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Feminist Media and Technology – Post (1) Reflection.





‘Veiled women in the public sphere- redefining the concept of veil’

The world's heavy reliance upon commercial, patriarchal narratives hinders the emergence of women into the public sphere. But when a woman is covered in a veil, stepping out into the public realm is an absolute anomaly.

The abstract idea behind this series of pictures stems from the concept of a woman in a veil and how on the surface, she seems to be strictly prohibited from engaging with anyone outside of her domestically inclined private arena. This woman who's covered from top to bottom is then twisted into a symbol of oppression and submission by the Western media. The irony behind the constant reiteration that a veiled woman is only the property of the private realm is substantial on its own. This is because an entity that is so subjugated is still a part of the public sphere. A veiled woman is an ever-popular conversation topic in the media. This is her link to the public. Her niqab (veil) plays a double role. According to the First World, it forbids her from partaking in anything associated with the patriarchal, public domain. However, on a global scale, it allows her to be a mainstream area of discussion, thus introducing her to an already established male dominated sphere of influence.

The medium that is being used for this project is photography. A series of photographs of women in veils is taken in various poses and diverse setting.

My sources of inspiration consist of Valie Export's focus on the clash between the public and the private and Bell Hooks' emphasis upon the oppositional gaze (thus, we will be subverting the use of a camera to present an opposing gaze).

In conclusion, these series of pictures chiefly revolve around the concept of the veil and how that can be used to portray the role of women in society, art and photography.