

WORKING ASSUMPTIONS



Saquawana, Caregiver
Rania Matar, 2012, ©Rania Matar

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Press Contact: Sherrill Ingalls, singalls@sherrillingalls.com | 413.446.6126

40 Years After the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, Working Assumptions Showcases Photographs of Pregnant Workers

(Berkeley, California) – As the 40th anniversary of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act approaches, Working Assumptions explores the everyday presence of pregnant women in the workplace. The photography commission **Showing: Pregnancy in the Workplace**, online at showingpregnancy.org, addresses the dearth of real, everyday images of pregnant women at work. Selections from the project are included in the touring exhibition **SHOWING (work x family)**, organized by Working Assumptions, which will open at the University Art Gallery at California State University, Stanislaus, in Turlock, on **October 22, 2018**.

Enacted on **October 31, 1978**, the **Pregnancy Discrimination Act** amended the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination “because of or on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions; and women affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions shall be treated the same for all employment-related purposes.”

Kalahn Taylor Clark, a health policy worker in Washington DC, is one of the women photographed for **Showing: Pregnancy in the Workplace**. She said “The project itself was so enlightening for me because I got to see all of these women in very different working environments having very different experiences and just making it,” said Taylor-Clark, who was photographed by **Greg Miller**. “It is completely missing in our lexicon. With 40 years of practice, I think workplaces are trying to start addressing the fact that women actually do have babies and they are part of this workforce—they are a major part of this workforce. This project allowed us to bring the two realities together in a very poignant and also potentially impactful way.”

“I’ve been surrounded by pregnancy in the workplace and I’ve always found it to a time where we come together and support the person in their pregnancy. I’ve always had a really positive experience in the workplace around pregnancy. When I saw the photographs of all the other women, I still had that feeling of empowerment,” said **Julie Dorsey**, a professor at Ithaca State College, New York. Dorsey participated shortly after receiving her PhD and was photographed for the first time in her doctoral robes while pregnant by **Andrea Modica**. “Being photographed in my robes signified that I did this huge thing while I was pregnant and had a toddler at home, too.”

Working Assumptions

Working Assumptions is a not-for-profit organization at the intersection of art, journalism, and education. Its mission is to explore nurturing as humanity’s most familiar yet most undervalued resource. Our projects spark conversations, raise awareness, and challenge the “working assumptions” around family and nurturing. In addition to organizing innovative traveling exhibitions and public programs, the organization also operates an ongoing program for high-school photography students across the country.

SHOWING (work x family)

This exhibition tells the story of work, family, and the push and pull between the two in the 21st century. Six screens display 186 photographs by 135 photographers in an immersive, 30-minute experience. **SHOWING (work x family)** includes photographs—commissioned and selected—by contemporary photographers as well as student photography from the high-school program **wrk x fmly**. These photographs capture the intimacy of the everyday—mealtimes and bedtimes, commutes and carpools, school-day mornings and weekend chores—alongside depictions of pregnancy. The exhibition premiered at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, DC in 2016 and toured to the Mazmanian Gallery at Framingham State University, Massachusetts in fall 2017, where it catalyzed a campus-wide discussion on the themes of family, diversity, and change. Faculty and students in 64 classes looked at subjects ranging from neuroscience to literature through the lens of family. **SHOWING** will travel to the University Art Gallery at California State University, Stanislaus, in Turlock (October 22 – December 14, 2018), in conjunction with the Social Justice Conference; and to the Art Gallery at the Fulginiti Pavilion, Center for Bioethics and Humanities, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, in

Aurora (January 11– April 12, 2019). Other venues to be announced. More information is online at www.workingassumptions.org/showing-workxfamily.

wrk x fmly

This educational program for high-school photography classes encourages students to explore how work and family overlap in their own lives. Launched in 2013, **wrk x fmly** has been implemented in more than 50 schools across the United States; it aims to highlight the important insights of young people from diverse communities. During the 2017–18 school year, 950 students submitted some 2,000 photographs. More information is online at www.workingassumptions.org/wrkxfmly-assignment.

Showing: Pregnancy in the Workplace

Noticing the contradiction between the idealization of pregnancy as depicted in photography and the realities of working while pregnant, Working Assumptions supported fifty photographers to go into workplaces to examine why pregnancy in the workplace—a commonplace reality—is so rarely represented in the media. The project raises questions about our attitudes surrounding power, productivity, vulnerability, and nurturing. Selections from the commission are included in the exhibition **SHOWING (work x family)**. The photographs are online at showingpregnancy.org.

Game Face: What Does a Female Athlete Look Like?

This exhibition—and the corresponding book, published by Random House—features a collection of images from more than 100 photographers spanning over 100 years. **Game Face** explores the way we see sports and play in the lives of women and girls. Following its debut at the Smithsonian Institution’s Arts & Industries Building in Washington, DC, in 2001, the exhibition traveled to 16 venues across the United States. Educational programs related to the project included a Girl Scouts patch program and a companion curriculum, taught in thousands of schools across the country.

Working Assumptions is a 501(c)(3) organization based in Berkeley, California and is online at workingassumptions.org.

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