

Perla Ortiz

Perla's work explores identity, women's health, mental health, and the concept of moving forward through her use of photography. She was diagnosed with endometriosis approximately four years ago, and after exhausting treatment options, she decided to have a hysterectomy. The decision and thought of losing her "womanhood" brought an array of emotions and fears. Her work focuses on the fear of being alone and some heartbreaking, disappointing outcomes. She is heavily influenced by the late photographer Francesca Woodman. That influence can be seen through the way Perla uses herself as the subject in her photographs, her use of black and white, and her occasional use of color.

Perla Ortiz was born in 1991 in Colorado Springs and is a first-generation college student. She studies at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs for her BA in Visual Arts. Her artistic career started with drawing and painting, but she found it increasingly difficult due to arthritis in her hands. After taking an alternate processing photography class, she fell in love with photography and has used a camera for her craft. She found the camera less restricting to expressing her thoughts and feelings. Perla currently works as the lead veterinary technician at Mountain Lake Family Vet. After graduating, she hopes to commission, sell images, and work with women's health organizations. She also hopes to get into administrative museum work.

Alter Ego-Jane, Epson photoprint, 12 x 12", 2022

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