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Small Spaces

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Small Spaces // Cristina Peters

small spaces is a commentary on society’s inability to recognize or talk about sexual assault without compartmentalizing or labeling it based on preconceived definitions and technicalities. By forcing and contorting the human body, in its most natural and vulnerable form, into the most unnatural and confined spaces, the figure conveys a physical expression of the struggle that victims of sexual assault face.

For each tableau, I look for spaces that could potentially be hiding spots, located in an environment where the figure doesn’t belong. I ask the model to fit herself into the space in the most compressed and obscured way she can. I direct her to display as much tension in her body as possible, as if she is trying not to be seen. When recording the image I select a point of view that seems to be from the perspective of an invisible onlooker, implying a sense of mystery, or danger.

The purpose of this work is to reach out to victims of sexual assault, to tell them that they are not alone. Survivors should never feel that their experiences are invalid based on rigid, qualifying criteria set by society.