

KINNERET SHEETREET

By Rachel Rotrand

Kinneret Sheetreet is in her fourth and final year of a BA in Women's Studies, completing a minor in Photography at Concordia University. She sees photography as a means to critically analyze ideas of identity construction, personal narratives, community, and belonging. She regularly photographs family and friends with whom she has close relationships with. Inspired by a number of close friends, her series *Portraits from the Hard Bitches Callout* questions categories imposed on us by society as well as labels we place on ourselves. The series features nine individuals, all of varying sexual orientations, who either identify as 'hard bitches' or see this as a label they wish to investigate. Reminiscent of New York artist Peter Hujar's portraits, the people in Kinneret's black and white photographs stare directly at the camera with strong expressions, proud of their own individuality. Shot in their own apartments, each photograph is a collaborative effort between Sheetreet and the individual. Here they explore their own understanding of what it means to be a bitch and display strength that is often hidden in their day-to-day lives.



Kinneret Sheetreet. *Untitled*, from the series *Portraits from the Hard Bitches Callout*. 2010.
15 x 15 inches. Black and white photograph.

Here Kinneret's friend Kerri sits on the floor, the camera looking down at her from a position of power. She leans against the raw wall moldings behind her, while unconsciously playing with her ear. In contrast to her demure body language she stares up at the viewer, unsmiling, with strength and defiance. This photograph challenges the idea of the stereotypical bitch; through her androgynous appearance, and body language she simultaneously exudes power and vulnerability. Her inner strength is shown not by taking up a hard countenance, but by being unafraid to show the viewer a more fragile identity.