

Jay Muhlin:

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The newspaper piece at the Front Gallery "The Couch Sonata" is a cliff notes if you will to the themes in the book Guilty Pleasures I am working on finishing. Please enjoy a copy and please pay as you wish. Your support is greatly appreciated.

My current project, a book titled Guilty Pleasures, looks at finding comfort during winter. The images speak through visual pun and metaphor. I often takes diaristic liberties and embraces serendipity, building images that refer to something other than what is named or described in the frame: something intangible such as longing, intimacy, and solitude. Winter has its own vernacular of an inside and outside. Strung together are lists of simple comforts and tactile groupings which all contrast with the harshness that winter serves. Relief is offered through humor as it transforms coping into a joy that makes moving forward more meaningful.

I recently completed my MFA in Transmedia/Art Photography at Syracuse University. After graduating from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Photography my work appeared in various editorial publications worldwide. In 2008 I published my first long-term book project entitled Half Life: A Portrait of Lauren. The book documents the life and suicide of a close friend and my relationship to her. I have recently completed residencies at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester NY, The Millay Colony for the Arts in Austerlitz, NY and at the Contemporary Artists Center at Woodside in Troy, NY. I have taught courses at Syracuse University, Salem Community College, was a visiting faculty member at Bennington College in 2011, and am currently teaching a darkroom based course at the College of New Jersey. I am an artist member of Vox Populi, and my studio is based in Philadelphia, PA.