

Healers: Sex Workers by Choice NYC

Money is power, and sex work is probably the only profession where women earn more than men compared to wages recorded in 2021, where white women earn 80 cents for every dollar a man makes, and African American women earn 62 cents for a dollar. Latina women earn 53 cents to a dollar. In NYC, doms and sex workers that provide the girlfriend experience earn an average of \$450 an hour. It's also important to highlight that since 2021, NYC is no longer prosecuting sex work.

In the past few years, I've become friends with women who are sex workers, and that's how this project started. Befriending them helped me change my preconceived ideas of who a sex worker is. These friends chose this profession, as did the women photographed in this project. Many sex workers are artists whose extreme sensitivity and empathy toward others are only comparable to nurturing healers. In a world deprived of human touch and shame surrounding sex and sexuality, it's them who provide a cure for this malady. In exchange, this profession gives them the financial stability to afford college, rent, healthcare, and the cost of living in NYC.

Women who decide to have agency over their bodies and profit from them should not be criminalized or stigmatized. This influenced my decision to photograph them at home, whether it be the place they grew up or the apartment rented while working in NYC, because home and the idea of it is a universal experience that needs no description. We tend to judge and fear what we are ignorant about, and hopefully, by giving a glimpse into their lives, everyone can identify something of themselves.

This body of work is an homage to everyone in this profession. To those who fought and keep on fighting for decriminalization and those who constantly fear being arrested, deported, and having their children taken away from them. The criminalization of this profession mirrors society's stand on women's rights, the current state of affairs regarding abortion, and society's religious-influenced views on sex.

Penelope



"I am a very creative woman who is confident and uninhibited with a sweet and compassionate soul."



Althea



“If you are looking for a purely physical connection, I respectfully am not the one for you.”



Miss Cheng



“Designer, domme, daddy - in no particular order.”



Goldie



"I live to connect, enjoy, and create. Spend a little time with me, I'll show you what I mean. Artist, designer, reiki master."



Fiesty Feminista



"I'm a traveling woman with many talents. I am a pro cuddler, I wrestle naughty boys. Fierce yet sweet, Bachelor's Degree in social-psych, so I'm a great listener too!"



Lola



“If you like literature, we'll have plenty to talk about (when we aren't snuggling, anyway.) I have my Bachelor of Arts in English and I even keep a blog about my life experiences.”



Judith



Artist, shamanic healer, tantrika practitioner and mentor.”



Monday “Shamanatrix” Jones



“I became a nurse's assistant to put Myself through college where I studied the arts and became a parent. I spent 15+ years working in end-of-life care and oncology.”

