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Visually and figuratively, this woman is a symbol of strength, beauty, and self-confidence as she twirls around celebrating Phagwah. (All photos courtesy Jennifer Pritheeva Samuel 2012)

Home Away from Home by Jennifer Pritheeva Samuel

These photographs are part of photographer and filmmaker Jennifer Pritheeva Samuel's Home Away from Home Project, an in-progress multimedia project about the global South Asian diaspora. This body of work, which combines photography, video, and audio, explores the issues facing diaspora populations as they migrate from one culture and adapt to another. Samuel addresses ideas of identity, race, transnationalism, and belonging through the lenses of history, politics and culture. Thus far, she has photographed South Asian communities in South Africa, Kenya and Trinidad. The photographs here were taken during her first visit to Trinidad in March 2012.

Samuel, Jennifer. 2012. Home Away from Home. CRGS no 6, ed. Gabrielle Hosein and Lisa Outar, pp. 1-7.



Kiss of Life



Dress Rehearsal

This photo considers the commodification of Indian culture and how it is accessed by people of Indian descent in Trinidad. While helping one another get ready for weddings and special occasions is usually reserved for a closed circle of women, we find this man in the non-traditional role of dressing a woman in her sari.



Behind the Scenes

I visited Mrs. Rampersad because I heard that she, an Indo-Trinidadian woman, is one of the primary makers of carnival costumes in Trinidad. I was really impressed that behind the scenes, she is one of many who make Carnival what it is.



These images gesture at the wide variety of classes, religions, and backgrounds encountered in Trinidad, and the continuing significance of spirituality to Indian women's sense of self, relationship and place.





These images were taken in the work place and yet they have a very familial (top) and dreamy (bottom) feel to them. The expression and colors of the two women in the foreground below are strong, natural, and bold, despite all the giggling that took place before they agreed to be photographed.

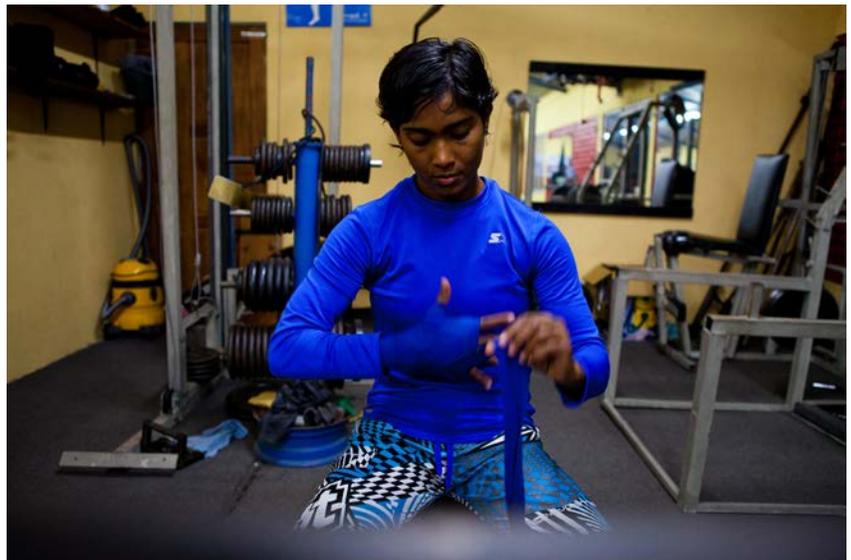


Another strong woman framed in the context of her workplace.



The Battle

Ria Ramnarine, a female fighter of Indian descent, has had to wage many battles, both in and out of the ring



This image demonstrates the love of family and the multiple identities of women at different stages of their lives -- daughters, mothers, aunts, etc.





The signs of this woman's poverty -- washing her clothes at a stand pipe and living in a simple wooden house -- are in stark contrast to the general wealth seen around Trinidad and depicted below. Regardless of class, there is still "women's work" (above) as well as women's camaraderie (below).





Beauty, strength, and Trinidadian diversity personified.

