

Blended Identities, Exploring the Complexity of Intermarriage with Yael

Ben-Zion

A new generation is slowly taking the reigns of power in the United States and with it bringing a greater level of change, especially to the very fabric of cultural, racial, ethnic and religious identity. America in the very real sense is becoming more a melting pot than ever before.

That white woman you see on the subway, maybe in fact be African American. Or, perhaps from school your child may explain that some of his/her classmates are lucky because they get to celebrate both Christmas and Chanukah.

The lines are blurring all around us with intermarriage. It is doing the great service of shattering stereotypes and is, part in parcel, the very dream that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of and yearned for all Americans to reach.

The solo photo exhibition, “Intermarried” by Yael Ben-Zion captures the cultural phenomena of people from differing backgrounds of race,



Murphy bed

Photo: © 2014 Yael Ben-Zion. All right reserved.

ethnicity, religion and cultures marrying together despite these differences. Along with the portraits, Ben-Zion also relays the narrative of the couples.

It feels like you are stepping into ground zero of a beautiful and wonderful experiment of blending: what parts of this identity or that identity will be kept or discarded? What will be celebrated, what is best forgotten? Of course, one of the notable aspects to arise from the project are the hardships and unsolicited commentary that is often subjected to many of the subjects who have stepped outside their “family identity” to marry an outsider.

Ben-Zion’s work is powerful because it captures the essence of what is happening in our country today and the very nature of how identities in the future will be dramatically different than anything we know today.

An artist talk moderated by the curator of the show, Gabriel de Guzman, will take place on **Monday, February 3, 6-8p at Boricua College**. For more details, click here. (-> https://www.facebook.com/events/237834859732154/?ref_dashboard_filter=upcoming)