

NEW RELEASE 2026

Jo Ann Chaus
Unspoken

Texts by Jo Ann Chaus, Debra Klomp Ching
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An artistic journey of self-liberation from female stereotypes

Over a decade, *Unspoken* evolved from private exchanges between the artist and her camera into a profound visual investigation of identity. In this series, Chaus embodies a range of female stereotypes and archetypes—figures shaped by inherited expectations and internalized roles. Although a modern, independent professional, Chaus recognized how deeply she was still bound to her mother’s generation: the ideals of the devoted wife and self-sacrificing mother. Creating these images revealed the tension between who she was expected to be and who she was becoming. The characters appear rooted in mid-twentieth-century domesticity, yet beneath the polished façade, they radiate defiance and vulnerability. The vintage dresses and objects hold personal meaning, allowing her to layer memory and history, merging her private narrative with a collective cultural archive.

From the prologue by Debra Klomp Ching:

Over the course of the series, autobiography diminishes to a certain extent, and the subject in the frame shifts from a representation of a seemingly unobtainable self to an homage to all women – the universality of the burdens of wife and mother, the self-sacrifice of personal desire for the better of others, and a suggestion of the possibility of unfulfilled potential being acknowledged. While these photographs are undeniably about her, and for her – she allows the viewer the possibility of supplanting Chaus with ourselves. We (women) merge with and are her.

Jo Ann Chaus is a visual artist based in New York. She draws on the early color giants William Eggleston and Saul Leiter in her dramatic use of color and light, to highlight the uncanny and the metaphorical in her collection of self portrait, landscape and still life images. She holds two certificates from the International Center of Photography and advanced workshops at Maine Media College, and a prior career in the fashion industry. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and has received multiple recognitions and awards.

Debra Klomp Ching is the co-owner of the Klompching Gallery. Additionally, she is a freelance consultant, writer, curator and educator. She has been a judge for several photography awards, including the Arnold Newman Portrait Award (2018), is the co-founder of the Rhonda Wilson Award, and an adjunct faculty member of the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

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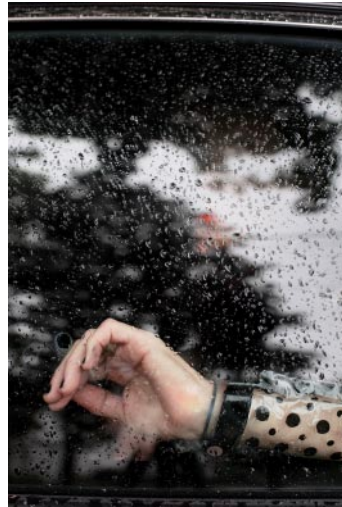
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