



### Alp Tiritoglu - Echoes of Heritage

In silent moments, the past's breeze,

Reminding me of legendary stories.

Holding your portrait, seated in a chair,

Your gaze ahead, mine looking back.

You in your fez, tradition strong,

Stories told from days long gone.

I in my fedora, walking ahead,

Values carried, virtues spread.

Legacy beyond gold or fame,

Your stories echo in my name.

Lessons learned, humility taught,

A priceless heritage you've broug



### **Amr Mourad - Hidden Parts**

I live my life, as others do, variably being with others and being only with myself. But who am I really? Am I the person that others see physically? Am I the thoughts and feelings that I have when I am among others? Or am I the thoughts I have when by myself? Am I what a picture from yesterday shows? Or a year-old picture? Or a decades-old picture? As time passes the answer is probably a mixture of all of these. The old photos show who I am. But so many things are not the same, and so many I can't identify with anymore. Who is that person? I use plastic sheeting in many of my images—sometimes clear, sometimes opaque. Sometimes moving, sometimes still. The plastic obscures parts of the photographs, just as my thoughts and being are often obscured from others. Some parts are hidden, some partially seen, and some totally revealed.



**Aryana Chou**

Personal relationships form much of my identity. This photo of me with a bouquet and a kangaroo symbolizes my connection to my mother. My mother is a big part of my life; she is cheerful, willing to join me in being silly, and always has my best interest at heart. I am grateful for all she has done for me. The bouquet in the picture was artfully arranged by my mother out of flowers we chose together. The kangaroo represents Australia, the country she is from. Through the various aspects of my mother and our bond, my identity as her daughter shines through.



**Brandon Aitken**

This photo shows off my love of video production and technology. I like to tinker with technology and how it lets me tell my vision and story to others. Video and other technology has also lets me meet many people over the years and opened up many opportunities for me. From working on short films with friends, to working with companies with IT creating videos have introduced me to many people and given me many unique experiences. I find that filmmaking and video production strikes a great balance between technical knowledge and art and lets my using multiple of my strengths together.



