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The Rug's Topography

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The Rug's Topography

by

Rana Young

A THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of

The Graduate College of the University of Nebraska

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements

For the Degree of Master in Fine Arts

Major: Art

Under the Supervision of Professor Dana Fritz

Lincoln, Nebraska

May, 2017

The Rug's Topography

Rana Young, M.F.A.

University of Nebraska, 2017

Advisor: Dana Fritz

My complex relationship with photographs began when I was young. I remember tearing images out of publications and bringing them to my dad prepared with questions. Where I grew up, normative values defined by anatomy at birth impacted an individual's gender perception and performance. Raised by a single father, I experienced a non-traditional family structure in my home. Seeing photographs portraying the "wholeness" of family contradicted *my* reality. Those psychological impressions provoked my curiosity and propelled me to solve the mystery of what existed beyond the scene depicted.

In retrospect, my search for missing context stems from an interest in narrative and how the single frame of a photograph begs questions rather than provides answers. As I conceive my photographs I am in a state of reverie. In my work, I use the figure as a conduit to move between past and future. My aesthetic interpretations of intimacy, privacy and identity mirror a metaphorical cycle of

introspection. Subtle clues within the photograph may evoke an individual's aversions or desires. I am interested in this negotiation, and through my work, investigate foundations of gender expression.

My photographs in *The Rug's Topography* employ themes of tension, voyeurism and transition to represent interpretation of *self*. I construct images that balance organic intimacy and cinematic theatricality by implementing symbolism, color theory, and seductive lighting. Using a directorial approach and a single subject allows me to create an environment that transforms viewer into voyeur. The singular vantage point and lack of reciprocal gaze invites one to silently observe an unfolding narrative. However, the personal account is never fully described and the viewer must bring their own history, biases, and prejudices to interpret the imagery. Transition within this work is highlighted through the notions of gender and time. Though the viewer is privy to feminine interventions placed upon the male figure, faint physical changes sequentially manifest in the subject. Rigid musculature and posture is overcome by delicate and poetic gestures; the manicuring of body also becomes a form of sublimation. The ambient photographs, which signify fleeting moments, mark points of

personal evolution. Emphasis is placed on the threshold between public and private, as well as the implied or literal mirror embodying introspection. Life is comprised of moments navigating both the literal and psychological space; my intention is to render that dichotomy.

