The Sacred Space of the "Dojo"
My photo documentary of the Martial Arts is an ongoing project started in the fall of 2001. My interest is to document the personal experience within the training process: the trust between partners, a controlled ruthlessness in a martialist’s eye, the omnipresent vigilance of a teacher during class... the pleasure of ukemi.

Mainstream martial arts media tends to minimize the presence of the spiritual, overlook the complexity of interactions between members of a dojo cohort, and mostly depicts male participants. My interest in stalking a new kind of image of martial arts started as a result of my thesis work, an ethnography about women’s martial arts culture in the U.S.

I appreciate people letting me photograph in the sacred space that they created in the sacred space of their training. Mainstream martial arts media tends to deny the existence of a spiritual, overlook the complexity of interactions between members of a dojo cohort, and of course, only depicts male participants. My interest in stalking a new kind of image of martial arts started as a result of my thesis work, an ethnography about women’s martial arts culture in the U.S. In this quiet way, my photographic voice has been heard years of neglect. My seeking returned in another light.

I believe that through martial training, the student learns to accept and accept that "all lose and all die." Within this teaching, endurance and victory bless our lives with meaning with graciousness.