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Habituated

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Artist Statement

Having been born as part of the Vietnamese diaspora and being of both British and American nationalities, every day has become a process of observing and morphing to the social norms and customs that surround me at any given time. Domestic life was radically different from public life, each with different rules that govern what is socially acceptable behavior. Throughout life, I've had to adapt by watching my peers. I tend to be inspired by the images from routine occurrences which otherwise may seem trivial.

I wish to capture a moment of stillness, working from photographs taken by me or my peers, some of which needed no preparatory process. A large portion of the models were not aware that they were being photographed. Many of them are people who I spend time with on a regular basis, in spaces that they frequent. For this project I explored architectural spaces. I work on a large scale so the pieces may be more immersive, and create a sense of presence of the people in them. I hope to recreate familiarity and resemblance to the viewers daily narrative.

The accompanying portrait series is of a different terrain. The models become very aware of how they want to be captured. Since they are the main subject, posing for the portrait and interaction with me become very formalized.





