALS* for her photography:

Goals of getting her work in a gallery!

A book of her own published!



“In a more external and less internal way of looking at this”, she wants to help represent minority groups, and create other narrative than the ones seen now. One day Andrea would like to connect with other Latinos and be apart of the effort to, “share the individual and different voices that make us up.” (AC)

Who Inspires *the* Andrea Carvajal?

A great number of inspirations: Molly Lamb, Gregory Crewdson, Kathya Landeros (absolute angel), Tom Griggs, Alessandra Sanguinetti, David Hilliard and others!

She is also inspired by her friends and colleagues!

(RO: That's us)

As for other non-photo inspirations?

Music and Lyrics (RO: Big Big)

Writing

Books



How is her work read that she wishes it wasn't?

Well let me tell you from her words:



“I like that people react and interact with the use of light in my photographs, but it is sometimes annoying that they sometimes get stuck in just seeing it as an exploration of light. I am using light as a tool to convey or further move a work to my meaning; it’s just one of the tools, part of the picture, not the whole things, especially placed alongside other pictures. That’s the first thing that comes to mind. Sometimes I blank out during crits or reviews.” (AC)







How and Why did Andrea start Photography?

In her sophomore year of high school and Alum from NHIP showed his work to her class. He showed images of ballerinas mid-air and instantly knew this is what she wanted.

“Well, he showed photos that he had taken of these ballerinas; and I instantly had this gut feeling that that’s what I wanted to do, photograph. I think it was the fact that he was able to capture these ballerinas mid air and maintain beautiful poses in this beautiful dramatic lighting that I “was like: yeah, I like ballet and ballerinas and dance, I could totally take in action photos, Andrea expressed.

She borrowed her brother's camera and taught herself how to use it. She also looked up a number of famous artists like Diane Arbus, Steve McCurry, and Annie Leibowitz. She used their work as inspiration to practice her own voice, she explained to me: "I liked how art and photography could be moving and show the stories of those who aren't able to tell theirs. I wanted to show the people around me the world as I saw it and how they affected it and affected others in it."

How does she compare her work now from the past?

Although in her view camera class she saw her work more cinematic, more fantastical, whimsical, and perhaps a little darker Andrea finds her work has improved significantly..



Her work now feels less generic and more personal and intimate to view.







Could she compare her work now to the future?

“Since the future is the future, I don’t know how I’ll look at my work now then. All I know is that I’ll look at it fondly because I do think this is really good work. I enjoy it.” (AC)

(RO) We do as well, Andrea

Who is/was Andrea's biggest supporters?

She spoke of Mr Lane, her high school creative writing and Independent Project teacher. He was the first person she told about her admission to MassArt. He was very supportive and encouraging towards her practice.

She also spoke of her cousin Meliana, who Andrea would practice photographing at a younger age. Now Meliana is a huge supporter and stands up for her craft. She goes on to say: "I had actually started to seriously take photos because of her. At the time she was pretty young but still could be wise beyond her years; I wanted to show the world she occupied and how the people around her affected it, making them see."

In the beginning her parents weren't the most supportive of art but they supported her, nonetheless, seeing as how determined she was to progress. They now see how important photography is to Andrea and praise it. Her brother and Genesis also always had her back even with the amount of pictures she took of them.

How would Andrea read her work not as Andrea?

She pondered:

Maybe sad?

Warm at other times.

Curious?

Maybe take in account her and her family are brown, but again maybe not.



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What other senses would she pair with her images?

She has a few ideas on what she could add with her body of work. Some moving imagery and video.

Sound, perhaps ambient sound from her domestic space as well as voices from her loved ones.

Maybe even touch, having some objects within her installation.





What current or past artist would she share her work with?

Like the nerd she is (her words) perhaps the writer and creator of *Hamilton* and *In The Heights*, Lin Manuel Miranda.

Other than The Great Lin, Andrea would also like to share her work with David Hilliard. What a sweet man he is.

Strengths? Weaknesses?

Strengths: Use of natural lighting, the use of abstract, sometimes portraiture, her observational photos, long exposures, and patience.



Weaknesses: She doesn't use flash or studio lighting. She thinks less about B&W now that she hasn't been working with it as much. Sometimes the communication that goes along with taking portraiture is difficult.

What is her ideal perfect picture?

Obvi great natural lighting, what else would we expect from Andrea??

