

*Call and Response interview:
Andrea Carvajal
with Rachel O'Hare*

AC: Rachel? Racquel? Racket?
Rash? Russell? Gus? Denise?

RO: All of the names.

AC: Where are you from?

RO: Created in Somerville.

AC: When is your birthday?

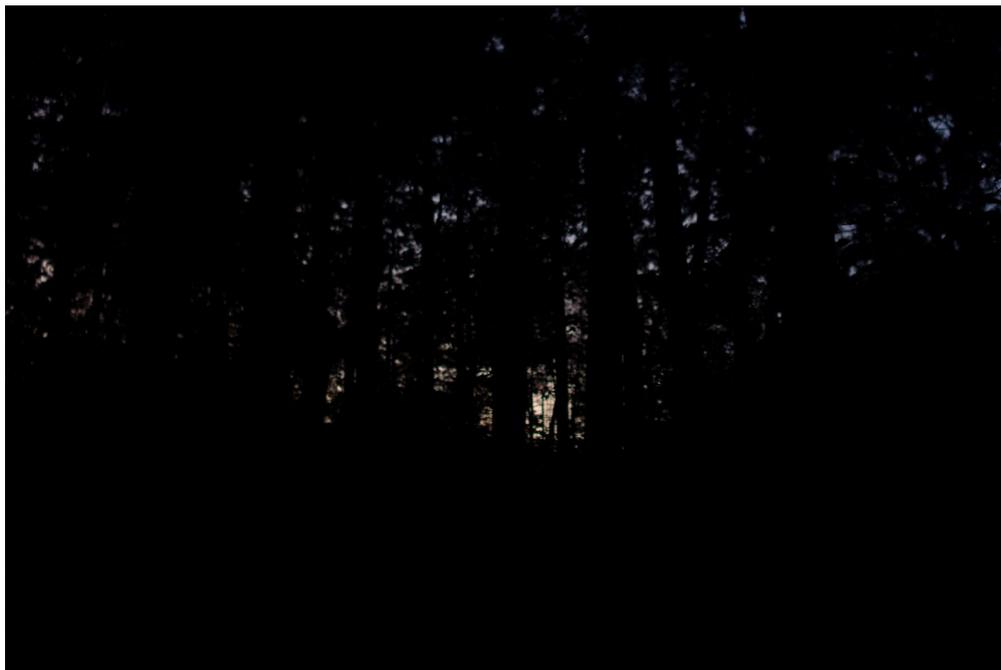
RO: No birthday.

AC: Education?

RO: Grew up in the Tewksbury school system, graduated from TMHS, and am attempting to graduate from MassArt.

AC: What were your first thoughts about your work and its concepts? What about now?

RO: At first, I didn't actually have any thought or concept. I was just trying to figure out how I was going to do this project. Now as I add more and more of a psychological touch, I can see how people respond to the color and subjects.



AC: How does color play a role in your work? Why is it important?

RO: Color plays with people's emotions and thought process. If I show an image with a light purple sky, people generally feel more relaxed. I could take the same picture but have a more smokey yellow tone sky and people react almost uneasily to it. I want people to see the image and feel curiosity about what they're viewing.



AC: Were your first ever images like this?

RO: First images ever: no. First images for this body of work: also no.

AC: How different/similar are your newest photos to your older photos?

RO: The older ones have more colors and are abstract to a degree. The newer images are more muted.

AC: Are there specific reasons why you pick the places you do?

RO: One location I go to because I love the water and how many different trails I can go on to find new things. The other is a historically haunted location in my town that I'm drawn to because of its story.

AC: Why is nature important to you and your work?

RO: I find peace within nature and I like to represent it in ways that some may never think to see it.



AC: Is it important that the viewers get a specific narrative or idea from your work?

RO: No, like I said I want them to feel curious and let them flow through the work in a way that they react to it.

AC: Are there questions about your work people ask that you feel are irrelevant or not close to what it is you're trying to say?

RO: I don't want it to feel like a horror/thriller movie, and many people tend to compare my images to that.

AC: How/Why are video and sound important to your work?

