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A REBIRTH OF AMERICAN FEMINISM IN THE FACE OF TRUMP'S MISOGYNISTIC HELL

FEMNASTY
ELIZABETH NOELLE MERRIHEW
For women across the country, the election of Donald J. Trump as America’s 45th president legitimized misogyny and violence against women. The election of President Donald Trump awoke a sleeping dragon in women, in particular, who felt targeted by comments made by Trump throughout his campaign and beforehand. Hoping to gain traction with young female voters, Hillary Clinton played with every shot red at her. Trump accused her of trying to “play the woman card.” The next day she announced at a rally that “fighting for women’s healthcare and paid family leave and equal pay is playing the woman card, then deal me in.” The next day her campaign site began selling physical cards that called “Woman Cards.” Her website read, “Here are just some of the perks that your Woman Card gets you: Lower wages! More expensive health care! No paid family leave! Limited access to your own reproductive rights!”

When Donald Trump called Hillary a “nasty woman” under his breath during a debate, the hashtag #nastywoman was quickly trending on Twitter. The retail site NastyGal.com temporarily changed their name to NastyWoman.com selling a line of products inspired by the phrase. Samantha Bee sold shirts that had “nasty woman” plastered across the breast on omaze.com; all proceeds benefited the Planned Parenthood Los Angeles Education Program. Janet Jackson’s 1986 hit song “Nasty” was streamed 250% more after Trump’s jibes at Clinton.

The leaked video of Trump talking to Billy Bush made for many clever posters and signs at Women’s Marches across the US. “You know I’m automatically attracted to beautiful—I just start kissing them. It’s like a magnet. Just kiss. I don’t even wait. And when you’re a star they let you do it. You can do anything.” “Whatever you want,” Bush says. “Grab ‘em by the pussy, you can do anything,” Trump replies.

The “Don’t Tread on Me” ag was re-vamped with a message that read “Don’t Grab My Pussy.” Among other phrases were “This pussy grabs back” and “My neck, my back, my pussy will grab back.” A staple at the Women’s Marches nationwide were pink “pussy hats,” a wide piece of fabric meant to look like op- py cat ears. These protest hats were even included in the Milan fashion week show, when models sported them down the runway this past February.

With all this liberation and body-positive rhetoric came a wave of middle-class women who suddenly felt directly targeted by the words of the current president. Johnnie Tillmon, a veteran feminist activist wrote, “For a lot of middle-class women in this country, Women’s Liberation is a matter of concern. For women on welfare it’s a matter of survival.” People of intersec- tional identities, meaning they identify with more than one minority community, need and have advocated for rights like these.

There is no doubt that this country has a- ways to go in terms of feminist legislation and furthering the feminist agenda (equal pay for equal work, childcare, maternity leave, reproductive rights, etc.), but we must remain aware of the reality that all of these issues disproportionately affect women of color or low-income women. All of the energy coursing through the veins of women in this country must be channeled into helping push for legislation that benefits all women equally or at least start a dialogue about intersectional feminism. Call your representatives. Campaign for candidates who see women’s rights as a priority. Contribute to the fight.

German sociologist Jürgen Habermas wrote that identity movements were bound to be the most successful because class-based revolution may have seemed likely during the Industrial Revolution, today’s revolution is not class-based, but identity based. While our socioeconomic status may shift over time, our identity, as in our creed, race, gender, sexuality, is undeniable and the next generation of those like us will no doubt bene f from our activism.

Writing by Annelise Kostrencich
Photographs by E. Noelle Merrihew
San Luis Obispo, California has been said to be “The Happiest Place in America”. Growing up here my entire life, I would have to agree. The ocean is near by, there are hikes and trails that guide you through countless rolling hills, farmers market downtown every week and it is a welcoming environment to be in. But San Luis Obispo, just like every other place on Earth today, is facing tremendous environmental threats. A man by the name of Cory Jones, is hoping that San Luis Obispo can be a leading example to other cities in the way of environmental consciousness. Cory is your average college graduate but with a remarkable passion and drive to inspire the community around him. From growing up fishing with his father, early on he established a connection with nature that has since grown stronger with a core group of friends who share the same ideals. Cory is one of the founders of One With Nature, a company that is based out of San Luis Obispo. Their vision is

“In an effort to make caring cool, we serve as an environmental collective promoting active outdoor lifestyles. We believe the more time you spend outside, the more connected you become to the natural world, inspiring people to act on behalf of preserving our ecology for generations to come. Our products & services foster environmental awareness and our efforts are focused on projects that advance...
Cory hopes that as the business takes off, One With Nature can be a platform to present community-focused, local, non-bias, issues and news that highlight proactive efforts.