“The one picture I have where you can see my bedroom window in the mirror on the wall is close to what my perfect picture is, but it needs the feeling or aspect from one of my good portraits and the feeling or aspect from the hand underneath the door picture.” (AC)

Thinking of the question she also thought of a mix of Alessandra Sanguinetti's and Kathya's work, but with the Andrea touch and her family.



Five words to describe her own work...

Connection

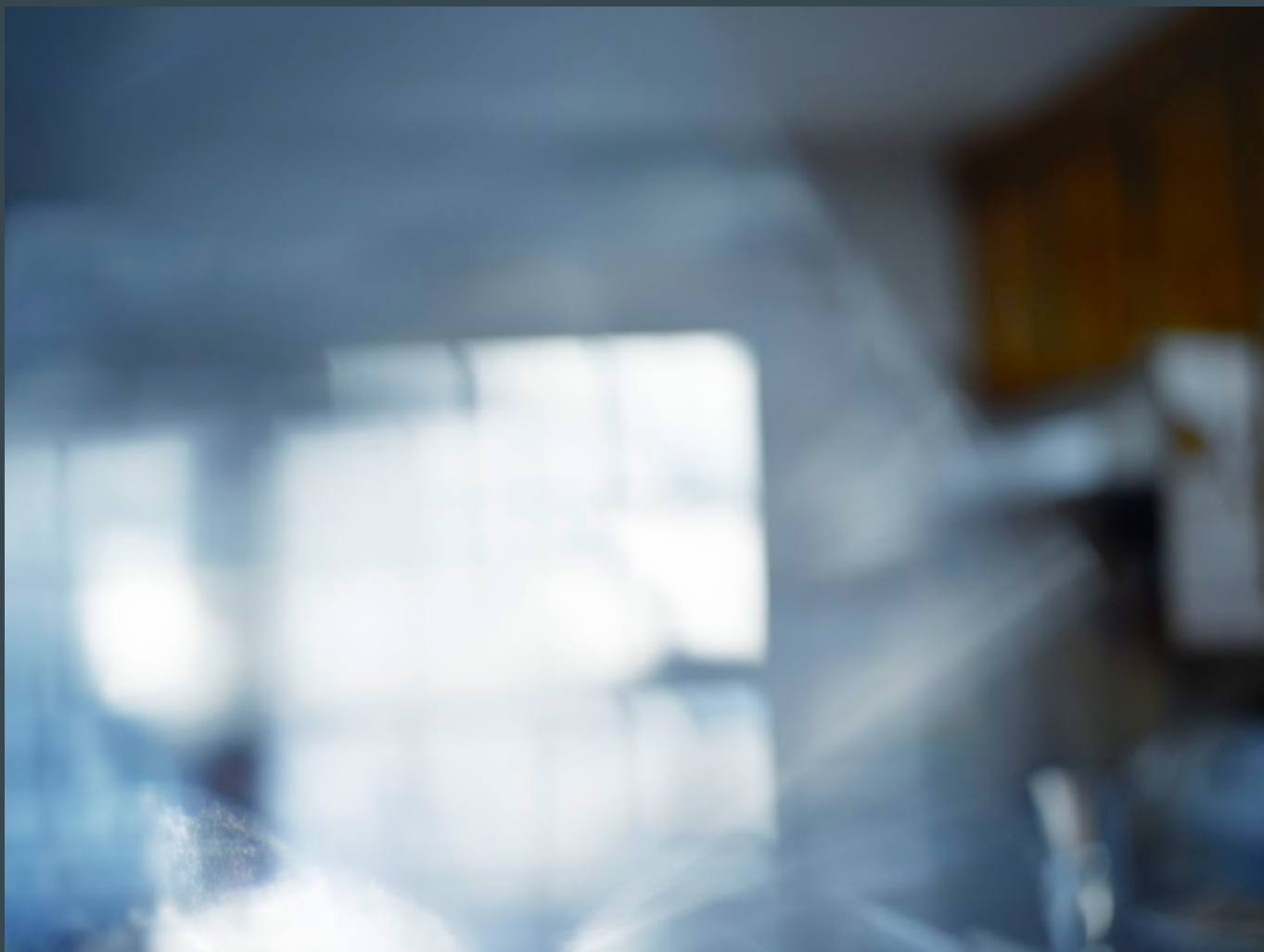
Family

Autobiographical

Curiosity

Melancholic







In Conclusion:

Andrea? A great small bean

Her work? Beautiful. Powerful. Soft. Meaningful.

Her future? As bright as the abstracted light in her work.

Final rating? 13/10, highly recommend getting to know her more.

See more of her work on Instagram @and_carva