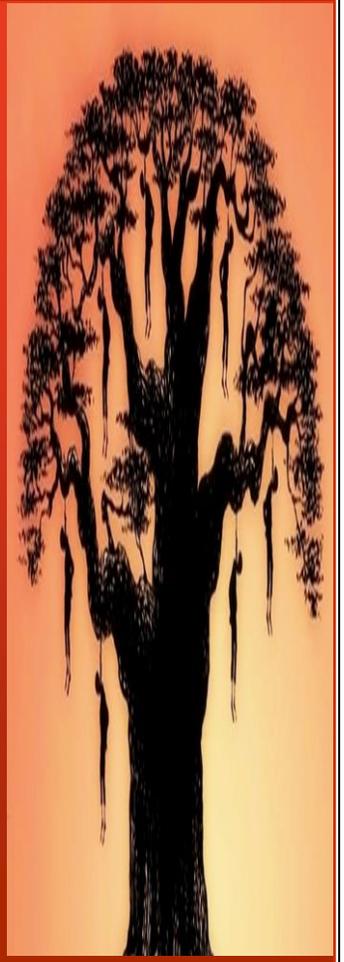




# *Blood on the Sleeves*

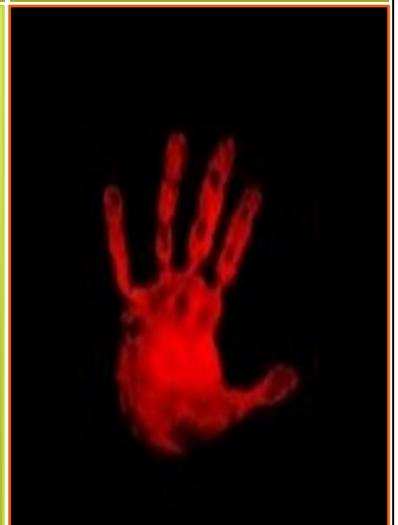
An Exhibition of the Exploitation of Women in Labor

*Utilizing art and creativity as a tool to display the oppression of different Women across different regions of the World*



2014

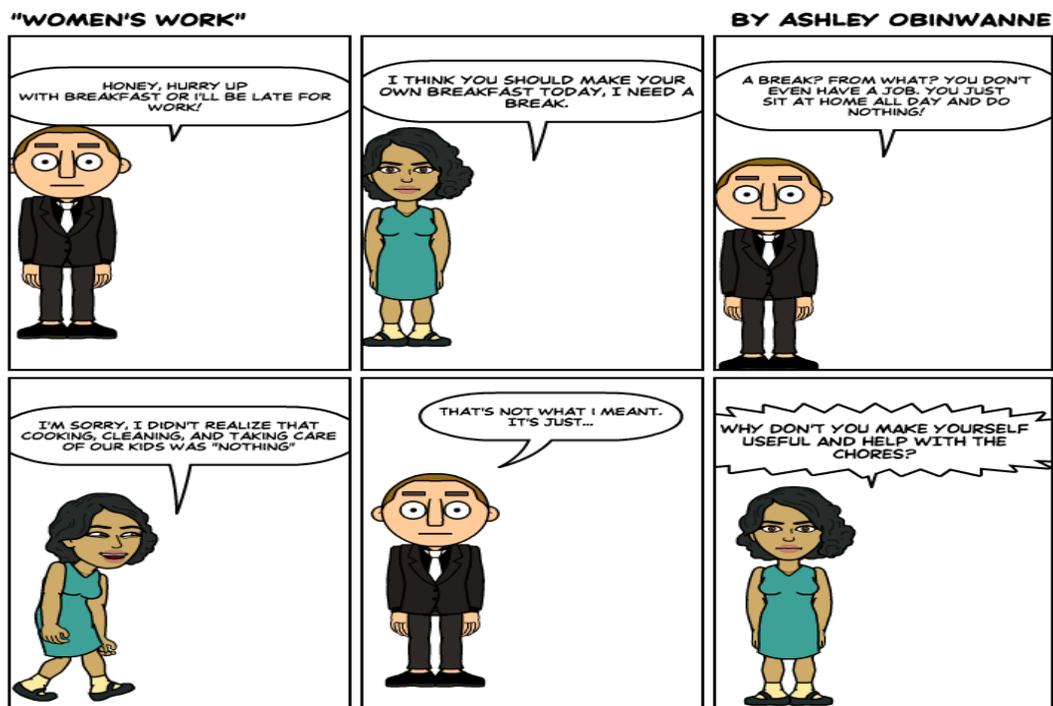
*Tuesday May 6, 2014 at University at Albany Campus Center Assembly Hall*



AWSS: 308 Global Perspectives on Women



## "Blood on the Sleeves" Art Exhibition Checklist:



*Ashley Obinwanne and Madeleine Oakley made a comic strip that illustrates how women's labor is exploited in U.S households. Women in heterosexual marriages do most of the chores, cooking, and child care in their homes. Men tend not do as much housework as their female counterparts because these things are seen as "women's work." Our comic brings light to this issue in what we hope is a funny, lighthearted way.*

