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ARTIST STATEMENT

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Been a Boy

My work explores themes surrounding societal norms. *Been a Boy* is a defiance of gender expectations. Beginning at an early age, my notion of gender roles was formed through my cultural heritage, media, and community. Through photography and mixed media, I highlight the ongoing inequities that women face.

The photographs in this series deconstruct expected norms in the domestic and public space. Women have long been confined to domestic roles. This series features women free from these restricted spaces, living with the privileges of a man, and enjoying a man's world. This role reversal defies societal gender norms.

Through the mixed media piece, *The Game of Life, Gender Edition*, the professional and domestic inequities faced by women are emphasized. The mock game addresses the need for continued awareness of the oppression of women in the home and the public sphere.

Informed by my own experiences, my practice dismantles these unforgiving cultural norms and power structures that shape traditional gender stereotypes and expectations.