

## “¿Adultas?”

### Cuerpo en estado puro

**“¿Mayor de edad?” es una serie de retratos de mujeres entre 18 y 21 años. A esta edad, en cualquier parte del mundo, eres legalmente un adulto. Para Paola de Grenet esta es una edad sin parangón. Un lugar de tránsito y cambio donde la ilusión y ganas de comerse el mundo pueden con todo. Pero también de miedos e incertidumbres al abandonar la casa de tus padres.**

**Texto y fotos: Paola de Grenet**

Este proyecto fotográfico empezó cuando Paola conoció a Emily, una pelirroja americana que estaba viviendo unos meses en Barcelona. “Le pregunté si podía hacerle unas fotos porque me gustaba mucho su largo y rizado pelo rojo, algo que tenía ganas de fotografiar desde hacia tiempo. Me fascinaba la forma en que el color de su pelo contrastaba con el de su piel”. Emily se entusiasmó y así las dos se fueron a casa de una amiga con había mucha luz y espacios vacíos, ideal para la foto que Paola tenía en mente.

“Cuando la vi con el torso desnudo quedé muy sorprendida al darme cuenta de cómo en realidad a los 21 somos aún muy niños aunque la sociedad ya nos reconoce como adultos responsables...”

Aquél instante significó para Paola recordar todo lo que ella vivió a los 21. “A los 19 me fui a vivir a otra ciudad, lejos de mi familia, a los 21 murió mi madre, deje mi país (Italia) para ir a vivir a Londres y terminé la relación de cinco años con mi primer amor. Soñaba con ser fuerte e independiente, pero confundía la independencia con el no necesitar a nadie...un error fatal, mas adelante entendí que necesitar compartir no significa ser dependientes”.

La madre de Paola ya no estaba para controlarla y ella se sentía libre para comerse el mundo algo que siempre había deseado. “Fue un largo camino de incertidumbre, conquistas y dolor, porque ahora mi pequeño mundo sí que es mío aunque admito sigo con mil dudas. Y tengo 43!” Veinte años después, las chicas que Paola ha conocido para este proyecto comparten aquellas emociones. Es como si el tiempo no hubiera pasado. Parafraseando la cita que una de las modelos le sugirió parafraseando a la gran Nan Goldin (fotógrafa): *“Siempre pensé que si fotografiaba a cualquiera o cualquier cosa suficientemente, nunca perdería a la persona, nunca*



*perdería la memoria, nunca perdería el lugar. Sin embargo, las fotos me muestran lo mucho que he perdido.”*

Esta trabajo captura como pocos el tránsito de un momento vital en nuestras vidas durante el cuál muy pocos somos conscientes de estarlo viviendo. La mayoría de edad es una promesa que se fragua durante toda nuestra vida. Es ilusión en estado puro, casi incoscienza. Por lo general todas la chicas fotografiadas tomaron este encargo con muchísima ilusición.

Irene, la chica con el suéter rojo, me contaba en su email que posaría para mi con placer y que si quería desnudo no le importaría enseñar pecho y culo pero el pubis le daría más corte...y quería saber si tenia que depilarse los axilas, a ella le daba un poco igual. Su energía espontánea me pareció fabulosa”. Igualmente, Paola había descartado realizar fotos de desnudos.

Para acompañar este trabajo, Paola realizó un breve cuestionario a las modelos. Os dejamos con sus respuesta, -algunas en inglés-. Es un diálogo íntimo y espontáneo que no hemos querido editar. Esto explica los dos idiomas en los qué os lo publicamos. Intervenir demasiado ya lo hará el tiempo.



## **Carla Viana Maneu**

(19 años)

*Soy de Barcelona, nacida en Badalona Ahora mismo estoy en paro, siempre he trabajado de camarera en temporada de verano o invierno. Tengo estudios de cocina y gastronomía, pero una cosa es cocinar en casa y otra el estrés que comporta trabajar en ella. Durante un periodo largo de mi vida baile muchísimo. Me gustaría dedicarme a ello.*

*Mi padre murió hace tres años y la pareja de mi madre me hechó de casa. Suerte que tengo muy buenas amigas y una amiga me tiene acogida en su casa. Estoy buscando una habitación.*

*He vivido varias experiencias difíciles en mi vida, pero la más dura ha sido que jamás podré volver a tocar ni a ni ver a mi padre. Tenía seis años cuando mis padres se separaron. Ha sido el momento de mi vida que me sentí menos querida y más sola.*