*Camryn Beck and Stephanie Fitzgerald explore Native American women's lives through a Totem Pole drawing. In the past, Native American culture demanded respect for the woman and she was considered equal to the man. Today, the most common way Native American women are exploited is through sex work. The commercial sexual exploitation of Native American women is most prominent in Minnesota. Currently Native American women have sunk to the bottom of the totem pole and face the same sexism and discrimination that women of other cultures face. They are not paid as much as men for doing the same work. When women move off the reservations to find work, they find it difficult due to the lack of education they were able to obtain on the reservation and they are exploited in the jobs they are able to find because they are menial, dead end jobs and employers know they will accept far less than their work is worth.*

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*Women are being exploited in the work environment every day in the Middle East, from unpaid labor to being victim to sex trafficking. These women struggle day in and day out, but for some outside of this region, and those who are more privileged, this struggle does not exist. We hear stories but never really relate to or understand what these women are going through.*



*For this art piece Saabira Adams and Nikita Khandelwal have chosen to make a book entitled Faces of Exploitation..... Bringing Exploitation of women's Labor to Reality. In this book we will have images of the faces of these Middle Eastern women, in hopes that once you have a face to put with the stories you hear, it will become real to you and in turn push you to want to help make a difference.*

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*Manuella Torres and Victoria Faustin (pictured left to right) will utilize performance art to display the exploitation of women in the work place in India. This form of art depicts imagery centering on the human figure and it explores the shared views and dynamics of humanity at its core. With still life it gives us the opportunity to express and display how women in India are exploited and are robbed of their basic human rights.*

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*Asian women and specifically women in Malaysia are subject to multiple intersecting stereotypes of gender, sexuality and race. Businesses exploit women with the application of these stereotypes in the areas of garment industry, prostitution and international marriage broker firms. Malaysian women are victims of the idealized hyper-sexualized Asian women in addition to being preferred gender of workers to produce garments for first world consumers earning little to nothing a day.*

*Stephanie Wolak's visual art piece of a life size collage is intended to at first give the viewer the appearance of an idealized Asian female sex worker. Upon a closer look the viewer will be confronted with facts on the true cost of first-world fashion and the sex trafficking industry. The exploitation of women's labor in textile and garment factories is a global problem yet the sexual stereotyping of Asian women creates another dynamism of how exactly women are exploited in Malaysia.*

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*Julianne Ersfeld and Marissa Pond's art piece consists of two photographs conveying a message through imagery and symbolism to express the oppression women often experience while working in Maquiladoras. Women make up a majority of workers in Maquiladoras as they are considered to be more docile and the manufacturing of clothing is seen as domestic, or women's work. Due to much more lax wage laws in many countries in Latin America, it is common for big-named clothing companies to have the clothes made in these facilities for much less than it would cost to pay laborers in the United States and have the clothing imported. As a result, these women and sometimes children endure harsh and unsafe working conditions, are denied compensation for extended periods of time, constant harassment, abuse and even rape. However, many of these women feel they have no alternative as they may be single mothers, caring for sick family members, lack an education, or other circumstances that make them feel they are relying on even the lowest income for survival. But it becomes an abuse of power as often when expressing concern or showing signs of organizing they are threatened they will lose their jobs or abused further. Many women who have shared their stories of working in Maquiladoras often say they feel voiceless.*



*The first photo in our series of two shows a portrait of a woman (Marissa Pond) who is supposed to be representative of these women. She is wearing a blindfold that can be seen covered in all major brand logos that have had clothing traced back to original manufacturing plants in Latin America. This veiling of her view represents how these women are misled by these companies and often kept in the dark. The other main feature of the photo has her mouth*

*sewn shut by a piece of blue thread that is dangling with the needle on the end. This is meant to represent how the voices of these women are silenced through violence, both physically and institutionally.*

*In the second photo, it shows another woman (Julianne Ersfeld) featuring just another portion of her body. The purpose of this photo is to symbolize how women's bodies are used as tools of oppression through their hard labor. This photo captures just the chest area, as to represent any woman, with the main focus of the photo on her arms which are placed together as if she was in prayer, to represent their hope. However, the hands are seen bound together wound by thread which leads back into a sewing machine next to her to represent how her hands are tied by the very threads that sustain her.*

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*Ukraine is often recognized as having the largest sex industries in the world. Prostitutes and sex workers are exported from Ukraine and sex tourism is booming. Inspired by FEMEN, [Nicole Badalato](#) and her partner will be writing phrases on our bodies and photographing them. This is to show that our bodies, and the bodies of women everywhere, do not exist for the pleasure of others.*

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*Raven Profit and Sarah Leitner will utilize canvases to display the sexual exploitation of women in Kenya and Nigeria by means of trafficking. Each of the canvas will include symbolic meanings to many of the issues that contribute to the sexual exploitation of women in Kenya and Nigeria including patriarchy, capitalism, resources, colonialism and more.*