In addition to One With Nature, Cory has taken personal action to get involved in making his voice heard within the community. In 2015, he stepped in as a speaker with the SLO Foam Free movement in front of City Council to adopt a ban of the use of Polystyrene – commonly known as Styrofoam, in Pismo Beach, California. He then spoke again for this movement in Arroyo Grande, California. Both towns ended up banning styrofoam. That was just the beginning for Cory. He has since gone on to collect signatures to ban single use plastic water bottles in San Luis Obispo and pitched the idea to city council. They were responsive to this initiative and are currently looking into banning single use plastic bottles in general.

"The concept of actually doing something about the water bottles was something that I was trying to spark in myself to actually step up and do for around the course of a year but then the second the action was actually taken, the process manifested pretty quickly. You just have to step up and accept the responsibility."
- Cory Jones

A more recent endeavor for Cory has been “Straws Upon Request”. He had found that straws aren’t recyclable and that in the United States alone, about 500 million straws are thrown away every single day. The idea of “Straws Upon Request” is that restaurants could no longer set out straws or put them in drinks automatically, but they would still be available upon request of the customer. Cory is driven to encourage a mindset in people to be conscious over convenience. That is to say, people should be conscious that the straw they use, no matter how small it may be, adds up in the bigger scheme of things. We should take that environmental impact into consideration, rather than just choosing what is most convenient to us in the moment. Cory has introduced this idea to the County Board of Supervisors and it is currently under review.

“We’re going to be setting a completely new standard that communities throughout the nation can adopt because it’s that simple.” - Cory Jones

As far as advice for others, Cory promotes recycling and using reusables whenever you can, but more than anything, he advocates going outside and surrounding yourself by nature to enjoy life. He believes that the more people go out and experience nature on a regular basis, the more people will want to preserve and protect it. In what is only the beginning of his life, Cory is an inspiration to those who want to make a difference. He shows that if you want to see a change, you have to lead by example and make it happen. Thank you for inspiring us Cory.
A family aimlessly walks by a downtown barbershop on a Thursday evening and wander in as I am taking photos. The owner of the shop jovially convinces the family to allow his partner cut their sons hair, and the parents happily oblige. As I’m shooting, I come to find out the family is from Germany, and this is their first and only day in San Luis Obispo. Shown is a young boy receiving a haircut from a man he cannot communicate with and will never see again.

GABBY PAJO
I have grown up around a close friend of mine who has always known that he was queer. I’ve watched him struggle throughout high school and college as he explored different gender identities and sexuality’s trying to find a “category” that he fits into. Society want him to be gay, bisexual, or straight and he doesn’t know if he’s any of those labels. Still to this day, he struggles with the frustration that he needs a label for people to understand him. I’ve had an idea in my mind for years to do a photo series of my friends that reflected of his struggle and growth and I was finally able to successfully capture it.
A portrait series inspired by the modern feminist movement, tied together with mixed media, graphic elements, and a pop culture aesthetic.

AN ABSTRACT METHOD:

To emphasize the young women’s feeling of disillusionment in society’s role for her.

To desexualize the female body to show it as a unique and beautiful form rather than a sex object.

To be heard, respected and understood by others.
The sharp, agonizing sounds of my alarm pound at me out of the darkness. I reluctantly look over at the offender only to see what resembles a 4 shining out of the black. Struggling I arise. As painful as it is, I recall that there is a remedy, an elixir, a cure for the lethargy that plagues my body. Stumbling, I navigate myself to the edge of a cliff. I do not seem to care for the danger as I descend, barely holding on to anything.

Then the most precious ingredient of all. Sealed in a sacred container and hidden from all light I carefully bring it to the device for which it is intended. Judiciously measuring the proportions, as this substance is rare and acquired from far across the globe, I add precise amounts to the machine.
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I bring the container to my lips. Ouch! It burns me. No matter. The substance begins its potent revival. At last, I begin to feel life.

I secure the doors and light the fire that drives the mechanism that will soon revive me to life. Now, agony, as I wait a minute, five, ten, an eternity until another alarm sound signals the completion of the all powerful substance.

I reach for a small vessel and extract some of the now steaming liquid. The floating aroma is about all I can stand now.
The term “etiquette” poses a certain standard, a socially-accepted way of behaving, viewing the world, and ultimately existing. In this series of photographs, redefining the term “etiquette” in a fast-paced, changing world within the context of the present brings into being new questions about how we look at the world and how the world looks at us. From abstract expression to portrait, the new cognizance constructs a brand new narrative focusing on aspects of life that make us human: temporality of life, lust, anxiety, adolescence, drug-use, humor, and curiosity. Our worlds are ever-changing, and by constantly challenging perception, there is perhaps no “etiquette”—everything will be everything.