

Keeping Façade

Allison Baker
Gail Dodge

The Perfect Couple:

Trying to keep pace and living above their means in a meticulously decorated home with far too many empty bedrooms. One bedroom full of monogrammed, nautical trinkets from his parents that they wish wouldn't visit so often. Another filled with mementos: sorority letters in puffy paint and glitter on paddles and beer mugs like arts and crafts from a slutty kindergarten, left to languish for her friends from college that always talk on their yearly phone call about how 'we should really get the girls back together for a weekend' - a promise as empty as 'we should get coffee sometime' or 'I'll call you in morning.' The last spare bedroom masquerading as an office that neither of them particularly need that will be converted into a nursery for a child neither of them particularly want.

Downstairs in the living room with plush white carpet that appears to have never been walked on, always perfectly kept to host lavish but seemingly effortless dinner parties to entertain their less attractive but certainly wealthier friends—his co-workers, really... soon to be boss, actually. Impeccably fluffed decorative pillows with bold grey chevrons and a coordinating chenille throw blanket compulsively rearranged look dreamily causal can't hide the gouges in the oak floor from fucking her ex too hard on the crisp, new Crate and Barrel couches when he went out of town on business, presumably to do the same. And the strategically hung family photos of smiling people, barefoot on the beach at their destination wedding can't hide the numerous fist holes in the cheap drywall painted Radiant Orchard, Pantone's color of the year.

A. Baker

A Vacation:

Rearing wrists back to search heartily.
A small confidence in the light promises on the screen.

Reassuring with a flat palm. Not violent.
Blended with salt and lime.
They have a grilled chicken breast...
Vinaigrettes.

Toothy smiling dusk and a tan for the gods.
Tight bods in pacific blue.

Soft fluid.

Opt in.

Slow down.

You should be ashamed.

You are shameless.

False smiles loom and all I could do was think
about my chipped nail polish and unkempt bikini
line.

G. Dodge



Presbyterians try to save Michigan camp

Chicago district faces selling property to repay loan, years after it settled lawsuit about lawsuit
February 10, 2017, by Maria Salazar-Pedraza, Tribune reporter

The Presbyterian Church of Chicago and the Southwestern United States is trying to save a historic camp in Cook County, Ill., after a lawsuit about a lawsuit.

On the grounds of Presbyterian Camp in Chicago, Ill., the historic site is part of a big battle over the camp's future. The camp is the site of a lawsuit about a lawsuit.

Now the plan is to repair and restore the property. The Chicago Presbytery will decide Saturday whether it will pay off its \$7.8 million debt by selling the 100-acre campground to a private developer.

Another offer, not on the table, has been made by an owner of environmental and social investments who says they can save the money to pay off the debt and keep the camp in the process.

What led to the debt has become an open secret. About six years ago, in 2011, the Chicago Presbytery received a confidential settlement with a developer who claimed they had been sexually abused by a Presbyterian minister. Though nearly 200 Presbyterian leaders approved the payment, some people have since the 2011 settlement the church's board that the settlement be denied.

Around the same time, the Presbytery took out a multimillion-dollar loan and used the campground as collateral. A lawsuit that came out of the loan, the 2011 Chicago area church members by lawsuit.

By this day, the head of the Presbyterian church in Chicago, the result of the lawsuit is that in Cook County, Camp Cook has anything to do with the church is 2011. The idea was to pay off the debt, but the church is now in a bind, which means a lawsuit to the church and efforts to prevent it from being used of the Presbytery's loan.

The lawsuit, the settlement and the apparent compromise might have helped Presbyterians who say they no longer trust their leaders and have threatened to leave the church.

"The question of this is it's actually a matter of fairness and justice that has nothing to do with the lawsuit," says Schuchman, 45, a member of her church's governing body who worked with the campground early in the church's life.

"That's the tragedy of it all," she added. "In saving the camp, we've got to pay off the debt."

The church's struggles began in 1980, when some who were without official records the first litigation against Chicago's church, a lawsuit formerly in charge of the Presbytery's 1,000-acre property.

At the time, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services found enough evidence to justify the litigation. But the current case against the church was about to end. Most, who had moved to Illinois, no longer wanted to stay.

Three years later, the church then sued the Chicago Presbytery, saying they had been abused as children between 1980 and 1995. About four years in the lawsuit, the church's board, Presbyterians, church members and church members who are in the campground, according to the church.

Most also ended some of the church's out of control as about 1980, the last year. On multiple occasions, according to the church, church members caught them smoking around with children, using their own. Several of the church's members caught them.