## **Bristi Wystup**

(19 años)

*1. Frankfurt, Germany. My Mother is Indian, my Dad is German and I was born in the States. When I was 3 years old, my family moved to Germany.*

*2. I am studying Fashion Design and want to be a Fashion Designer.*

*3. The main problem I have faced in Germany is the education system, in my opinion. The level of the teacher is higher than the students, that's obvious, but the teachers always make you feel like there is this hierarchy between him/her and yourself. Because I experienced the education system in other countries like the States or Spain, where the teachers act more like your friends, are willing to help you and give you the feeling of wanting to support you, I can say that I didn't get this feeling in German schools.*

*4. No, I did not. I have a boyfriend, although I am really happy with him, I am not thinking about having children at my age now.*

*5. No, I stay in a shared apartment with other students here in Barcelona.*

*6. My dream is to be a Fashion Designer and to love doing what I am doing. I think that is the most important thing in life, to be happy with that what you are doing: Even if you are working in a job that isn't that well paid as others, enjoy what you are doing. "Work for money, design for love." (David Airey)*

*Music I like: mostly electro and house (like Paul Kalkbrenner, AKA AKA, Klangkarussell, Pfeiffer, Marek Hemmann...)*



## **Sherine Sahbi**

(19 años)

*Nacionalidad: francesa de París*

*Estudios: peluquería y estética*

*Trabajo de camarera y me gustaría seguir estudiando imagen personal los problemas principales del país: es difícil para estudiar ya que tienes que pagar bastante dinero para tener unos estudios.*

*Aborté una vez vivo con mis padres mi sueño sería vivir en el Caribe y montar un pequeño negocio de hostel.*

*Mi peor experiencia fue mi última relación ya que resultó ser un poco agresivo.*



## **Tanya Khvorostiana**

(18 años)

2. *I study fashion marketing and I would love to work in marketing in the future.*

3. *Well, because I'm from Ukraine, the situation right now is terrible. There was a revolution, that influenced me a lot. I felt like the people started to be one, everyone helped each other in order to fight corruption and unfair presidentship.*

4. *No, never*

5. *I don't, and I'm quite sad about it, that I had to leave my country and my parents, as I am very close to them..*

6. *To travel the world first of all. Then, get a job and do what I love*

*Songs and quotes:*

*The Smiths: "If a double decker bus crashes into us, to die by your side, its such a heavenly way to die"*

*Coldplay: "Nobody said it was easy No one ever said it would be this hard"*



## Iana Borisovna

(22 años)

*I was born and grow up in Saint Petersburg Russia. I left Russia 4 years ago I was traveling around the globe in search of myself, tasting the life in different places. Dreaming to live in a warm country, near the sea and being creative from my childhood I'm taking a BA course in Fashion design now in Barcelona.*

*I left home for new experiences and because I wasn't satisfied with my life there, all the time I had a feeling that I'm in the wrong place and I think staying outside of the secure place without family support helped me to grow and to understand that I'm doing wrong. I had studies with scholarship back home in Saint Petersburg in one of the universities but it was far from the thing I wanted to do, it was more the dream of my parents. It was the hardest thing to explain to them that I want to quit this studies and move to Spain.*

*The worst thing happened in my life when I was about 15, I had a terrible accident when the big piece of glass cut my face when I was staying out of the city without my parents. I was delivered to the local public clinic, it's sad to say but there are still a lot of social problems in Russia like miserable salary of the doctors and terrible condition of the hospitals. I didn't see myself in the mirror without bandages after the operation but by the tension of my skin and scared expression on the faces of my parents, when another doctor back in Saint Petersburg removed them, I understood that it was far from beautiful. I got really lucky and in one of the hospitals was a plastic surgery doctor who was staying there in his free time of work in private clinic to help children. I still have a scar which crossing all my left cheek, now I got used to it taking it as a part of my identity and experience of the past, but in my teenager life I was feeling really uncomfortable with it and I was trying to hide it best as I could using lots of make up. I still feel scared when I hear the sound of the broken glass.*

*With all what passed in my life I came to the understanding the value of the little things, beauty of the nature around and happiness of the present moment and slow life. I'm leaving my dream now with my couple and the cat, both I found here in Barcelona.*

*"Let's aspire that the search of beautiful will become our everyday experience. Lets try to find the beauty in all of our daily duties, because even the smallest task can be fulfilled beautifully..."*  
-S.N. Roerich



## Lea Ferraton

(20 años)

1. *Where are you from:* De Lyon, Francia.

