

THE RANSOM FAMILY FORMATION

Life has a tendency to be unexpected. I became a photographer because, in 2014, my father died unexpectedly. My camera brought me solace in a time of confusion. It served as something that I had complete control over, and I feel as though that is something that a lot of photographic artists can relate to.

In the past, I have pushed myself to create work that may be controversial in subject matter. I thrive to create a conversation with my viewers, regardless of whether they agree with my political stances or not because I believe that we won't see meaningful change in the world until we begin to understand each other's opinions. This being said, the body of work that I am making in this class is something new for me.

I tend to shy away from making super intimate bodies of work. I wanted to challenge myself this year because of the current state of the world. My dad's biggest dream in life was to see each of his children walk the stage at their college graduations and that is something that I more than likely will not be able to do because of this pandemic. The fact that I will be graduating digitally wrecked me emotionally if I am honest. I felt like I was failing him. That's when my mother reminded me how proud he would have been to see me come so far, and how proud she is to see how much I have grown.

This got me thinking. I was always so much closer to my dad, that I have overlooked a lot of the amazing advice and memories that I have made with my mom. This book that I am creating contains images, advice, and memories that remind me of my relationship to my mother. The cover of the book is made from glitter, because similar to a mother's wise words, one typically doesn't notice how much it sticks with you until later on in life.

“Hello, baby girl.”

-Paula Ransom



“Your dad used to always take close ups.
I was never ready for them.”

-Paula Ransom



“Your ensemble should always be perfect. ”

-Paula Ransom



“Put a wig on your child.
Trust me, it is always funny.”

-Paula Ransom



“Art, Art, Art! Let’s paint, can we paint?!”

-Willow Ransom (As remembered by Paula Ransom)



“You guys always fought over the blue goggles.
When you have kids, get a few pairs!”

-Paula Ransom



“ I was hugging you so I wouldn’t cry.
You were all grown up.”

-Paula Ransom



“Ahh, our homeschool class party...
Once a room mom, always a room mom.”

-Paula Ransom



“Quick!
Everyone get into Ransom Family Formation!”

-Olli Ransom



“I do my nails every Sunday so that I feel put
together when I go to work.
You should too.”

-Paula Ransom



“It’s important to go to work so that you can be in charge of your own life and your own choices. You are so much more than someone who just cooks dinner for a man. Secure your independence now so you don’t have to search for it later.”

-Paula Ransom



“The Grls.”

-Olli Ransom





Designed using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom