



Dark Radiance

A journal of contemporary photography

DarkRadianceMag.com

Volume 1, Number 1 June 2019



***"BREAK THE RULES -
AND BE BRILLIANT AT IT."***

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Dark Radiance, a journal of contemporary photography. Each month we will feature new photographs that might challenge the viewer to think about what they are seeing, and which might challenge accepted norms for images. Sometimes seeing in a new way is uncomfortable, but moments of discomfort are an opportunity to experience life in a new way.

This month, we feature a series by Shirley Braley called "Aspect", a study of faces and how images can manipulate how we feel about a subject.

ASPECT - A STUDY OF FACES



We can never really know how we look to others. In fact, we can't be certain how we look to ourselves, because self image is such an unreliable thing. It can change in the blink of an eye, just by looking in a mirror.

These images are a reflection of my perceptions about my subject: complexity, ambiguity, beauty, and subtlety.





When we see someone of a different race or culture, our primitive instincts are to label them as "other". It can take an effort to see through that chemical conditioning, to see an individual. The lens through which we choose to see people says something about *us*, not about the subject.

It's an odd thing about the service industries. People who do so much for us, without whom we wouldn't have a society at all, are often invisible to us.



OPEN MIND, CLOSED DOOR



Everything alive eats something else that was alive. Cows eat grass, and tigers eat cows. Eventually even tigers are consumed. There is nothing living that doesn't depend on other life.



Years after his death, I read the obituary of a favorite college professor and realized how special it is to have a teacher who takes joy in seeing the light go on in his students' eyes.



We have an idea that photographs are an instant frozen in time, captured for posterity. But the subject is always changing, even during the tiny sliver of time when the shutter on the camera is open.

Ultimately, any composition is only about an instant of light.

Animals probably don't know how they look and couldn't care less what we see in them, except primates who are fascinated with themselves.



Animals contained
in fences often
look sad to me.

They don't know
that they need to
be protected from
us.