According to the suit, shortly after the church learned the investigation, the Presbytery approved a Spring Cleaning Day at the church's headquarters, which meant that church members and church members who are in the campground, according to the church.

When contacted by a Tribune reporter in 2012, the church said it was about to be contacted about the allegations.

"I don't know if it's real and it's real," he said in the 2012 story.

Most died at age 60 in 2014. Most of the church's members died before the Presbytery within the church in 2011.

Nearly 200 church members, including Schuchman, approved an \$11 million settlement in July of that year, church officials said. The Chicago Presbytery was contacted an settlement about the church's \$1.5 million loan that allowed them to pay off the debt.

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Concerned Presbyterians organized a nonprofit called Lutheran Christian Camps to buy the land for \$2.5 million. But they learned that they also could not save the money needed to save the camp.

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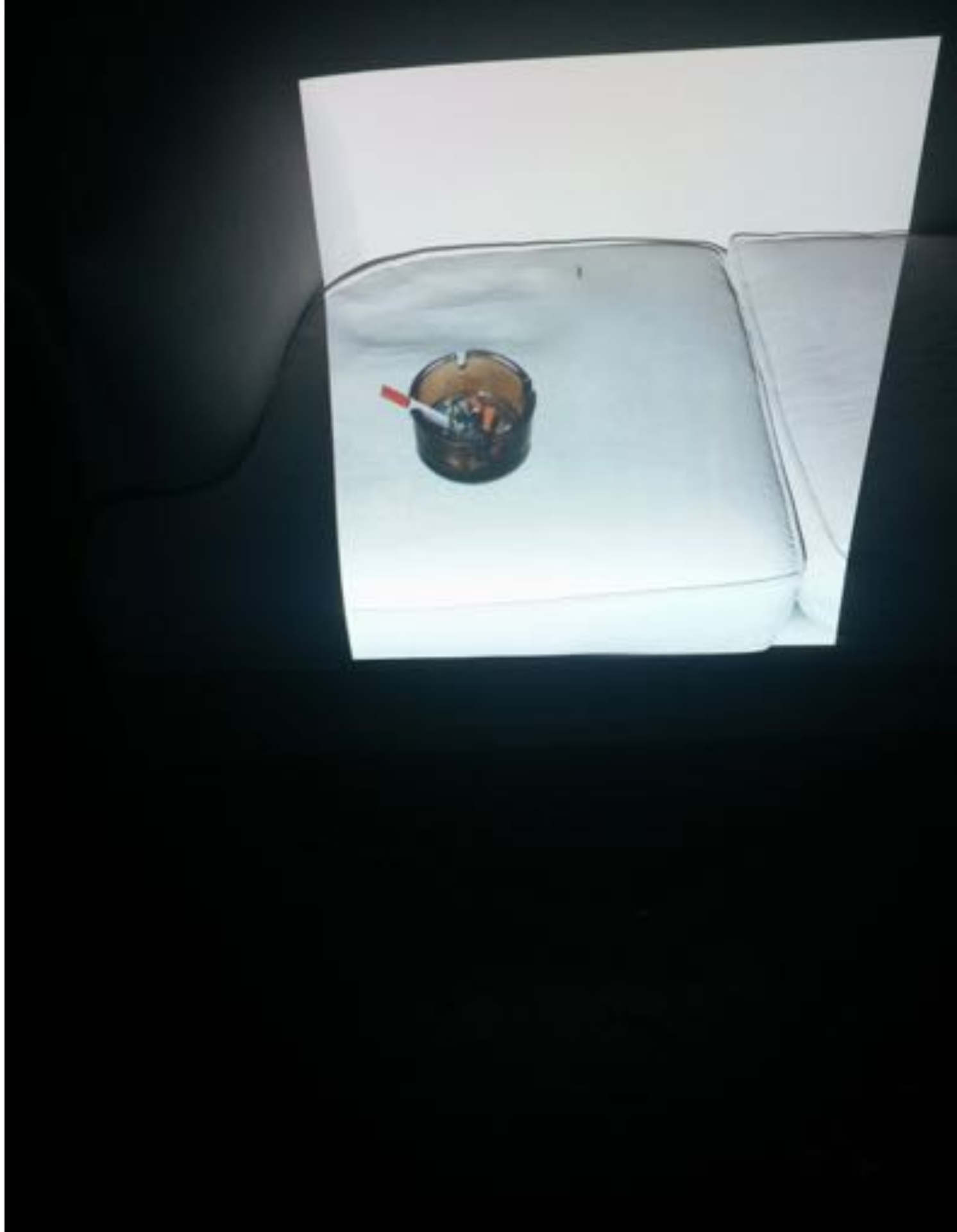
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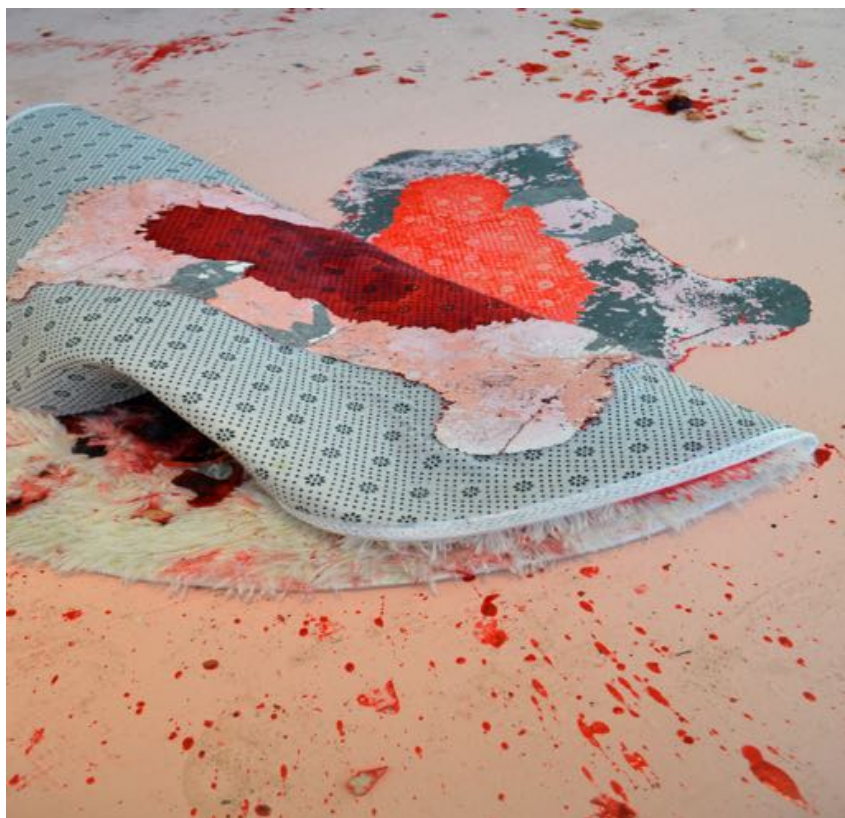