IMAGE LIST



01

Untitled (silhouette) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2016



02

Untitled (books) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2015



06

Untitled (grass) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2015



03

Untitled (mattress) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



07

Untitled (sky) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2015



04

Untitled (towel) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2015



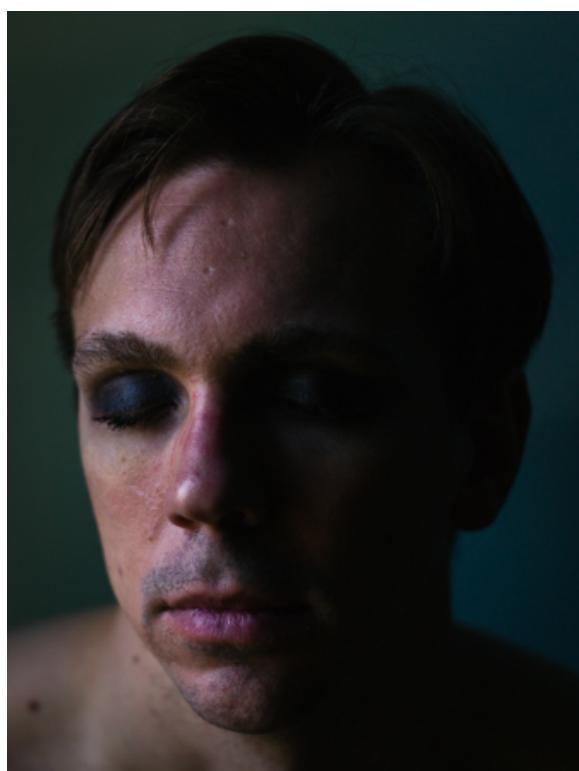
08

Untitled (feet) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2017



05

Untitled (curtains) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2015



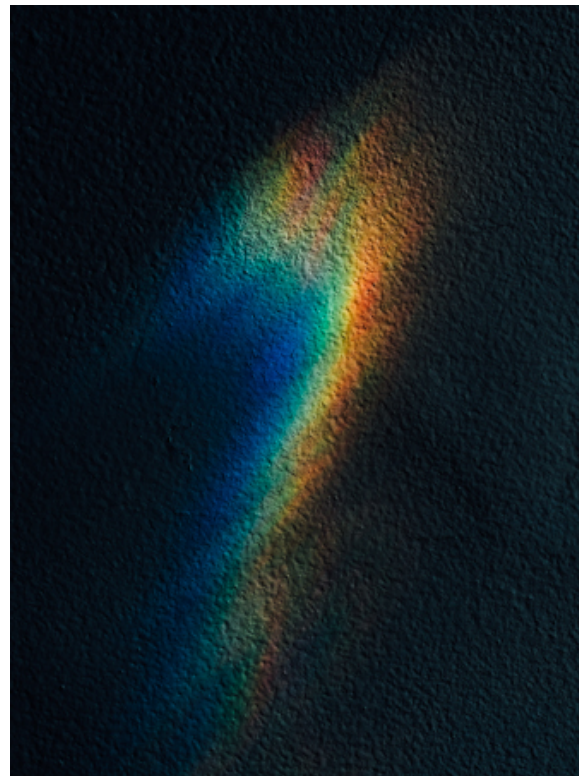
09

Untitled (face) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2015



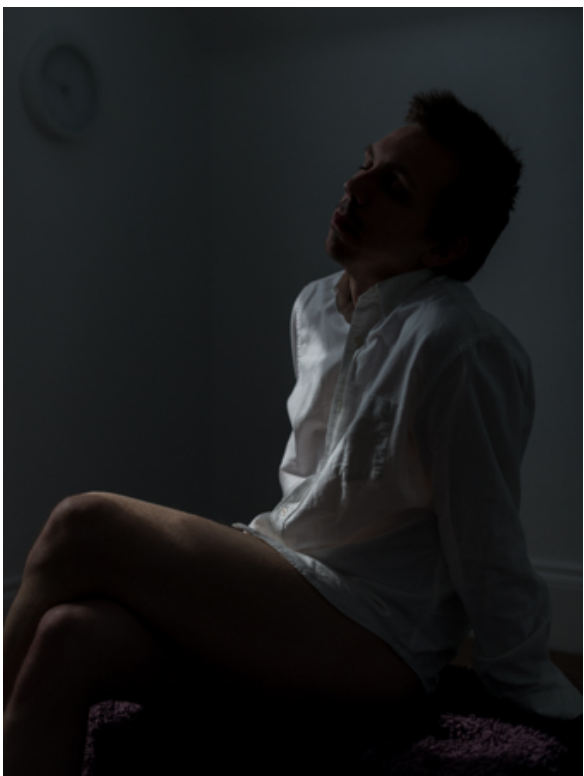
10

Untitled (hand) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



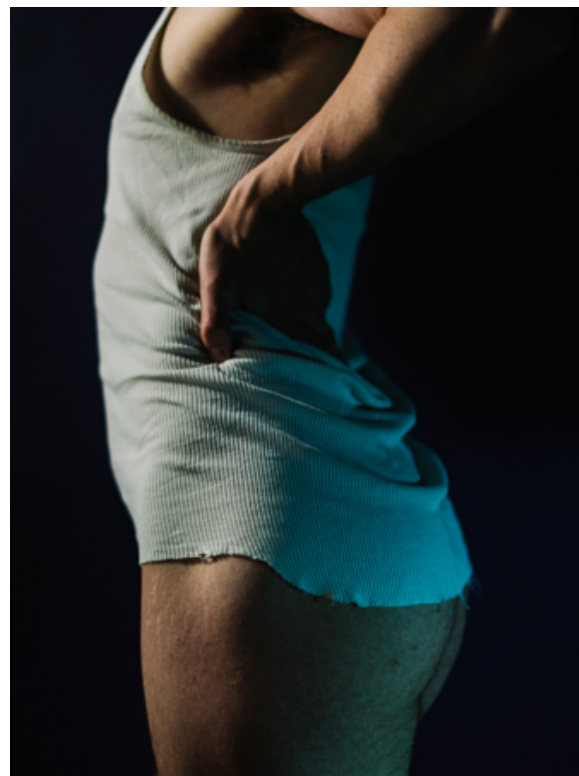
14

Untitled (light) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



