

'Every Breath We Drew' Photo Book Explores Identity, Desire And Connection

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A new photo book has just been released and it examines the power of identity, desire, and connection through the art of portraiture in 2015.

Every Breath We Drew is a striking collection of images from photographer Jess Dugan, who sought out subjects that exhibit, in her words, a form of "gentle masculinity." Through this work, Dugan complicates traditional notions of masculinity by photographing individuals in intimate spaces as meaningful exchanges took place.

In many ways the project is personal for Dugan, who calls it "one big self portrait" and who reveals that she came to define what masculinity means for herself apart from societal expectations.

"I am interested in a version of masculinity that is more expansive, and more vulnerable, than the kind often represented in mainstream culture," Dugan told The Huffington Post.

Check out some images from *Every Breath We Drew*, as well as an interview with Dugan, below.



JESS DUGAN



JESS DUGAN

What do you want viewers to take away from this project?

First and foremost, I want viewers to feel connected to the people in the photographs. I often place the viewer in a position of intimacy with the subject -- in their bedroom or sitting across the kitchen table -- and I hope that this intimacy allows for a meaningful exchange to take place. I also want viewers to question their own assumptions about gender and sexuality, calling into question things they may have previously assumed to be objective or clearly defined. The photographs are ultimately about the need we all have to be seen, embraced and desired as our true selves.