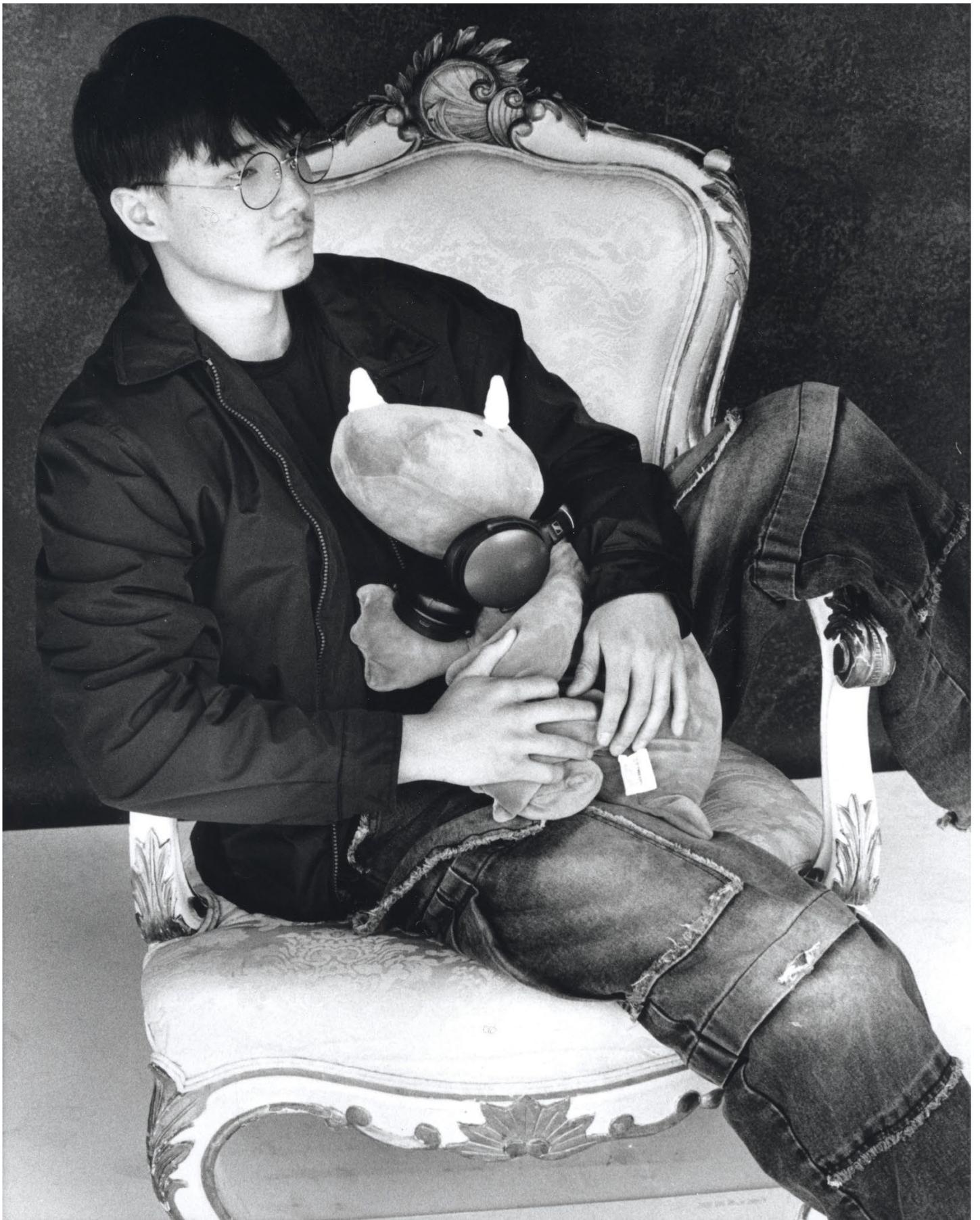
### **Brandon Serrano**

It took me a while to realize just who I am and what identifies me, but I chose this photo because it's what I believe best represents my roots and identity. I'm a first-generation immigrant who has struggled a lot to be where I currently am but I'm still proud of my heritage and those I left behind in order to achieve a new life in a foreign land. This photograph, I believe, is a small token of gratitude to my Mexican ancestors and family who sacrificed many of their dreams to let their future generations prevail. History between Mexico and California go hand-in-hand and it's become a second home to me so I'm grateful to the opportunities I've found here and the community that feels just like a big family. My history in this land may not be a long story yet, but it's defined me in a way that will hopefully better not only my future but also those around me.



