

Celebrating Women in Photography Today

WHEN THE BLACKBIRD SINGS

Jannica Honey

2016 was a hard year and not only for me. My personal journey was wrapped up in loss.

The world seemed to be high on testosterone, meanwhile, I was taking the other hormone, trying to create life. I was trying to create a new generation, we had lost the older one, my grandmother.

On the Super new moon in October 2016 I had my first menstruation after my second IVF. I began to venture into the woods with women and their daughters, accompanied by the blackbird's song. At the beginning I didn't know what would unfold, I just knew that I had to do something to strengthen, not only myself, but women around me. The work I created depicts naked women of all ages, as well as poetic shots of flowers in water. The subjects were my family, friends and acquaintances, always posing outdoors and at twilight. I shot the images over the course of a whole year, exclusively on every full and new moon. The work had to unfold in line with the seasons, I knew that it was the only way to hold the space for a whole year. I felt compelled to reaffirm my own 'feminine voice' in the face of all the personal challenges and male-dominated political events - in particular the US elections.

By basing my shooting schedule on moon cycles - an intrinsic feminine rhythm - I managed to channel the earth's natural rhythms into the work, and explored my own reconnection to womanhood and femininity.

The photographs were displayed at Arusha Gallery (Edinburgh 2018) and received nationwide press-coverage in the United Kingdom. The images are completely free from the male gaze. The work is dependent on an authentic connection which eliminates any kind of objectification of the participants.

Shooting at twilight allowed me to challenge the limitations of my chosen medium, in part for the time constraint (twilight only lasts 15-20 minutes), but also for the particular blue hue the light takes on during that time. When the Blackbird Sings also delved into the significance and symbolism of dusk and explored the ethereal quality of twilight; an in-between moment which doesn't belong to either day or night.

MORE INFO

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