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History of Photography - Intro Paper

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ICP - Multiply, Identify, Her

*Untitled (Multiple Exposures)*



When looking at the *Multiply, Identify, Her* exhibition at the International Center of Photography, a particular series stood out to me immediately. What first caught my eye was the use of double exposures. I have experimented with this technique before, and I've always thought they turn out rather interesting. After reading the description of the series, I understood the reasoning of the use of the double exposures and the women featured in the photos. The artist, Christina Fernandez, often

creates visual narratives of Latina women and explores imagery that often relates back to her own family history and culture. This piece began when she had traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico and witnessed first hand the racism towards the local people. This disturbing sight urged her to form *Untitled (Multiple Exposures)*. To create the double exposure, Fernandez used photographs of the indigenous Mexican women layered with portraits of herself. The photographs of the women were taken by significant artists of modernist Mexican photography and cinema, including Tina Modotti and Gabriel

Figuroa. By layering her portrait on top of these unidentified women who represent cultural repression in Mexico, Fernandez identifies herself with not only these women, but also the artists who captured their stories. By keeping the images offset from each other, I interpreted it as Fernandez not quite being able to grasp and understand the racism going on in Oaxaca towards her own culture fully.

To my understanding, the *Multiply, Identify, Her* exhibition presents a self exploration of identity from the featured artists, whether it be race, class, gender, social stereotypes, etc. All of these topics shape and fabricate

who we are as people. The exhibition considers human's curiosity and impulse to push the boundaries as to how we define ourselves, and also illustrates the struggle to find that very answer. Christina Fernandez's series portrays a woman who is struggling to understand her ethnic background of not only herself, but also the women that have come before her. It focuses on the history and treatment of Latina women, and how Fernandez is embracing and connecting with them.