11

Untitled (shirt) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



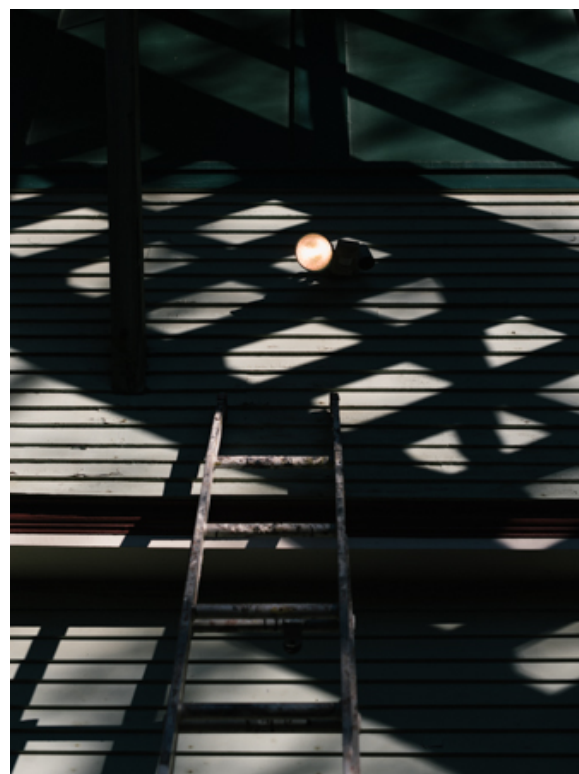
15

Untitled (hip) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2016



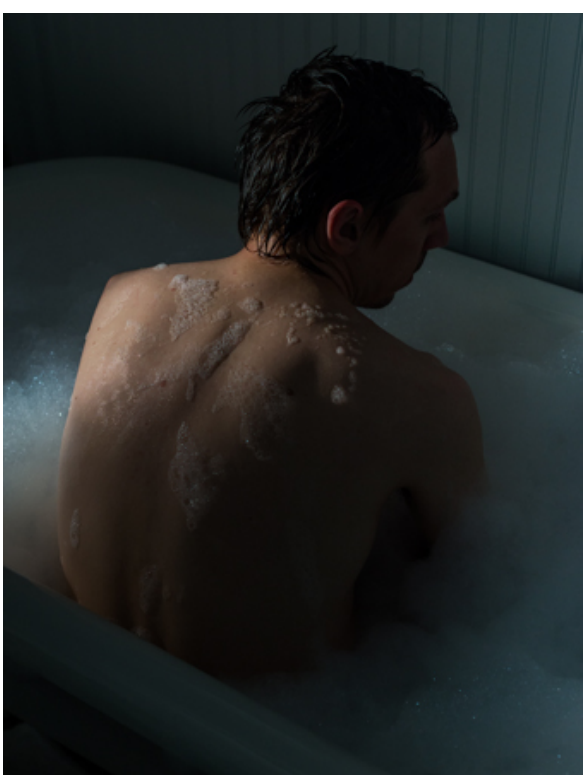
12

Untitled (lamp) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2016



16

Untitled (ladder) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



13

Untitled (bath) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



17

Untitled (robe) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2015



18

Untitled (hair) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



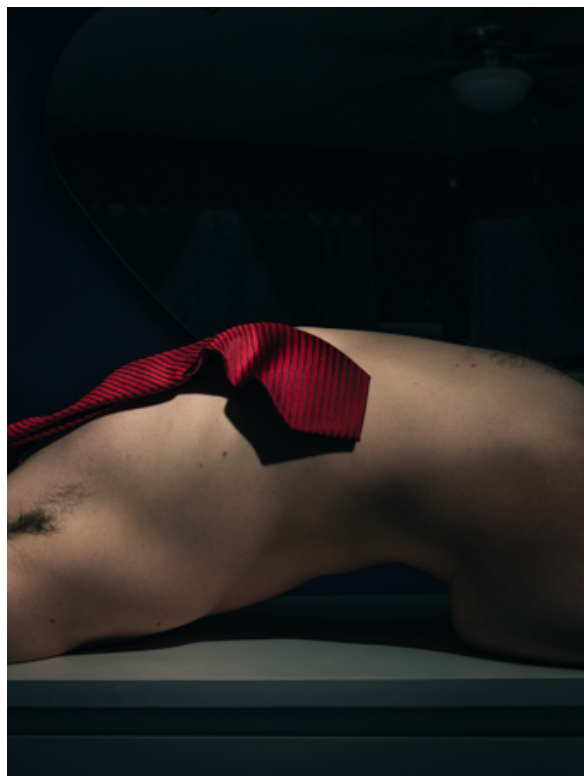
22

Untitled (couch) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2016



19

Untitled (underwear) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2016



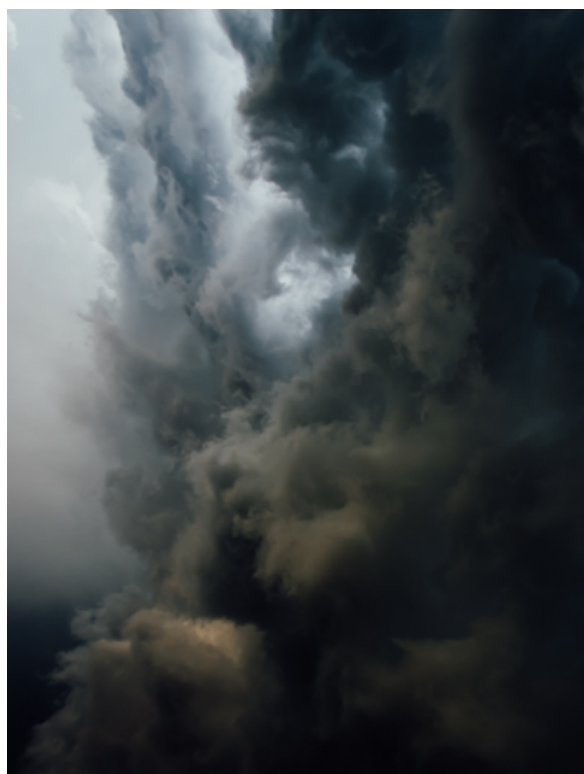
23

Untitled (tie) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



20

Untitled (suit) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