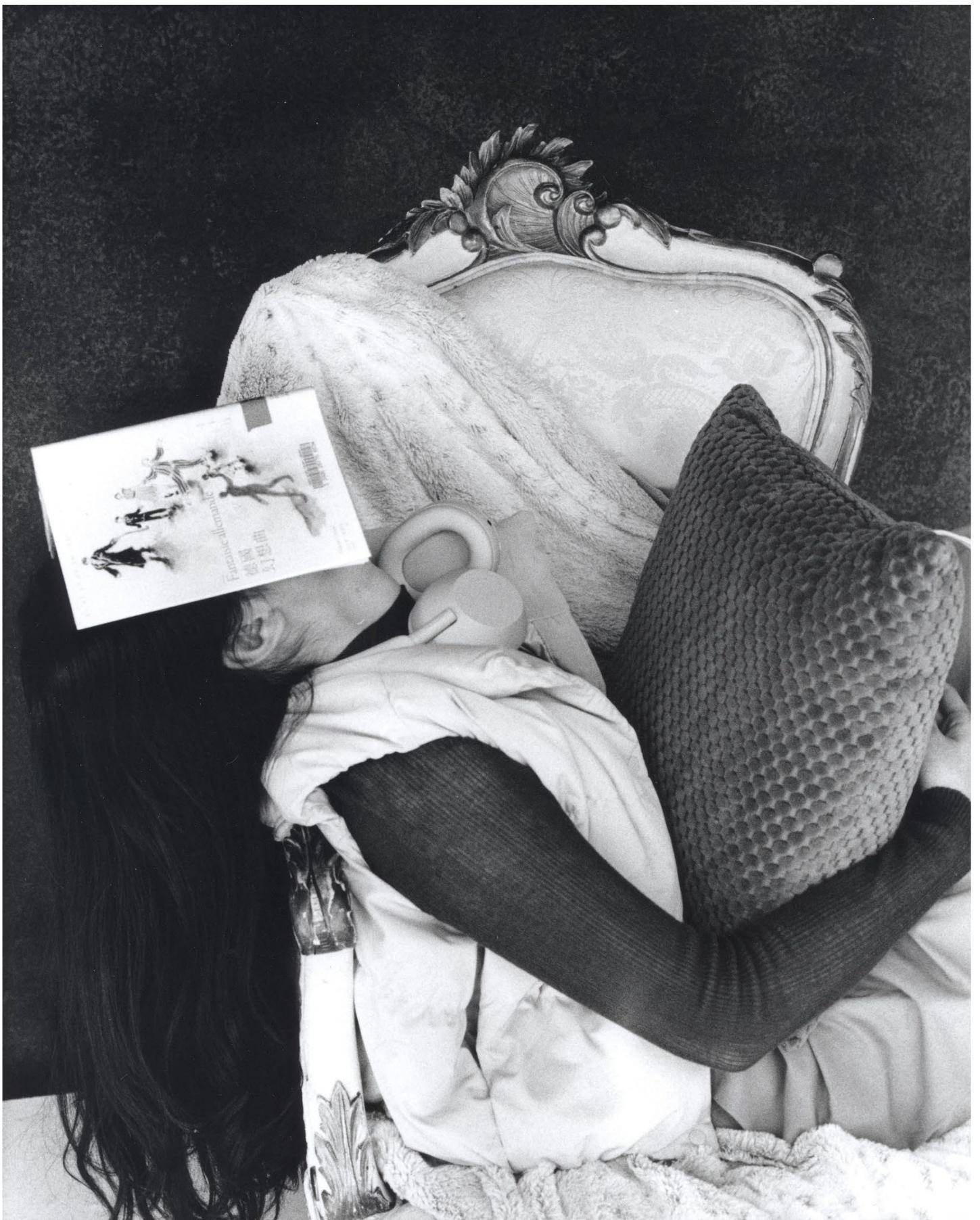
**Camila Fernanda Ortega**

In this portrait my photo albums are laying in my lap. I brought these with me to pertain to the topic of photography. Almost all the pictures I have shot and developed are in these two books. They date back to 2019, when I first took up film photography. These two albums hold much sentimental value to me.