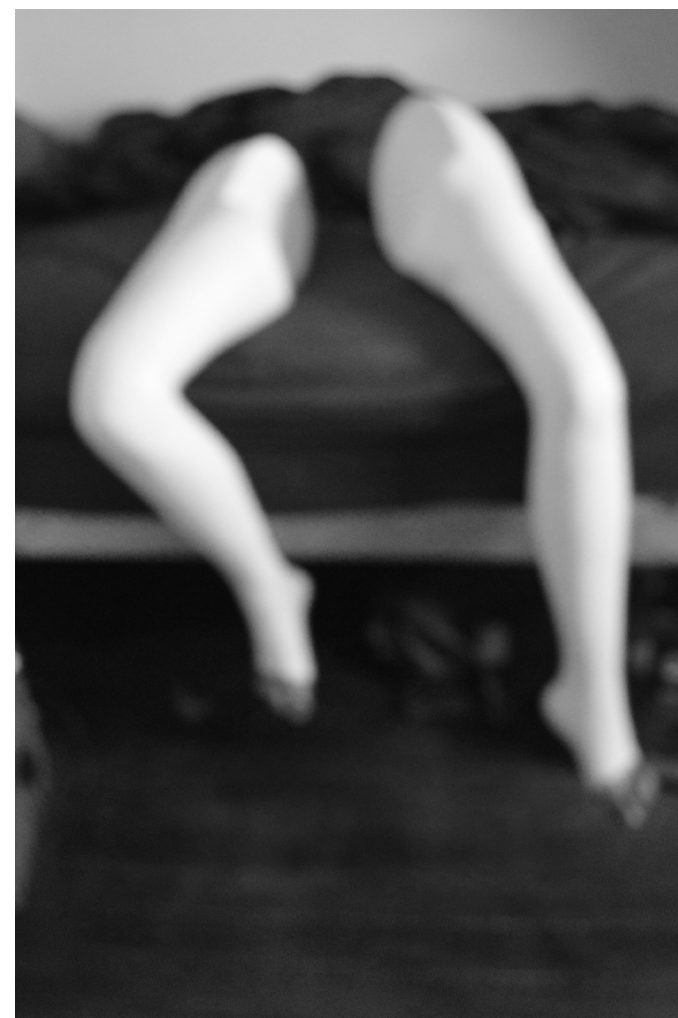




















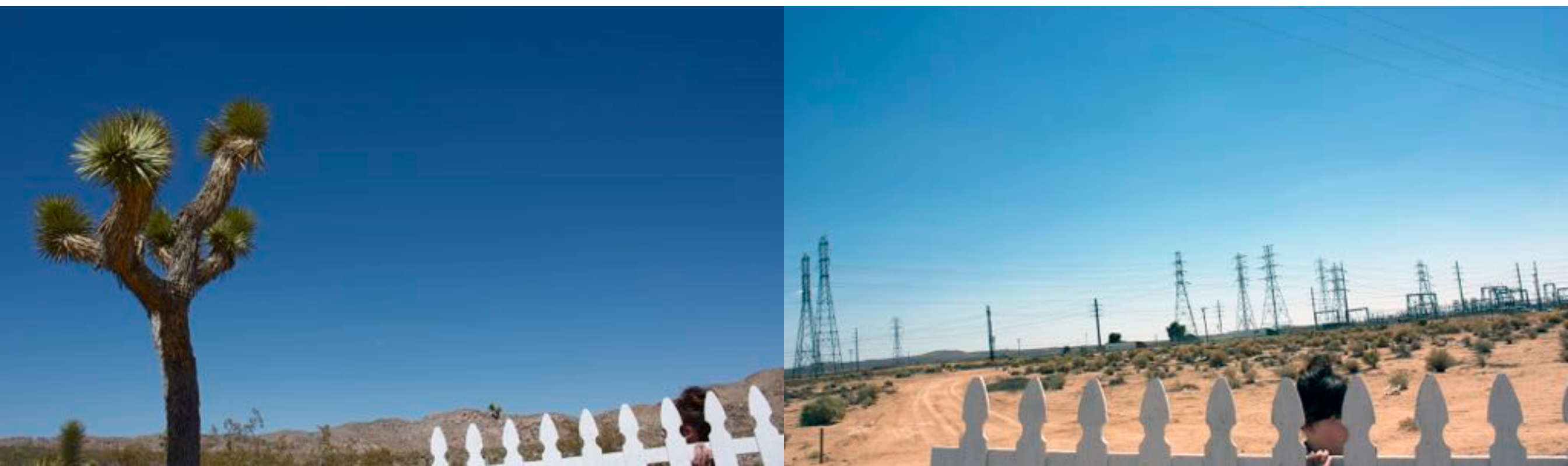








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- 6-7 *Embracing a Sunken Fishing Boat*, video stills, 3:15 minutes. 2014. Gail Dodge and Julia Gartrell
- 8-9 *Above Average*, documentation of performative gesture. 2014. Gail Dodge
- 10 *You Don't Feel Good About It*, resin, cigarette butts, 2015. Allison Baker
- 11 *Astral Projection*, love seat, projection, 2015. Allison Baker
- 12 *Tea for Two*, Installation, 2014. Allison Baker
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- 17 *Fluff and Fold*, \$3/lb, Installation, 2015. Allison Baker
- 18 *Half-Caf*, paper, 2015. Allison Baker
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- 20-21 *Iced Out Like a Goalie*, video still, 2:30 minutes. Allison Baker
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- 23-24 *Collector*, Xerox prints, 2013. Allison Baker
- 25 *Reiterate the Inimitable*, video still, 2:53 minutes. 2012. Gail Dodge
- 26-27 *Toothache*, video still, 6:23 minutes, 2015. Allison Baker and Gail Dodge
- 28 *Townie4HomeLife*, video still, 0:36 minutes. 2011. Gail Dodge.
- 29-31 *Another Tenuous Tenancy*, documentation of performative gesture. 2012. Gail Dodge

32 *Lap Pool Goddess*, video still. 10:12 minutes. 2010. Gail Dodge and Lori Andersen

33 *Detached and Unwinking*, video still. 0:57 minutes. 2013. Gail Dodge

34 *Bewilderment Unrequited*, video still. 2:40 minutes. Gail Dodge