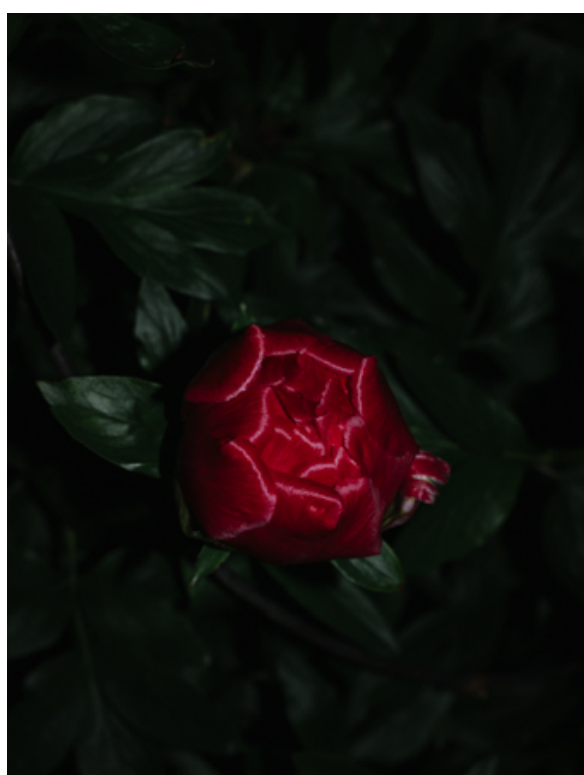
24

Untitled (clouds) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



21

Untitled (line) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



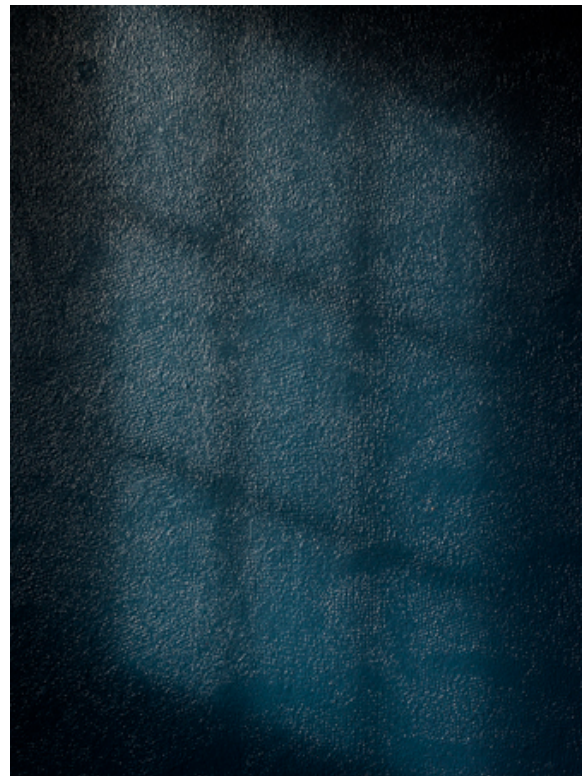
25

Untitled (rose) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2015



26

Untitled (reflection) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2015



30

Untitled (blue) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



27

Untitled (closet) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



31

Untitled (dress) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



28

Untitled (door) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2017



32

Untitled (mirror) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
22.5 x 30 "
2017



29

Untitled (boxers) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2016



33

Untitled (bra) from The Rug's Topography
Archival Pigment Print
16.5 x 22 "
2017

EXHIBITION

The Rug's Topography

RANA YOUNG

