

creek

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An Interview with Marta Djourina

September 08, 2015 in Interviews, Photography

Marta Djourina is a visual artist currently living in Berlin, Germany. We've worked together on two different creek projects, and I recently had the opportunity to talk with her about her own work, motivations, and the difficulties of the artistic process.

Creek: So, what influenced you early in your life?

Marta Djourina: I spent many years developing and concentrating on drawing as my main artistic medium. The types of drawings I was working on at the time were strongly influenced by my earlier education in Bulgaria, and I wasn't so much influenced by particular artists but more by the trial and error method I used to develop my style. As a visual artist, experimenting and trying things out is extremely important: if an artist loses their desire for that, they lose their hunger.

C: How did the move from Sofia to Berlin affect you and your art?

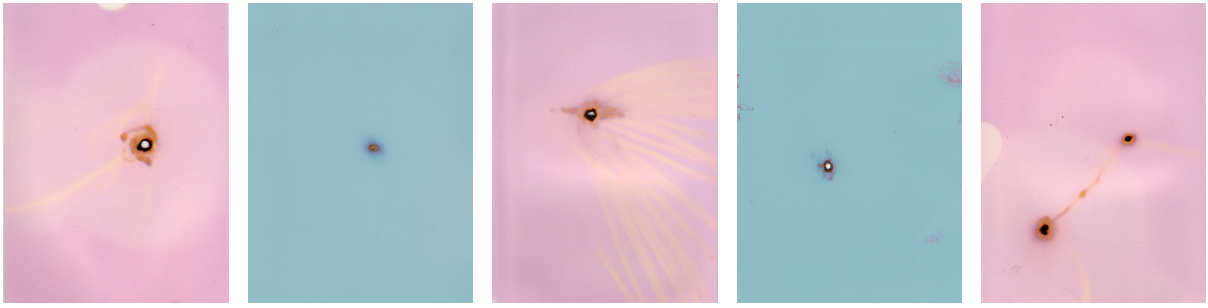
MD: I was only 18 years old when I moved, and at that age I hadn't found my way artistically, yet. I saw Berlin as a massive melting pot of creativity, and with opportunities and exhibitions on my doorstep it was a natural transition to delve into that, whereas if I stayed in Sofia I don't think these opportunities as an artist would have been so readily available.

C: In your work, do you always begin with a strong conceptual idea? How much do you allow ideas to change as you work on them?

MD: Before I start working I do have an idea but I would say it's more of a natural development rather than a planned one. I like to experiment while I work, as I feel that taking a step back afterwards is better than having too many plans beforehand. The only way for me to make new pieces is through working a lot. I spend less time planning and more time doing, because the ideas usually change in the process.

C: At this point, do you have a preferred medium?

MD: Analogue photography without a camera! I am fascinated by photo paper and its sensitivity. I used to draw a lot and still find myself looking mostly at drawings when I go to exhibitions, but abstract or experimental photography is my domain. I currently use photography more like a light painting.



C: Who inspires you?

MD: James Turrell is one of my great inspirations. I saw one of his installations live two years ago and I'll never forget it. It's the only work that made me scared and happy at the same time.

C: What are your strengths as an artist?

MD: I'm great under pressure and at multitasking. I don't struggle to motivate myself on a daily basis and until now I've always found a lot of energy to invest in my art.

C: What are your weaknesses?

MD: I can take on too much and burn out from time to time.

C: What makes you laugh?

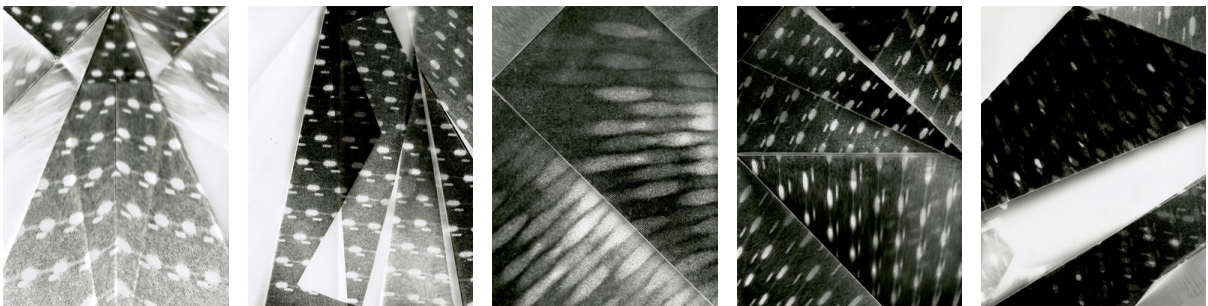
MD: I laugh a lot! Usually it's silly everyday situations that make me laugh the most.

