

Jessica Somers
Artist Statement

When I entered into marriage and domestic life I experienced an intersection between personal choices and societal expectations. Suddenly the traditional aspects of nesting I had previously deemed objectionable became desirable. I both loved and loathed the idea of myself as a sort of servant in my home.

Through the self-portrait series *Paper House* I investigate which of my actions are genuine desires and which actions are inherited from societal expectations common to previous generations of American women. These photographs reference my struggles, my reflections and my fears through visual metaphor. I simultaneously cherish my healthy relationship and stable home while facing the challenge of maintaining my personal identity amid the presumptions that come with marriage and homemaking. It is between these points that I firmly stand supporting the walls of our house and the life within them.