

LATINOS BEHIND THE LENS

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Ana De Orbegoso Speaks On “Paralleling Narratives”

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What is the most important aspect of your photography? This is an *open ended question* that plagues the photographer. Especially, the young aspiring photographer.

Why — because it's a confusing question. One that can only really be answered through time, experience and failure.

When I first started my photographic journey early in 2012, I found myself obsessed with hardware and software. I convinced myself that by investing in the best hardware and software (I could afford) — I would become a great photographer.

But almost immediately I failed.

I quickly realized that good hardware and software are not so important. They are simply tools that help you tell a better story. And must be respected since these tools designed to help you — can muddy your image. Your story. Your intention.

It may sound like a metaphysical load of *mierda*. But a good image begins with you. The choice of your subject is paramount to making a connection with the viewer. By not keeping this in mind you risk alienating those that you wish to connect with.

“ *[Tweet This: Do what you have to do: create and execute your ideas](#)* ”

Interview

LBTL: You started 2013 on a high note with your solo exhibition — *Paralleling Narratives*. What is the one thing you want viewers to walk away with?

ADO: “*Paralleling Narratives*” is a selected works solo exhibit. Not just one thought, but my opportunity to have a whole conversation with an audience. I want the viewers to experience a trip of introspection and awareness.

LBTL: You explain that, your, “aim is to confront the viewer with a mirror, so as to spark recognition, thought and memory.” Why is that you aim?



ADO: “A nation without its history is like a person without their memory...” (Arthur Schlesinger)

My primary fascination is with human beings, their internal worlds and the boundaries between them: how identity is developed around the different aspects of the individual or social psyche.

By observing oneself, awareness is created in our conscience, which is reflected in our actions, affecting us, everybody and everything that surrounds us: The World.

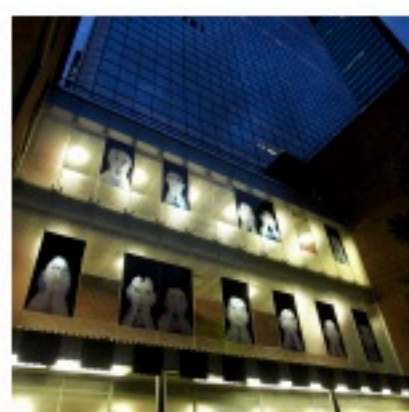
The mirror equals awareness.

LBTL: How has being a Latina (Peruvian) photographer influenced your choice of projects?

ADO: Before coming to the US, I never thought of the idea of being a “Latina photographer”. In my art practice I like to explore issues that I care about and that includes also my own culture. As a Latina (Peruvian) photographer, being part of a small minority in the US, has enlarged my mirror.

LBTL: Latina photographers are a minority within the photography industry. What advice can you give aspiring Latina photographers?

ADO: Recognition from yourself is your biggest goal. Do what you have to do: create and execute your ideas. This will get you out of the box and expand empowering yourself. Inspire and motivate. Reach out to organizations for support like En Foco. It has made a difference in my development.



LBTL: In your opinion what is the least most important thing in photography — the hardware, the software or the subject? And why?

ADO: I consider the least most important thing being the software in photography. Software gives us effects to enhance the image but doesn't make it. On the contrary, it is more likely for a good image to open more possibilities for the software.

Call To Action

Be an *artist*. And do not compromise *your art*. As Ana states:

“ *I want the viewers to experience a trip of introspection and awareness.* ”

Your role as an artist is crucial so be conscience of that responsibility. And do what is necessary to create and execute your ideas.

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