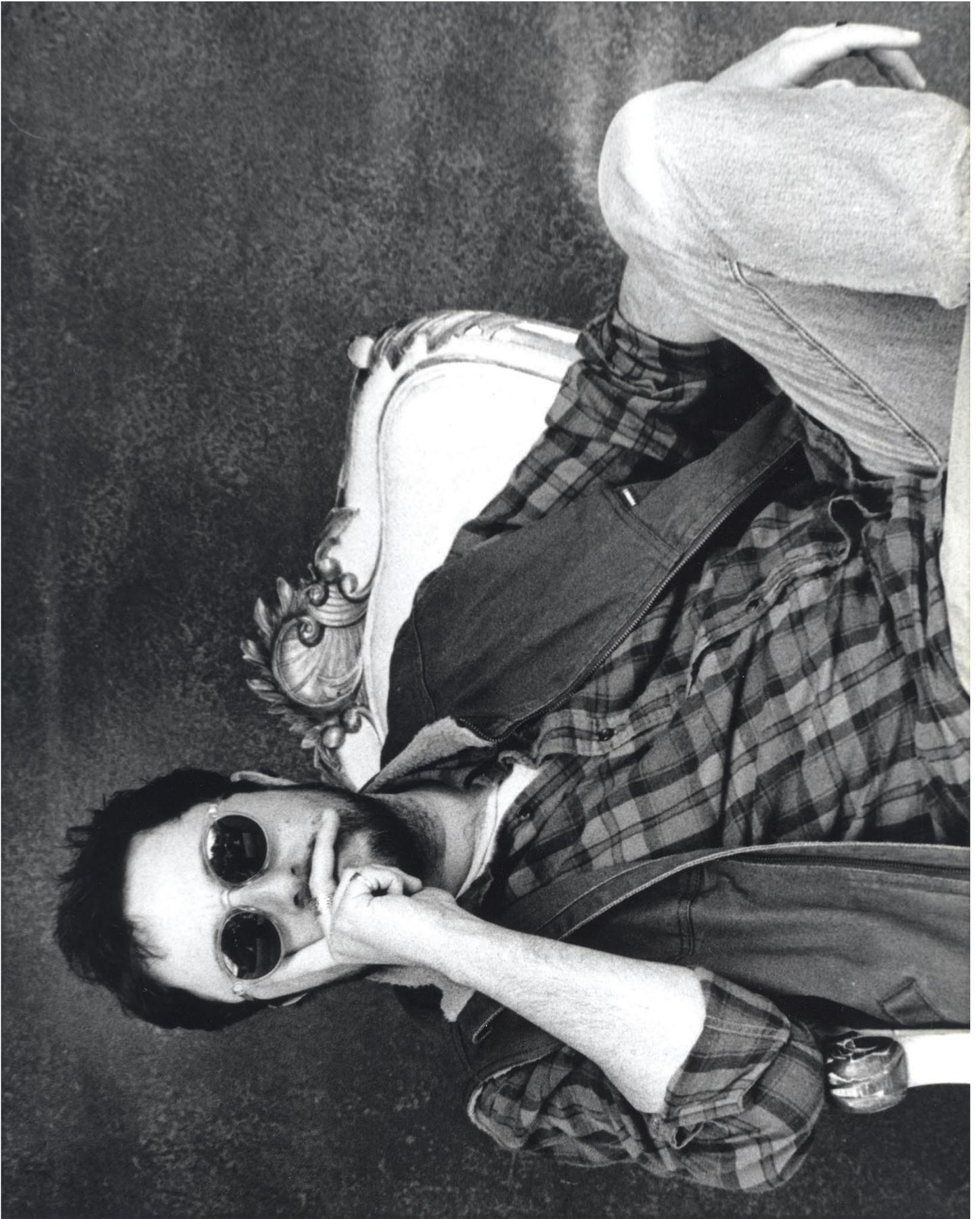
### **Carter Chiu**

In my photo I wanted to capture the same feeling as the old family portrait. The caring father looking stoically into the distance with his child in his arms. Of course I don't have a child yet so I substituted the child with the dinosaur plushie, This plushie is a gift from someone who means the world to mean and someone I see standing with me in this photo. It is a green plush of a triceratops and it's weighted. The Black Jacket is also a gift from the same person. I chose to my use partner's gifts to symbolize their presence in the photo because they are not in the photo. This photo is about Love, Fatherhood and Hope. Hope that one day I can have a family photo with my Family.



### Chia-Ying Chou

This photo illustrates the comfort of simply being myself. Having a plush cushion in my hands, reclining on the chair with a wool blanket, and leaving my long, natural curls cascade over the chair's edge. Reading has always been my escape. I'm completely at ease, lost in the pages of a book. I doze off, the book resting gently on my face, as I drift into a nice little nap.



**Garrett Benson**



**Glen Cheriton**

I share my first name with my maternal grandfather, who traced his family ancestry back to Scotland and the Clan Fraser of Lovat. In my portrait I am wearing a kilt with the tartan of Clan Fraser and a pin with the clan crest. I am holding the tweed hat I inherited from my grandfather, which he bought in Scotland and also has a pin with the clan crest. I am also wearing my grandfather's signet ring with the initial 'G.'



**Hector Sanchez**

The gnome plush I used as a prop is something I've had for a long time and I got it with a lot of friends from high school. The way I held it makes it feel as if it were my kid in a funny way because I've had it for so long. I leave the plush in my car so I kind of goes where ever I go. When I see it, it reminds me of fun memories I've had with all my friends.



**James Nguyen**

I'll admit, I chose my props the day before. I knew people would probably bring smaller things, so if I wanted to stand out, I had to bring the biggest objects I could possibly carry. For the portrait I submitted, I chose a super big banana plush. I took the construction picture on our first ever assignment when we were all experimenting with the film cameras.



**Kanisha Solorio**

So in this photos, the main focus is supposed to be to be about the book i'm holding called The Rainbow Fish. I chose this book because it was one of favorites growing up. I remember thinking about how kind the fish in the book was and how I wanted to be kind like him. To this day I still model my life around kindness and I have to give credit to this book for probably making me the way I am in a way.



