

The White Mask

The distance between our public and private life is often so much that we should leave out the private and censor parts of ourselves In order to be accepted in the public one and moving in its norms. In this situation, the person wears a mask in order to be seen in the society; however, this white mask turns one into a Tabula rasa that can turn into multiple molds. In long term, this mask is carved in our unconscious such that its effects remain even when its necessity in the society fades out.

This is when we become a misfit in every company of other people. We are either strange to our private selves or....to the society. This is the same experience I have as a woman in my private life, friend groups, workplace, and the society.

Reacting to this experience, I began photographing youth in public environments since I believe young people are the ones who are more self-expressive and simultaneously, especially the women, tend to practice self-censorship in public. I used flashlight for representing the public effect of what we are, and I tried to omit a large proportion of what make our identity, including the face.

The people in my photos are turned into misfits in the environment with which they are in the least possible connection with their surroundings, in the same way the person is considered in relation to its environment.

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