

BETWEEN SPACES

Women's Newspaper Portraits

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To create this collaborative series, I asked various Vancouver women to select newspaper articles that they identified with. These are self-portraits where there is interaction and shared control between the subjects and myself, as photographer.

Traditional print newspapers are increasingly being abandoned in favour of online publishing, as evidenced by recent change to the Seattle Post, which ceased printing papers in March 2009 and is accessible exclusively online. Is this a sign that the printed newspaper is a dying form of communication? Or will newsprint continue to survive despite the current trend towards online newspapers? Ease and cost of producing online are an obvious factor. As is the advent of blogs, which have become a popular means of expressing one's opinion readily. Is the tactile nature of newsprint important at all? Or is it just another way of engaging our senses in frivolousness?

I am interested in the portrayal of women in newspapers. The achievements of today's powerful women are usually placed in the "Life and Style" section of the newspaper, whereas men's political accomplishments are placed in the "Politics" section. This was critically

viewed by writers such as Canadian journalist, Jenn Goddu, who states that "journalists tend to focus on the domestic aspects of the politically active woman's life, rather than her position on the issues". Is the media delegitimizing women's accomplishments by separating them from those of their male counterparts?

In certain parts of the world, women are not permitted to be educated, or only receive a rudimentary education. They do not know how to read or write and have been denied a crucial means of expression. How do these women express their inspirations and concerns? Do newspaper articles have an influence on women or are women influencing newspapers and using this accessible source of information to express themselves?

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Josangelica Piñon is a young Filipino-Canadian photographer with an expressionist style. For her, experimenting with photographic processes often brings surprisingly unexpected results - much the same as human nature.