**Kanon Tabuchi**

I gathered all my medals and badges and wore them around my neck. I also asked other people to place their hands around me. Since I love dancing, performing, and competing, I wanted to showcase everything I've achieved in dance. The hands represent the people I compete against, and I envisioned this portrait as a glimpse into the future—where everyone is striving to reach the level I have achieved.



**Karlie Liu**

This photo captures a portrait of me holding a roll of film, a symbol of my recent journey into photography. As a photography student, I've spent much of my time learning digital techniques, but this year marked the beginning of my exploration into film. I chose to include the film roll in the photo because it represents both a tool and a turning point-something new, hands-on, and rich with creative potential.



### **Kite Man**

In this photo, I am hiding behind the chair and looking at the camera. I think this photo really encapsulates my approach to social interaction. I generally don't like being focused on, or anything attention beyond being acknowledged. The exception is when I know enough to feel at least somewhat in control in a social situation. In the photo, I tried to have my eyes show I'm smiling, but I'm not sure if it worked. If I were to stretch the meaning, I would say that's an indication of how I can be difficult to read at times. Or how I will often unintentionally laugh when I'm not sure how to react to something, and sometimes I'll do it if I just register something to react to. Though, I haven't thought as much about that point as I did with the first one.



**Lisa Teng**

I bought this case from SFMOMA gift shop when I was in grad school, and I've been using it ever since to store my framing tools – gloves, photo corners, bone folder, wire, razor blades, and a kneaded eraser. I didn't photograph each item, but they're all inside the case, quietly part of the self-portrait.

These tools have been with me through so many stages – during grad school, while I was teaching as an adjunct, and now as a full-time faculty member at De Anza. They've become part of my routine and part of my process. This image holds not just objects, but the years they represent – how they've been there with me, through it all.



**Mabel Yuen**

From this portrait, it shows that I'm relaxing with a fulfilling feeling. I have recalled the journey of my life, that isn't a rosy path; I have gone through countless tribulations of an unusual personal story. There were times that the temptation of giving up, but God had sent His Angels to bless me, therefore I learned to trust God to strive for success without dismay! Finally I can survive, and reach the other end of the tunnel! For instance, this photography class is extremely difficult for me, as my eyesight are not good for focusing on the camera, my arms were injured from work, I have no strength to move the enlarger machine or loading the film to the roller; moreover my memory is bad, I can't remember well the steps to develop the photos. But thank God that both the instructor and the classmates had helped me through with patience and time to succeed in this class. Amen!



### **Mary Mau**

After I emigrated to the US, there was a period of time that whenever I was asked where I was from, my answer was Peru, the place I was born. My response was typically met with the comment that I didn't look Peruvian which led to the explanation of my Chinese ancestry.

Years later, during a trip to Hawaii, my family and I went to get ice cream at a local store. After we placed our order, the store attendant asked if she could guess where we were from and to my surprise she said California.

On a recent trip abroad, I was asked the same question and the response this time was California. It might be because I have spent most of my life working and creating a family in this beautiful State that I feel I belong here.

The photograph symbolizes my connection to three cultures: Chinese, Peruvian, and Californian, represented by a Chinese Buddha, a Peruvian retablo, and a California chair.



### **Meenu Goswami**

The photograph is about my personal freedom. When I was in high school, I heard the song “Una Paloma Blanca,” by Dutch musician George Baker, and it resonated deeply with me—I felt, in some way, that it reflected a part of who I was. To me, the song was the freedom of me being able to think independently, form my own opinions, have my own ideas and execute them the way I want them to. It is about breaking the norms and embracing the ability to be different from the culture I come from. This emergence leaves its marks, still, and even in rebirth, I am still shaped by the culture I was raised by. I tried to show this in the blend of traditional and modern style of the photo; the pose I chose inspired by the photographer Peter Lindbergh, whose body of work uses natural poses in portraits to tell stories. I used white throughout the portrait to represent new beginnings. The traditional shirt I am wearing is tri-colored, the same palette as the colors of the flag of my home country. I sit on a vintage chair with the choice of clothing to represent the journey from the old to the new. Legs crossed loosely, body leaning back, bare feet, all to capture an essence of a free spirit.