2. *What are you studying, or what job are you doing or would like to do:* Estudiando bellas Artes, y me gustaría hacer fotografía artística, o ilustración de libros.

3. *What are the main problems you face in your country:* Lo mismo de lo que se queja todo el mundo últimamente.

4. *Did you ever had to abort (If you want to tell):* No.

5. *Do you still live with your parents:* Sí.

6. *What are your dreams:* hacer siempre lo que me gusta y poder vivir de ello.

7. *What was the worst experience of your life :* creo que no he tenido aún la peor experiencia de mi vida, no tengo ninguna que considere tan mala como para concederle este título.

*Me encanta la rapera francesa Keny Arkana, que para mí es una poeta. En especial una canción, "Tout tourne autour du soleil" (todo gira alrededor del sol).*

*Algunas frases de las que más me llegan son :*

*"Le bonheur dépend de ton regard De ce que tu dégages, ceux qui n'ont pas peur du vide ne tombent pas Car la peur attire tout à elle, magnétique Les erreurs se répètent car on cultive l'amnésie" [La felicidad solo depende de tu mirada De lo que desprendes, los que no le tienen miedo al vacío no caen Pues el miedo atrae todo hacia él, magnético. Los errores se repiten ya que cultivamos la amnesia]*

*"N'aie pas peur de te tromper Les erreurs font grandir et puis faut oser pour être entier Y'a que toi qui décidera du sens de ton sentier" [No tengas miedo a equivocarte Los errores hacen crecer, y hay que atreverse para estar completo Solo tú decidirás el rumbo de tu camino]*





## **Irene Moray**

(22 años)

- 1. Barcelona, España.*
- 2. Vivo entre Berlín y Barcelona, trabajo como fotógrafa y traductora. Cuando necesito más dinero hago lo que sea: vendo cosas, friego platos...*
- 3. La corrupción y la división de clases, la precariedad laboral y el sexismo. Al menos son los que me tocan más de cerca.*
- 4. No, nunca. (Aborto)*
- 5. No, me fui de casa a los 19.*
- 6. Quiero viajar y ganarme el sueldo haciendo algo que realmente me apasione.*
- 7. Sufrí abusos cuando era adolescente. Eso me marcó mucho pero creo que a día de hoy no cambiaría lo que pasó. Superarlo me ha hecho fuerte.*



**Naida C. Castel**

(22 años)

*Balaguer , Lleida.*

*He estudiado Diseño de producto, actualmente estudio joyería y trabajo como modelo.*

*Ahora mismo todo es un problema, hasta que no cambien el gobierno... mal vamos.*

*Nunca he abortado.*

*Ya no vivo con mis padres.*

*Sueño con tener mi propia marca de joyas y tener siempre tiempo de hacer lo que me gusta y estar con la gente que quiero. He tenido algunas malas experiencias, pero prefiero que queden en privado.*

*Libros: Nada, Tokio blues, La carretera*

*Música: Bon Iver, The XX, Metronomy, Arcade Fire...*



## **Talía Schürmann Fernández**

(20 años)

1. *Soy de San Luis Potosí, México.*

2. *Estudio diseño de Modas en el IED Barcelona. Independientemente de mis estudios soy deportista, específicamente corredora.*

3. *En México? Hay muchos problemas de corrupción que creo que es lo que afecta a muchos mexicanos. Por personas corruptas y que ven por los intereses propios el país no sale adelante.*

4. *No*

5. *No vivo con mis padres, ellos viven en México y yo desde hace dos años vivo en Barcelona sola, claro con el apoyo económico de mi mamá.*

6. *Creo que todos tenemos sueños pero también tienes que trabajar para cumplirlos, no te vas a despertar un día y verás tus sueños hechos realidad. Tienes que trabajar duro para conseguirlo y creo que lo más satisfactorio cuando lo consigues es saber que lo hiciste por tus propios méritos.*

7. *La peor experiencia de mi vida creo que ha sido el divorcio de mis padres. En realidad no tanto el divorcio si no las situaciones que desencadenó. Me afectó mucho pero aprendí que no debo depender de cosas externas para ser feliz. depende de mi si quiero ser feliz, salir adelante y tener éxito en la vida.*



## **Emily Crist**

(21 años)

*Born in Richmond, Virginia, raised just outside of Los Angeles.*

*I want to work for an international music festival. I just graduated with a degree in public relations and minors in business and fine arts.*