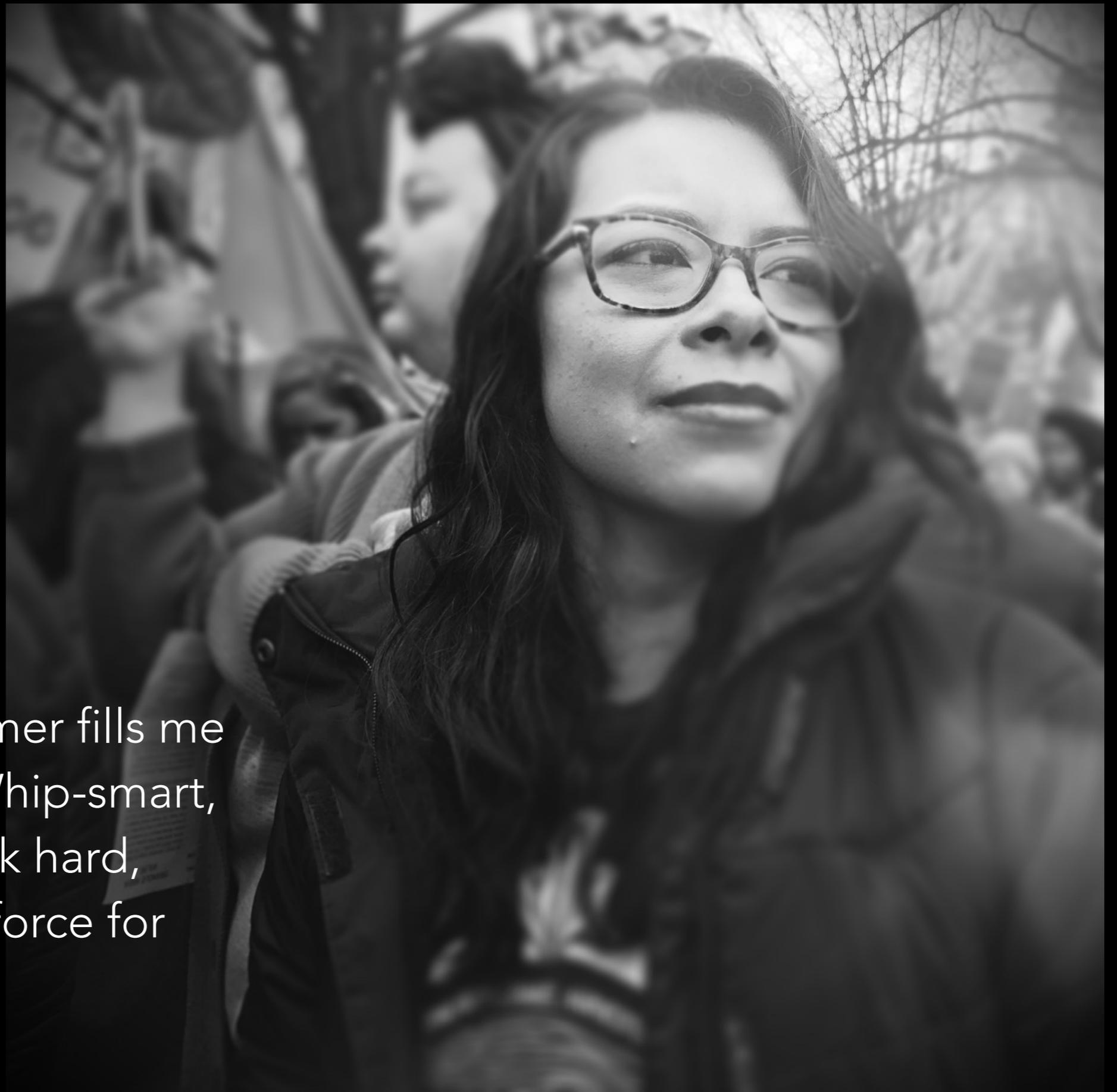


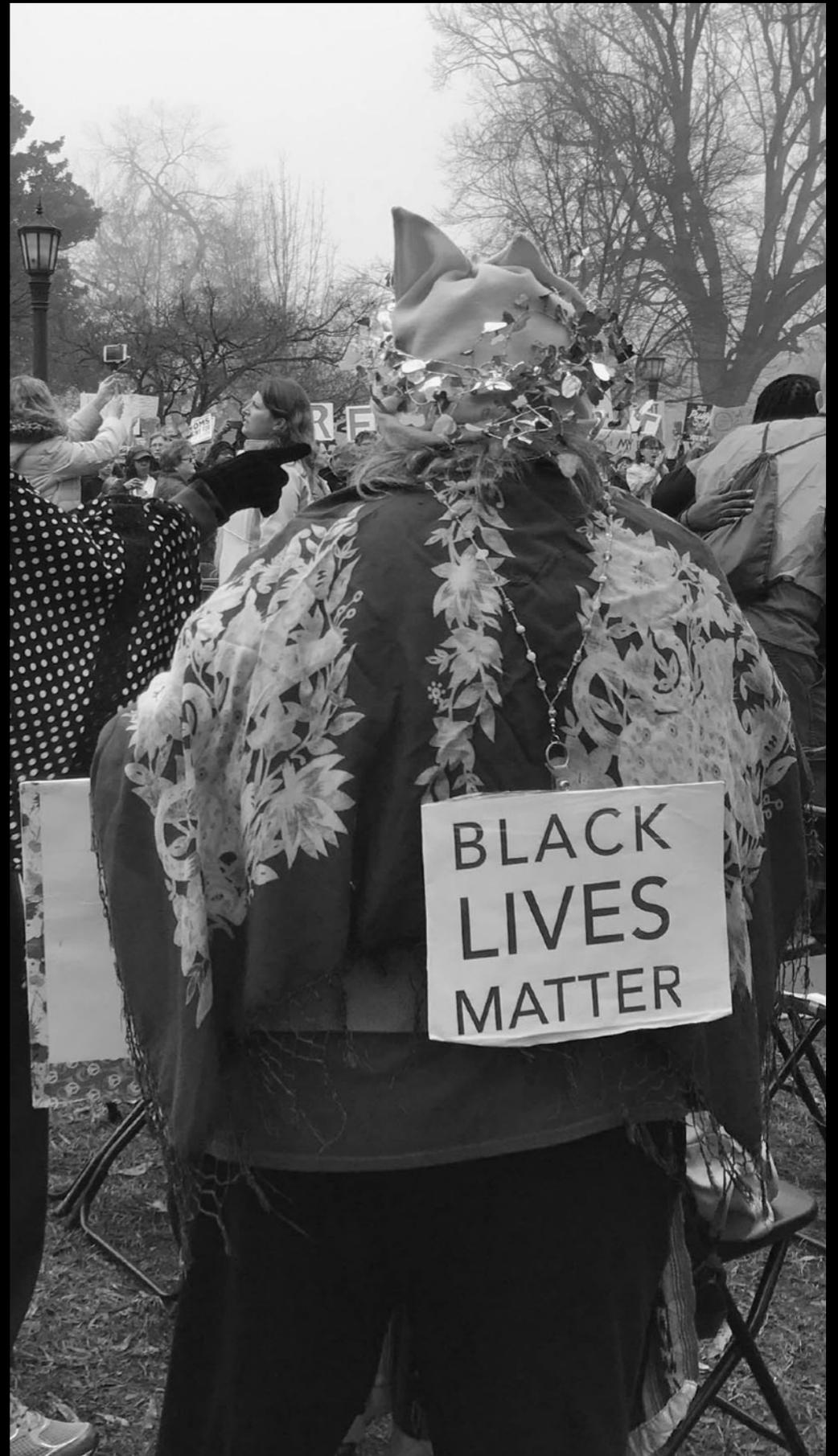


The Women's March in Raleigh, NC. We were old-time lefties, young women and men, Muslims and Christians and Jews, radical lesbians, single mothers, musicians, activists, Dreamers, engineers, poets. Everywhere I looked I saw sincerity and purpose, along with a lot of well-earned outrage.



This young Dreamer fills me with optimism. Whip-smart, motivated to work hard, articulate, and a force for change.





PUBLISHER, EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTOR: SHIRLEY BRALEY



Photography allows me to capture the richness of what I see around me, and to encourage a closer vision of it. It is my way of showing the world to myself in new ways. With my images, I explore ways of depicting something essential about a scene, and challenge the viewer to think about what they are seeing.

Adding elements of mixed media allows me to create unusual visual landscapes, reflecting what I see right under the surface, and bring out elements of mystery. I like to explore the boundaries between what is real and what is in my imagination. My work often includes elements of the mystical and the fantastic, combined with what is so commonplace that we have stopped looking at it closely. Often the story I want to tell is one of texture, of the impact of time on the subject. The patina of wear can be beautiful as well as thought-provoking.

I mostly shoot with wide angle lenses that get me close to my subject. I frequently capture images with my iPhone, because it is always with me. Any moment can provide an opportunity for me to explore what is around me.

Photo credit: Rimas Zeilskas