

*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?

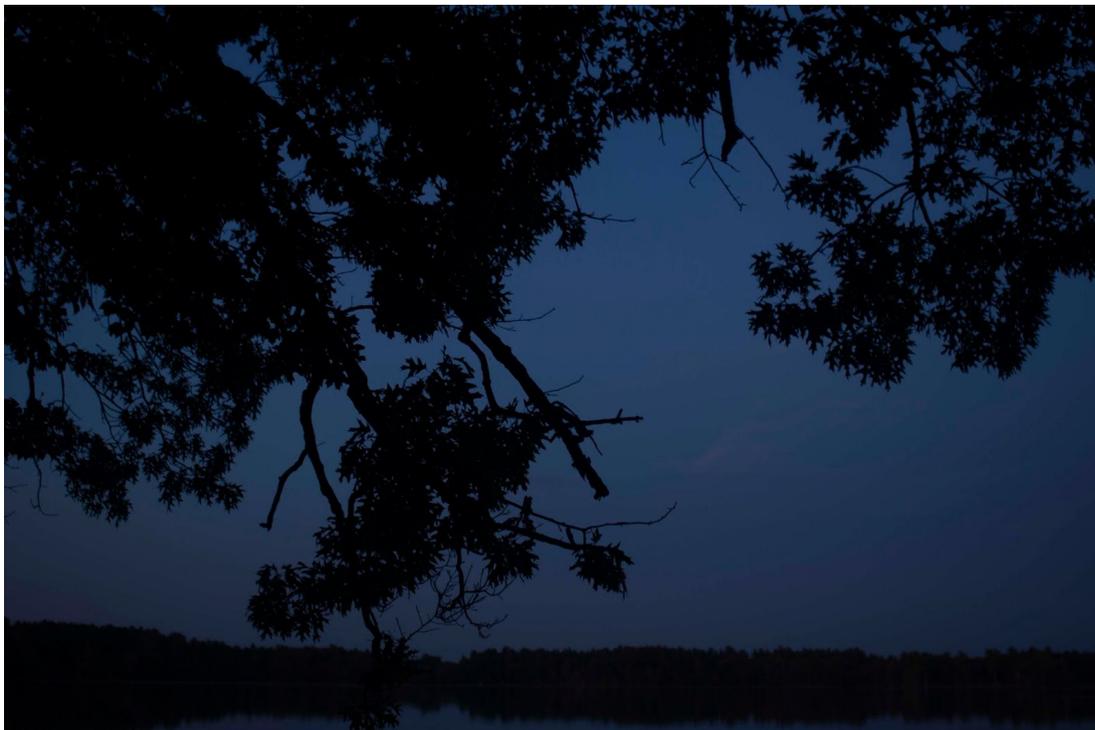
**RO:** I think sound would add another element to this body of work to make it almost a full body experience for those viewing it.

**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.



