

ÉRIVER HIJANO

APHASIA

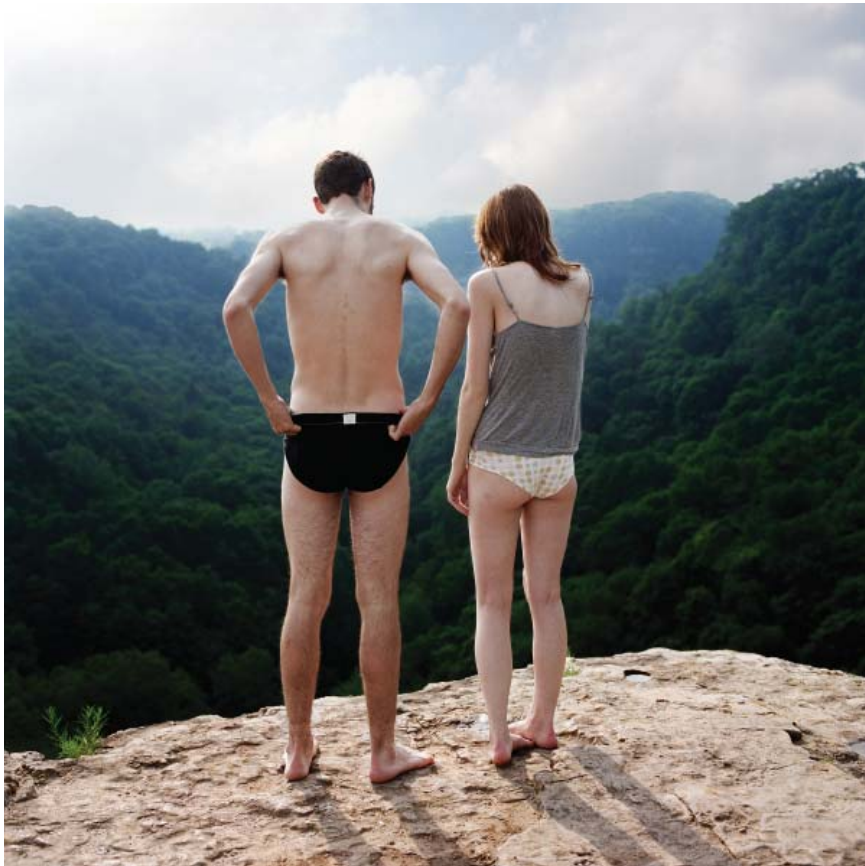


Alone and vulnerable at a given moment of time, several individuals are balted by the camera and the weight of life in their heavy struggle with the human condition. The scenes portrayed acbe with lonely desperation. Clinically, aphasia is the loss or impairment of the ability to understand words or speech, usually resulting from brain damage. Looking at Hijano's images makes the viewer wonder what caused the deep wounds these individuals have been dealt.

Above: Aphasia, plate 3, (year), Across: Aphasia, plate 1, (year).

The feeling of discontent from generations born into the fast-paced lifestyle of the post-modern digital era has increasingly become the main subject of my work. The utopian promise of improvement brought to humanity by the heyday of modernity has evolved into detachment from real life and lived experience.

The series *Aphasia* explores this feeling of alienation and delusion. Lonely figures are found in what seems to be a mundane and trivial setting at first glance. Yet the calm situations portrayed become increasingly unsettling to the viewer upon further inspection. The pseudo-narrative staged in all shots is intentional and its surreal quality raises questions that cannot be definitely answered by the viewer. Although the settings are necessary to evoke the mood, the images are still completely anthropocentric.



Untitled (cliff), (year).

The title of the series suggests this loss of ability to comprehend expression through speech, as today words are of minor importance when compared to images. I am trying to denounce the insecurity and doubt that divide us in an unavoidable state of ecstasy and decay, freed from earthly boundaries, but vulnerable to the uncertainty of a world at large. The scenes are quiet, melancholic.

This strain of decadence can be found in the work of artists such as Edward Hopper, and the photography of Gregory Crewdson and Panos Kokkinias, where the subjects seem to be alone and vulnerable in their own human condition, and each have approached a similar subject in a different and personal way. Currently, the subjects in my work are confronted with, and entrapped in, their own lost paradise.



Aphasia, plate 4, (year).



Aphasia, platez, (year).

*Ériver Hijano lives in Toronto,
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