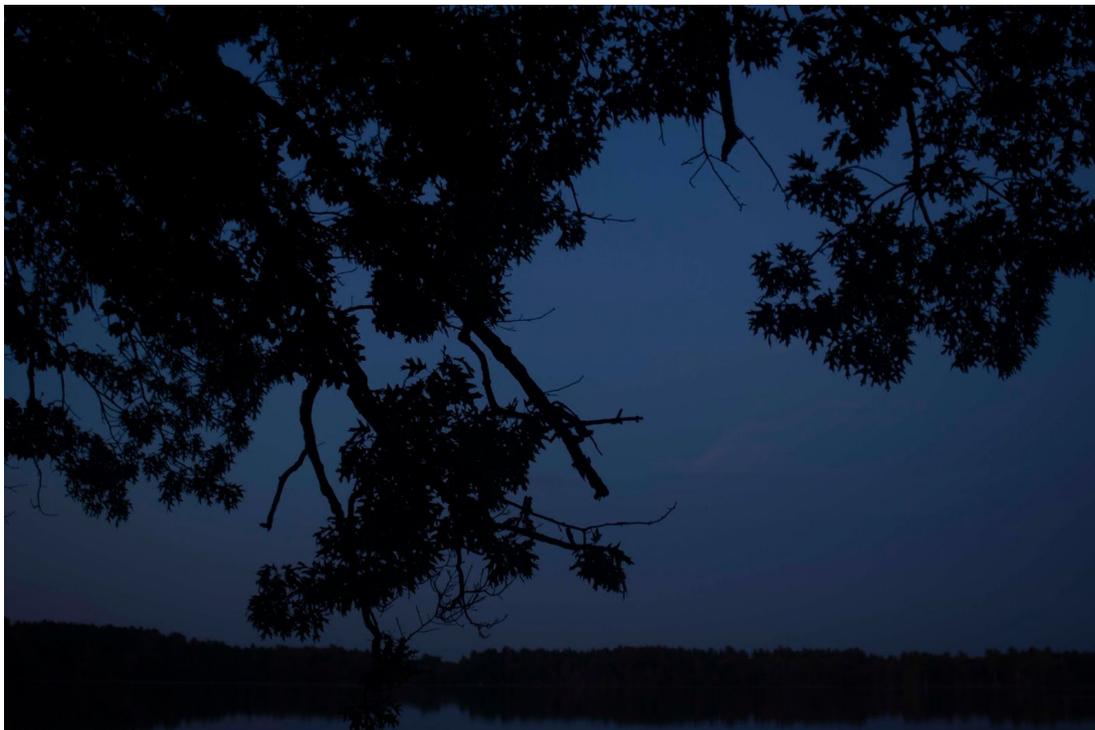
RO: I think sound would add another element to this body of work to make it almost a full body experience for those viewing it.

AC: What would be the best way to install/view your work?

RO: I want to enclose my work in a small dark space so the viewer has to use some sort of small light to find the images so they almost feel like they are in the photographs.

AC: In your mind's eye, what is the picture you imagined when you first started this project in the woods? What's the be all and end all of pictures?

RO: I would say one of the silhouettes with the dark blue sky, next to the one with the purple peeping out.



AC: How do you feel you have evolved as an artist? What do you need to work on?

RO: I feel like I have evolved a lot as an artist, mostly with patience within my work. But at the same time, that is what I need to work on still.



AC: You were possibly going to study graphic design/illustration. What made you decide photography? What about art, in general?

RO: I was originally going to major in illustration to make children's books and also thought I would go into education. It turns out that drawing stresses me out and high schoolers (the age I would have preferred to teach) are stupid and rude. I went into art because it was the one thing I kind of excelled at compared to others around me. And it was something that I do enjoy learning about.

AC: Do you think of possibly dipping your toes into other mediums?

RO: Not really, other stuff tends to stress me out a stupid amount.

AC: You have worked with kids and art therapy, is that something you hope to do in the future?

RO: I loved my campers and working with them but I wouldn't have wanted to do the cookie-cutter crafts anymore with them. I also wish I could go into art therapy but after my research paper I don't think I could genuinely stomach some stories I would hear.





AC: How important do you feel art is in a person's life?

RO: You can't go anywhere, do anything, or use anything that didn't involve art to some degree. It's extremely important to have. If not within everyday use but to have a moment's break from life.



AC: You have a doggo, would you take photos of him and other dogs for a good cause? I remember you talking about PAWS.

RO: Fucking absolutely. I love doggo.

AC: Inspirations?

RO: Robert Adams, Beth Moon, Elle Davies, Monet.

AC: What are your photography/art goals?

RO: I want to branch out and try to get a grip on all sides of photography. I want to be a Jack of Most Trades.



