

This photographic research engages with instances of high school male bonding practices within the athletic arena that denote forced physical penetration. Sourced from journalistic articles, the primary object of each incident is presented as mundane imagery for visual syntax. The cornerstone of the imagery is the point where ritualized hazing activities become criminal acts of rape. These instances intended to provide solidarity amongst a group of adolescent males introduces the convergence of hyper-masculinity and forced female gender role-play. Through participation, this process intends a result of gifted masculine equality amongst the group through the ritual rejection of it. The objects photographed were not manufactured with hostile intent but did in fact become objects used in delinquent involvement. These educational institutions have codes of conduct, which through the aid of semantics have an irony about them in direct relation to the acts of hazing. It necessitates importance for incorporation of these codes of conduct as direct text in the images. Just the deconstruction of 'codes' of conduct gives wordplay in regards to a secret and exclusive application.

As our society becomes (often times legally forced) more tolerant and exposed to non-traditional gender roles, the patriarchal society we were founded on becomes antiquated by definition. Through these ritual practices the inheritance of masculinity and manhood can be passed down through male-male inducted sexual solidarity. Rights of passage are a cultural context expressed through limitless manifestation. In a visually sexed society that keeps conversations of the taboo behind locked doors there exists the gap where manifestation escapes both misguided and unsupervised. This project is a visual gateway into such research.