*Well, on the surface we have increasing unemployment, which is not unique to the just the US, but a very real problem. A different issue is how young Americans*

*feel about their country. It has been my experience that my generation has very little pride in being American, and it comes from insecurity. I believe it is because America is often the scapegoat for big business, greed, corruption, obesity, etc. This idea that everywhere else is so much more progressive, open-minded, and selfless, to me sounds ignorant. I wish my generation would not bash the country that they were raised in, contribute to, and benefit from. Recognize the problems in your country, but have pride in all the good attributes, too.*

*No, I moved to Brooklyn my last year of college. I've been independent my whole life, going off on my own and doing things that I was sure was preparing me for "real life." But the context is different this time. When I was a teenager, I thought that being able to take care of yourself, cooking, cleaning, getting to your classes, jobs, appointments, etc, meant that you were grown up. Living away from home as you embark on adulthood, and real responsibility and transition is very scary and real. New York City is one of the hardest, loneliest, places I've ever experienced. It is not a kind place, and it teaches you to persevere, to say the least.*

*My dream is to be completely fulfilled in my life; To be happy and healthy. I want to have a family that I can share all of my dreams and successes with. I want have a job that makes me feel alive—like I am accomplishing something and helping others. And, to have a house surrounded by, and filled with, plants.*

*I had a really tough somewhere between 17 and 18 when I lost connection with myself. From a young age, I wanted to do everything, and to have every experience and feel every emotion, and that's not something that teenagers are prepared to handle. It was rough, but I gained this amazing perspective that many people don't realize until much later in life, I think. Whenever I get caught up in a negative moment or thought I look at the big picture and remind myself of what's really important in life.*



## **Signin Ojulu**

(21 años)

*1. I was born in Sudan (now South Sudan) but I have lived most of my life in the United States (Minnesota).*

*2. I study economics and International relations. Currently I am working on music and film and focus on areas of the African diaspora. I'm living life cluelessly and it feels GREAT!*

*3. Because my country (South Sudan) has recently just separated from Sudan, the largest issue is instability of the nation through infrastructure, economic instability and basic needs of the people. I consider the United States my country as well, and actually, I feel that U.S. is in much worse shape in terms of happiness. I feel that my United States is so polarized and divided, while the youth suffer and are forced to clean up the mess of former generations.*

*4. I have never had to deal with this issue as well as many of my friend groups because of the way we were raised. Protection always!*

*5. I just moved out of my aunt and uncles house because I found a job. After graduation is probably the most stressful time in ones life because for me personally, I didn't have a job, I lost many connections with people because I traveled, and I needed to figure out what to do with my life - so stressful!*

*6. I am going to change this world - seriously. I am going to be an example of the new age woman who isn't afraid of her capabilities, talking about sex, and living her life the way she wants to! I want to become a model, film-maker, actor, musician - but most importantly, I want to learn in order to educate those who are less fortunate than I.*

*7. I dislocated my arm in France and they took 2h30 to relocate it - that really sucked. I'm from the states, and although medical treatment is more expensive here, it is quick and efficient as hell! I've probably had more emotionally strenuous times in my life, but this medical experience with French bureaucracy is the most potent in my mind.*



## **Jessica**

(21 años)

1. Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA

2. I am studying Biology and Human Rights. I want to be a doctor and get into health care Policy.

3. Getting into medical school, getting a job (before that), and paying bills.

4. Do you mean abortion? I've never had an abortion. Or do you mean about my dreams? I have not aborted them. I never will.

5. I do not live with my parents anymore.

6. My dream is to become a doctor and work in health care policy to help progress the U.S. (and possibly other countries, aka development) toward a sustainable universal health care system.

7. The worst experience of my life was probably the break up with my first boyfriend.

To be honest, I'm not sure what else to put. When I think of being 21, it's discovering the world and myself. If I had to give you pictures, it would be of my time traveling, I've attached a few that are important to me, I feel that 21 has been all about personal growth, but from experiences, not school. It's been getting lost with my best friend, living abroad and seeing a different perspective, realizing that there's more to life than work and money. For me, being 21 has been about realizing that everything I've been taught in some way has been a lie. Some people never grow up, 'happy endings' don't simply exist, the bad guys don't always lose, nothing really is as it seems. This may seem pessimistic and negative, this realization and personal growth I'm experiencing, but I've never felt more happy or free in my life.