



Chasing Saturn

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Child or domestic abuse cuts those it touches with scars that last a lifetime. There is no easy way to reconcile violence of this nature. Being exposed to both domestic violence and child abuse at a very early age, it is a theme that occasionally surfaces in my work. Unearthing buried memories and personal history through art is my own method of dealing with this reality. I recall clearly the first time I saw as a young student the Goya painting Saturno Devorando a Su Hijo. The image was both gristly, and hauntingly familiar.

I have been intrigued by this legend ever since, not only for its gruesome violence, but also for themes of personal reconciliation, rebirth and victory. It is through this project that I hope to reconcile my own experiences, and offer a way and means for others to do the same. Chasing Saturn examines my own family's legacy of abuse, handed down from generation to generation.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Statistics show that over 33% of the women living in the United States have experienced domestic violence. Child abuse statistics run slightly less from 10-28%. On a global level, statistics reveal that 40 million children are subjected to abuse each year. It is a cycle that repeats itself from generation to generation. It permeates every aspect of life, in every culture, in every financial bracket. Life shows us time and again that the most dangerous place for women, and children, is in their own home.

Children of Saturn, is the first in a three part series on the subject of domestic and child abuse. It looks at the consort and children of Saturn and the abuses sustained at the hands of an abusive patriarch. Images of offspring Hestia, the eldest daughter-child, virgin goddess of the hearth, through Jupiter – the avenger, as well as the parental enabler Rhea herself are reimagined first hand as they face the wrath of Saturn.

The second collection of images for the series is of the survivors, and reflects on rebirth, victory and survival. The scope of the project will broaden to include a racially diverse, global outlook on this universal plight.

The third and last series of Chasing Saturn reflects on the mature offspring and the lure to repeat the patterns of abuse. It will reflect upon the very human failure of the god-within, to break the cycle of violence, handed down from generation to generation. It looks at the legacy of the abused, where studies show that almost 30% of the abused become abusers themselves.

This project looks at the state of affairs of domestic violence against women and children, never an easy topic to discuss, with survivors or the general population, yet it is through this artwork that I would like to open a dialogue by interpreting the problem through mythology – and hopefully help others come to terms with their experience and break the cycle of violence.







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