

The Project:

“Still Here” is an installation of eight large-format photographs, wheat-pasted in an outdoor public space. This project surrounds the message that older citizens should be recognized as valuable contributing members of society. “Still Here” is a group action in partnership with the Inside Out Project, a global cooperative art project which uses pasted portraits to encourage community activism.

The Message:

After a Parkinson’s diagnosis, my grandmother Elsie moved from New Mexico to Lawrence to be closer to family. In the move, she gave me her photography equipment and her body of work—thousands of negatives and slides. Photography is a passion we share, but a passion that, because of Parkinson’s, she feels she can no longer pursue. Moving into a retirement home as she lost the ability to drive, and needed extra help, she described feeling lost and isolated in this “other world.”

Inspired by her experiences, I wanted to create a project which used photography to communicate a message I feel very strongly about: older people are still here, and they’re an important part of our society. Isolating them from that society is of no benefit to its members, young or old.

The Specifics:

Eight large-format portraits will be wheat-pasted to the north-facing outside wall of the 715 building alongside an artist’s statement explaining the purpose of the project. The portraits and statement will be installed and uninstalled by me. The portraits measure 36” x 53” and are printed on paper. Wheat paste is made of flour, sugar, and water. It will not do any damage to the surface of the wall and will be removed with water and vigorous scrubbing. Ideally, the project will remain up from late August through late November, when it will be taken down by me.

Contact Me:

Ruby Love

ruby.love.photo@gmail.com

785.331.9503