

Artist Interview

Interviewer: Sabrina Kaldani

Interviewee: Sarah Barajas

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An in-Depth Interview with Sarah Barajas

On top of my questions that I had ready for the artist; I had a couple of questions that I was also interested in knowing. Who is the artist? What types of art were we going to talk about?

I got those two-questions answered right after I met Sarah Barajas on Zoom, who is graduating next semester in Art photography. She is one of the sweetest people I've met, that has so much passion in what she is doing!



[PHOTOSHOOTS + WORK | sbphoto \(wixsite.com\)](https://www.wixsite.com/sbphoto)

Sabrina: *What is your background?*

Sarah: I was born in Austin and my father is from Mexico and my mother is from Columbia. I lived all my life in Austin, had camera when I was 13 and carried it with me everywhere. I took photographs of whatever interested me, as I wanted to capture the memory. My grandfather was also into photography and would always be taking pictures as well.

Sabrina: *What does your work aim to say?*

Sarah: A lot of my work talks about female representation in media. I like to take a challenging stance on it. Just on the way media portrays how women should be seen and how they believe the body should look. My work revolves around magazine ideas that share ideas or magazine clippings and I like to look at archival works. Basically, it is talking about issues I have with my own body and comparing myself to people on magazine or I see on television that revolves around female representation.

Sabrina: So, it started personal.

Sarah: Yes, it definitely started personal and it is an outlook for me to talk about things that I am not outspoken person about. It is more like a way to discuss the issues I have had in my past with my own body and other people have too.

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Sabrina: How do you showcase your work?

Sarah: I have a website and it has my work on there. I post on my Instagram too. I am currently in the process of revamping those sites. Couple semester ago I nailed down the topics that I wanted to talk about, and I am planning on post more because I am proud of what I accomplished. By posting my work I want to talk about the aspect of reasoning behind the work. I started applying on some shows and exhibition because I do see my work living in art space in some sort. I do hope I get that opportunity to be able to show my work in exhibition and shows.

Sabrina: Which current art world trends are you following?

Sarah: I look at other female artist work in photography because they talk about a lot of work I am really interested in their discussed topics. I like to look at collage works and media work because a lot of my images include that aspect of taking an image and adding things to it to push the message. Artist like Cindy Sherman¹, I like to look at her works where women looked to be liberated. I even look at past artists from 60-70s, when a lot of things were happening with women movement in that period of time. Interesting enough, that even now at this period of time a lot of women are still searching for the same ideas that they are wanting so I look at a lot of those past works too.

Sabrina: I think photography is like music, both artists talk their words through their works, one on the images and one on the music notes. If both artists are gone, their work stay.

Sabrina: Who is your bigger influence?

Sarah: Like I mentioned before Cindy Sherman's work because of the aspect of the character she likes to play in her images. Barbara Kruger's² works collaging related to media. Martha Rosler³, her works is all about the idea of women in the house. A lot of artist that have the same ideas as me. I like to character playing interests me as well. Being a person in the photo, I like to take a lot of photos of myself as the model to understand what I'm trying to portray.



¹ [Home - Cindy Sherman - Photographer, Model, Director, Actor, Avant-Garde Images, Doll Parts and Prosthetics, Movies](#)

² [Home - Barbara Kruger - Photograph Collage, Advertising, Slogans, Art](#)

³ [martha rosler](#)

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Sabrina: So, you're a photographer you're a director and you're and actress to. (Laughing on the comment)

Sabrina: Where does all the magic happen?

Sarah: I know some people drive around and look for objects where I like to organize my shoots. I don't drive around to find my subject. Usually, I come up with the concept and I have the image in my head and then I will go to a shoot and start with that image. Sometimes I sketch it, not the best sketch artist though (laugh), but usually I put a little image and then setting up lights, creating a scene and then shoot that photo and from there will make different scenes, at the end I edit them. I do most of the shoots at my house with objects that I have. I do self-portrait and also a lot of little still life. Like now, I am working on the subject of comparing female body to meat by making still lives (showing one of her work of arts).



For example, in this image I set up the light, create the scene and then edit an old magazine clipping that I found to show how women are represented in a magazine.

Sabrina: What is the message you are trying to send with this image?

Sarah: This is clearly sending the message of how women are represented in the media like a piece of meat with the idea of the term "she is like a piece of meat" This image is the part of my book called Where She Belongs.

Sabrina: Where does the name title of your art come from?

Sarah: Some of them are going to be related to the media. Sometime my pictures have text. I would like to play with words sometimes to make it funny



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in a way to show how things can be ridiculous.

Sometimes the titles come from when I do research and when I look or information. A lot of times I do research facts and statistics about the topics I talk about. This plays in the titles that come about.

Sabrina: *Do you do researches on your subject?*

Sarah: I do a lot of research looking for facts about the topic I want to talk about.

Sabrina: *How do you make sure you are not misrepresenting the message you are sending?*

Sarah: I do research based on the facts but also what I know about that fact and topic because it is about female and I can relate. I think them as my facts. A lot of time it is about things that I have going through and I know them very well. On the other hand, if I cannot relate to the topic and other women have gone through, I will do more research with statistic and try to understand them better. A lot of my information is sparked from an image seen in a magazine. (showing her work) For instance, in this image someone is standing on her neck was a fashion advertisement. It did not happen to me but I can see where that came from. Some things have not happened to me but there are statistics that I can find and have an understanding of why or how this is happening.



Photo by Sarah Barajas from where she belongs' book

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Sabrina: How do you choose your subject? Are there specific criteria and levels that drive you to create an art?

Sarah: subject is a lot of times meat. Other times it will be hands depending on gender. My latest project was male hands interacting with the meat and another was interaction with the body. The person I use and what that means to the art. I also think about the object. In the meat picture I used rings as it was important because what is the husband-and-wife narrative represent? It the based on the object but it's also important what the specific meaning of the photo being taken. All the little details are very important to me.

Sabina: Thank you Sarah for your time.

The interview with Sarah was very interesting. I can say I was not expecting to see such a beautiful mind that has so much passion and puts all her heart into the work that makes the viewer see differently.

Sarah, opens up the door to a new world with so much details that can make the viewer eyes not blink and think, and re-think again. I wish her the best of luck in what she is doing. I even recommended to her to look up in women before and after revolution in Iran. I am sure with the creative mind she has she can create more amazing art.