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Self Portrait

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Loi: Self Portrait

mother's house that day. He was investigating a complaint from a neighbor who smelled gas. My mother didn't answer, so they broke down the door.

The man found her dead on the kitchen floor. The coroner reported she had died from a heart attack.

I had to identify the body at the morgue. It was the first time in my life I had seen her at peace. Looking at her slab of death on a metal table, I was happy that she died in her home. And at her funeral, I made sure I buried her with her house key around her neck.

Soon, I rented a truck and cleaned out her apartment. It was sad to see the place she loved so barren. I imagined that whoever moved in would hear a tub running three times a day and my mother's footsteps going from room to room. Because I believed, even in death, she'd still be there.



Self Portrait. Photography. Raymond Loi