



## The Sacred Space of the "Dojo"



PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXT  
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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.

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I appreciate people letting me photograph in the sacred space of the dojang and in the sacred space of their training. Mainstream martial arts media tends to deny the presence of the spiritual, overlook the complexity of interactions between members of a dojo cohort, and of course, mostly depicts male participants. My interest in stalking a new kind of image of martial arts started as a result of my graduate thesis work, an ethnography about women's martial arts culture in the U.S. In this quiet way, my photography returned to me after years of neglect. My seeking returned in another light.

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