C:What do you want to change?

MD: I would like to be braver and avoid overthinking things.

C:Tell me about something beautiful.

MD: The sunlight over Vitosha mountain next to Sofia (Bulgaria) during ski season.



C: What drives you to create?

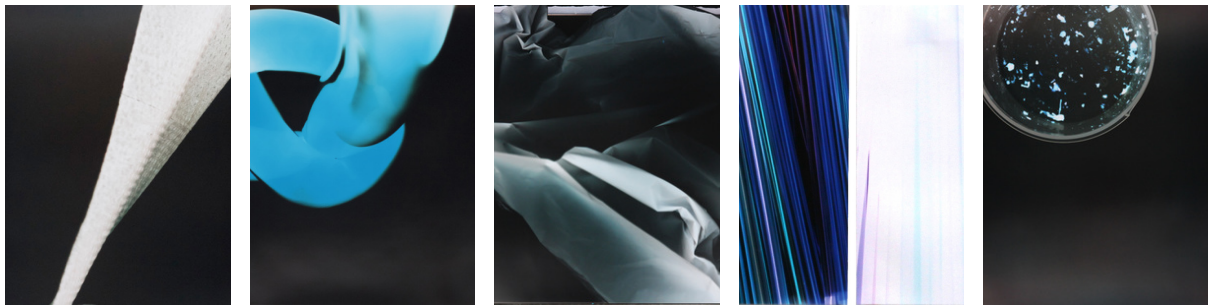
MD: I don't find myself wanting to be like somebody else in the sense of looking up to one artist at any time. Making art is what makes me the happiest, and the beauty about art is that it is free, there are no borders, it's a state of mind. I know that I'm never going to stop because there is no end product. Each work and each new experiment takes me further and deeper. It's obviously not always as simple and I have to struggle with hurdles, but ultimately the tougher it gets, the more I learn.

C: Some days I wake up with the intention of working, but it doesn't feel right, or something intervenes, and everything feels forced or bland. With that in mind, how do you deal with resistance?

MD: Every artist has to deal with resistance, and the most important thing is to have a routine. On a day like this even if I'm not able to "produce" work, I still go to my studio or to an exhibition. Even being at our own studio and organizing the creative mess helps! I am a huge fan of this type of consistency and find it very hard to take long breaks.

C: Lastly, what makes you happy?

MD: I am the happiest when I work. My time alone in the photo lab day and night is my favorite of all. It might sound cheesy, but I am in love with the creative process.



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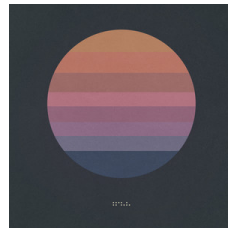
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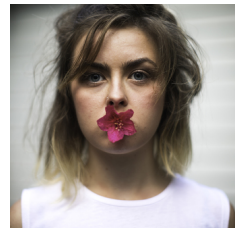
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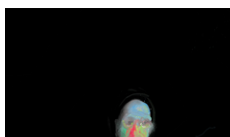
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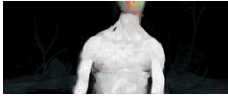


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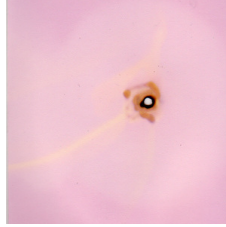
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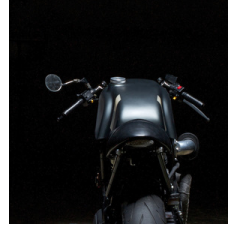
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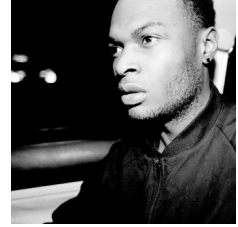
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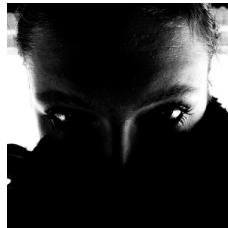
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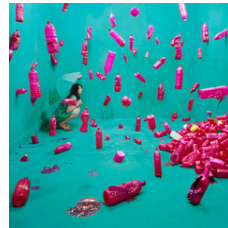
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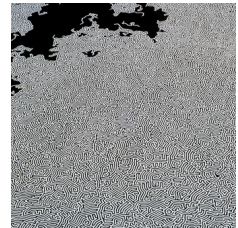
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