

JUAN DAVID NORENA MORALES

By Allison Smith

Juan David Norena Morales, *nom de plume*: Sean Orena is a Concordia University student in his third year of a BFA majoring in photography. Juan was born in Colombia, but has spent much of his life in transition - spending a significant portion of his life in various areas of North America.

Juan's works from his ongoing project "Sin Titulo" which is a form of social documentation that attempts to capture the everyday experiences of his "family." These are the individuals with whom he surrounds himself. He aestheticizes these personal and intimate moments of the everyday. Juan does not consider himself to be a voyeur. Alternatively, he considers himself as "one of them" - as one of the individuals he portrays.

His photograph depicting a naked woman, shaving her armpits in the shower beautifully encapsulates his technique of capturing private moments of the everyday. The woman stands in a tiled shower; the brightly light window frames her raised arm. She is concentrated on the task at hand, unaware, or simply unconcerned, by the presence of the photographer capturing her in an unglamorous, yet arresting, moment of intimacy.

His work is heavily rooted in theory. He classifies his style as interstitial art, interstitial meaning "in-between spaces." Interstitial art refers to any work of art whose basic nature falls between, rather than within. Juan identifies himself as a lifestyle anarchist; a term used as a description of individualist anarchism, derived from Murray Bookchin's polemical essay *Social Anarchism or Lifestyle Anarchism: An Unbridgeable Chasm*. Juan "hope[s] to fragment the lifestyle-anarchism of current youth-culture, revealing both its strident utopia and institutional syncretism."



Juan David Norena Morales. Photograph.