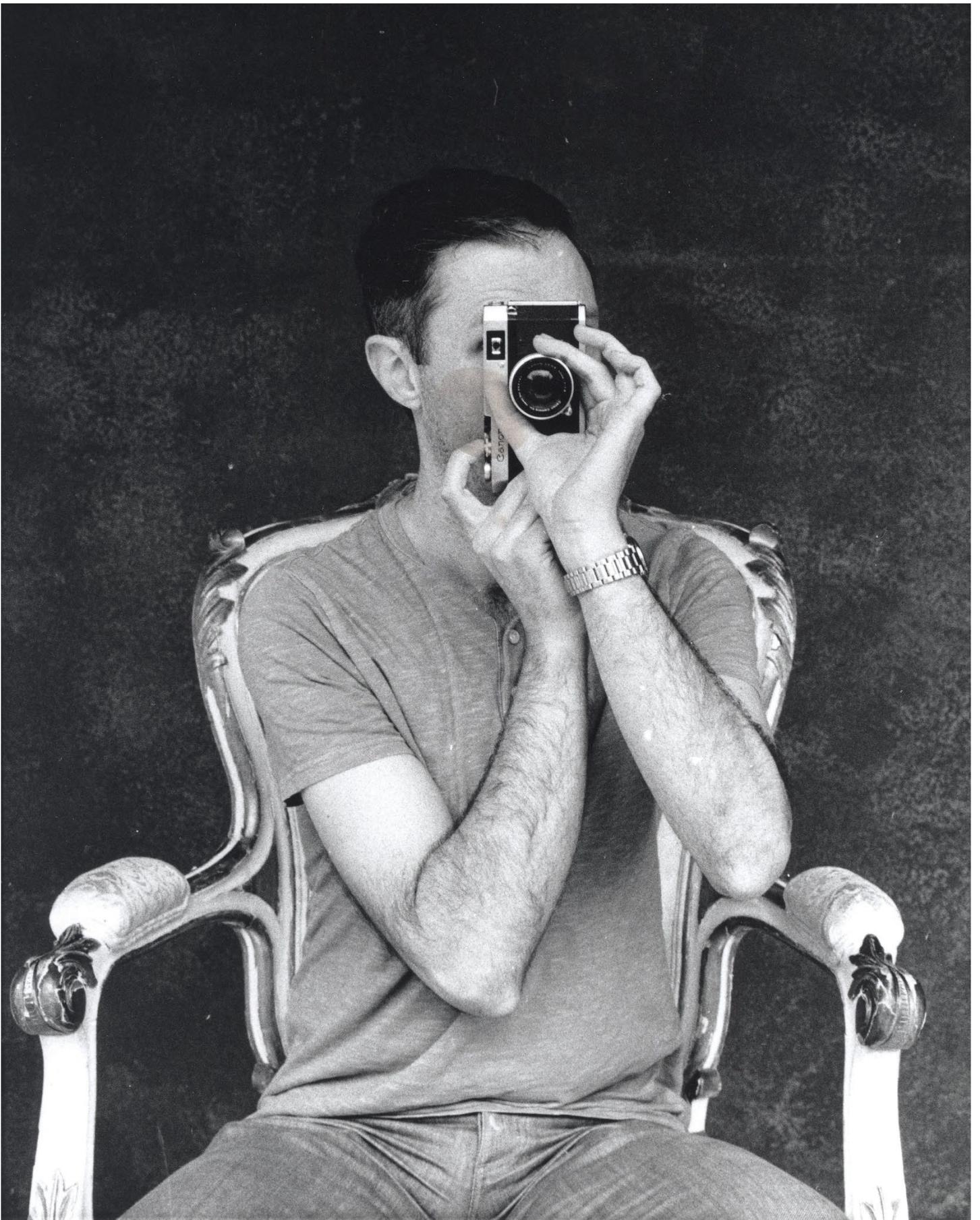


### **Naiya Edwards**

In this photo I wanted to represent both my past and present heritage in order to showcase who I am today. To me your identity and belonging are composed both of the people and their history who have helped shape your current life; as well as what you chose to make of yourself throughout your own story.

