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Slide Projection

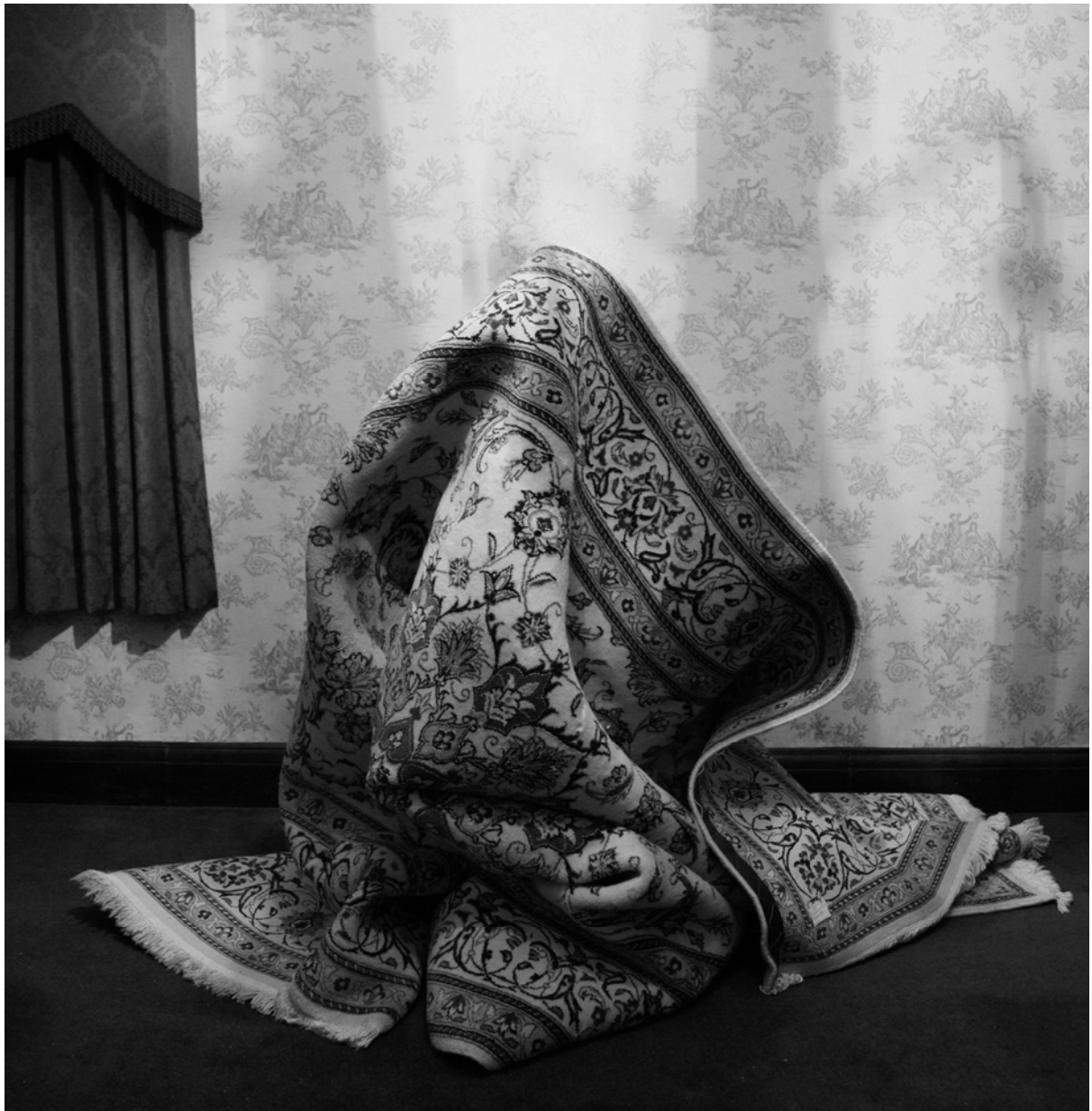
Grace Williams

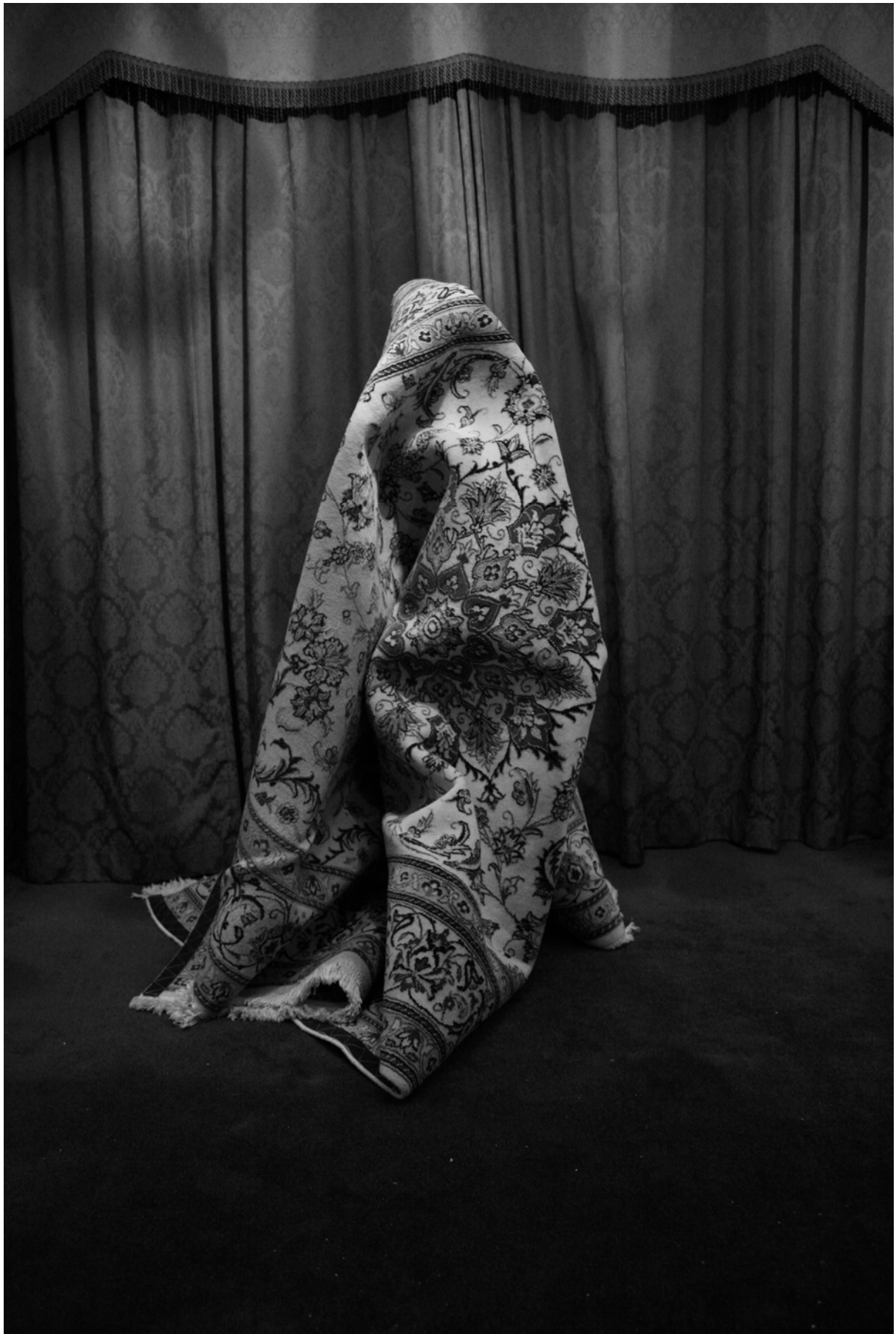
ESCAMOTAGE ~ SLEIGHT OF HAND, TRICKERY, CONJURING, VANISHING

Taking its name from the Bautier de Kolta illusion *Escamotage D'une Dame* - an 1800s magical vanishing trick in which the female body was spectacularly disappeared under a heavily patterned covering - Escamotage negotiates the language of the Persian rug as a motif for female vanishing. Fraternizing the violence of enchanted disappearance with the bizarre 'hidden mothers' photographs of the Victorian age - in which mothers concealed themselves under carpets in order to hold their children still for portraits - the Persian rug is ever present for its ability to simultaneously reveal and conceal an exposure of the female form. The use of projection onto a darkened surface further enhances the sense of liminality, whilst the gradual degrading of the slide through prolonged contact with the light creates a new layer of vanishing.











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