

Portraits *of* Ghosts

Since I was a child I have held a small fascination with death. I compulsively drew headstones despite never knowing anyone who had died. I spent hours awake at night scared at the thought that I might fall asleep and have nightmares about my mother dying. As I grew up this fascination held but pivoted instead to a more personal perspective. As billions have before me I wondered; what will happen to me when I die?

Portraits of Ghosts is a photographic series that explores the long-held tension between my identity and my mortality.

Inspired by surrealism, the occult, and the idea of the shroud I used a diverse set of materials to reveal and accentuate the form of my own absent figure. These self-portraits consider my sense of self beyond the conventional idea of identity. With planes of fabric, ribbon and paper I want to reveal new and strange information from the portrait. What can covering myself in a piece of fabric reveal about my face underneath? At the end of it all, when I am dead and gone, what will happen to me?

In this work, I am there but I am absent. I am there but I am obscured. I am there but you cannot see me.

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