Because of this, the main props I decided to include were a set of books — one from the US and one from Australia — which represent my family's cultural identity and background, and therefore my own makeup. Without their stories I would not be where or who I am now.

The clothing and jewelry I am wearing were also chosen intentionally, as the pieces connect me to a second part of my family, who are not related by blood, but have had the biggest impact. While there is no genetic contribution to who I am, their presence in my life has shaped my personal identity in the ideals, morals, and values I hold, and the opportunities and accomplishments I have made thus far and will continue to strive for, that bring me a sense of belonging in this world.



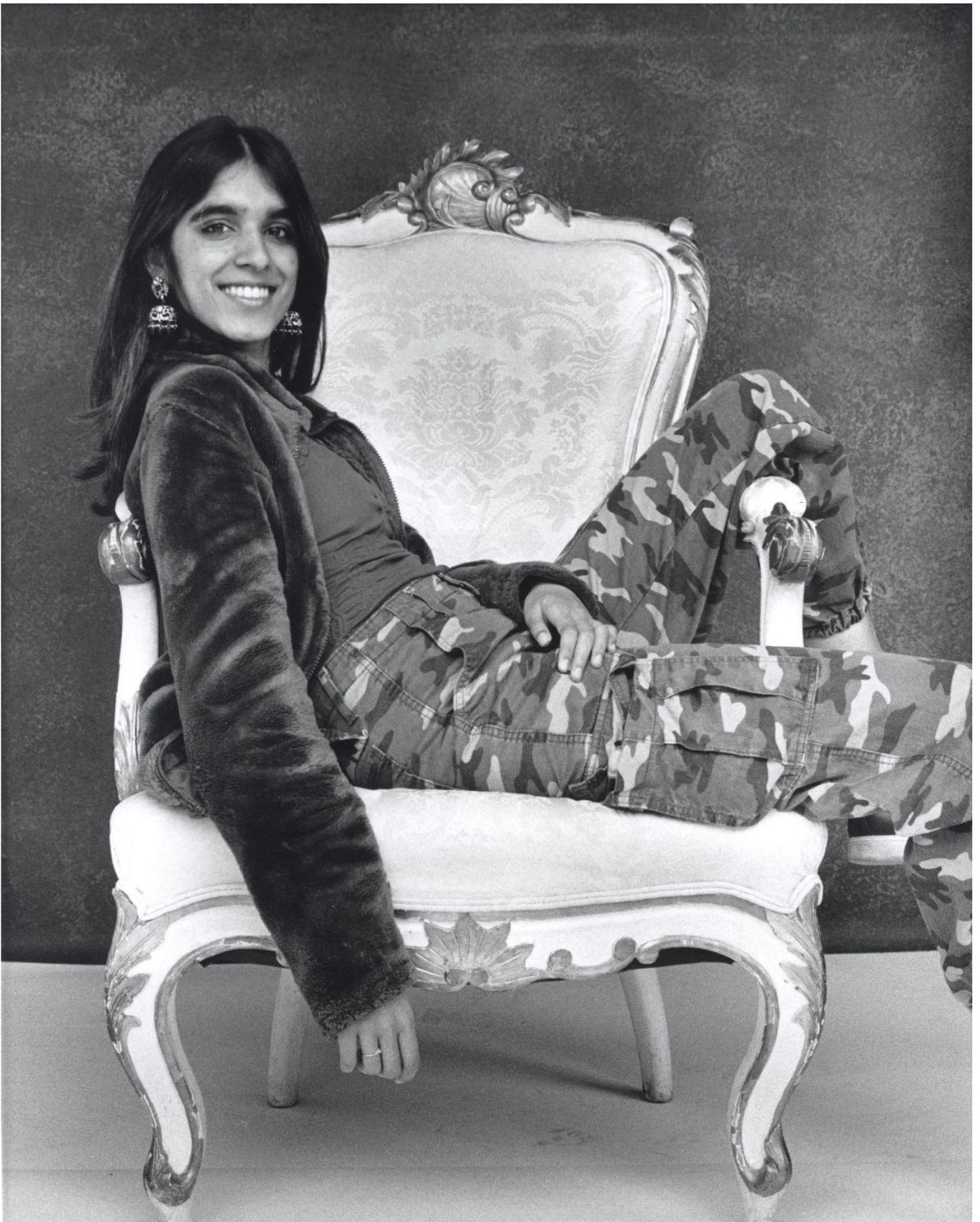
**Richard Portune**

I wanted to emulate the mirror self-portrait that nearly every photographer since the dawn of the art form has created. Historically I do not care much for photographs of myself, but being forced to work on images of myself caused me to have more appreciation for the self-portrait as a means of expression. The camera featured in the photograph is a Canon P.



### **Sidarth Subramanian**

My portrait reflects who I am and what my photography has revolved around in recent years. I'm wearing my robotics hoodie from Team 6962 Antares, where I've been the team photographer for the past two years, and am now passing on the role as I'm going to graduate. After falling out of touch with photography when we moved to the US and my brother left for college—our family wildlife photography trips stopped—robotics became the place where I rediscovered my passion. I'm holding my Nikon D750, the camera I grew up watching my dad and occasionally older brother use. Back then, using my point and shoot, it felt out of reach, but now it's the camera I shoot with every day.



**Sita Vemuri**

My photo represents my identity. I paired American clothes with Indian earrings ("jhumkas"). The Indian aspect often feels distant to me, in the same way the earrings are often hidden by my hair; it's easier for me to feel American, in the same way the clothes are more visible. Yet, just as the earrings stand out beautifully in the photo, so does my Indian culture. I'm proud of both cultures and the way they've shaped me.



**Stella Panov**

A big part of my identity is learning about my Ukrainian heritage while figuring out who I am. In this photo, I wear a vyshyvanka—an embroidered blouse—and a headscarf, both traditional in Ukrainian culture. Growing up in the U.S., I often feel disconnected from this part of myself, as I haven't lived the life my parents did. I exist in this "in-between," but I've found ways to connect through personal style—embroidered clothes, headscarves, and bold jewelry remind me of my family's roots.

Nature also plays a key role in my identity. Flowers are beautiful, fragile, and symbolic, yet they simply exist. Their short-lived bloom reminds me to be patient, grounded, and grateful for the little things. The natural world feels like the purest form of life—and I never want to lose sight of that.



### **Ty Miller**

My portraits represent my upbringing and values, as well as my fascination with androgyny and kitsch. The top I am wearing is a qipao (Chinese dress) which I had worn as a little girl on special occasions. Back then, I would wear this dress to music and dance performances held by the afterschool I attended in celebration of Chinese New Year. Now, the dress fits like a shirt on me. My choice of combining the qipao with a faux fur coat and bedazzled accessories plays with the Western notion that Chinese goods are "kitschy" or "dime-a-dozen". In one photo I am directly facing the camera with my legs crossed, similar to Yahya Sinwar's pose in his iconic armchair photo. This photo of Sinwar carries an air of regality while also representing resilience as he sits atop the rubble of his home. His resilience inspires me to remain optimistic in the face of challenges, and committed to the people around me.



**Vanessa Lu**

My photograph is about how music is integral to my identity. I used to be a reclusive person, but picking up a guitar was able to change that for me. The prop I chose for my portrait is the first guitar I bought in my sophomore year of high school. This guitar is especially sentimental to me because it symbolizes my personal evolution. With this guitar, I started making covers and music that I would share with others, and from this, I found friendship and community in music. By playing guitar and making music, I found a medium for creative expression and a sense of community. I would not be who I am today if it were not for music.



### **Winnie Tsoi**

For my identity and belonging project, I wanted to be someone who represents my culture. As an Asian, I bought a traditional Chinese cultural costume called Qi Pao, which is something we usually wear during Lunar New Year, usually red in colour and with fancy Chinese patterns. I think my culture is a very important part of me as it determines what language I speak, what holidays to celebrate and possibly what religion I should follow. I also wore jeans because I also represent someone who comes from the modern days. I think jeans are something many people like to wear nowadays so I took that to represent myself as someone who comes from the modern days. With these two things combined I represent something who is part of the old Chinese culture, but also someone who lives in the modern days, it is almost like I am bringing my Chinese culture into my daily modern day life.