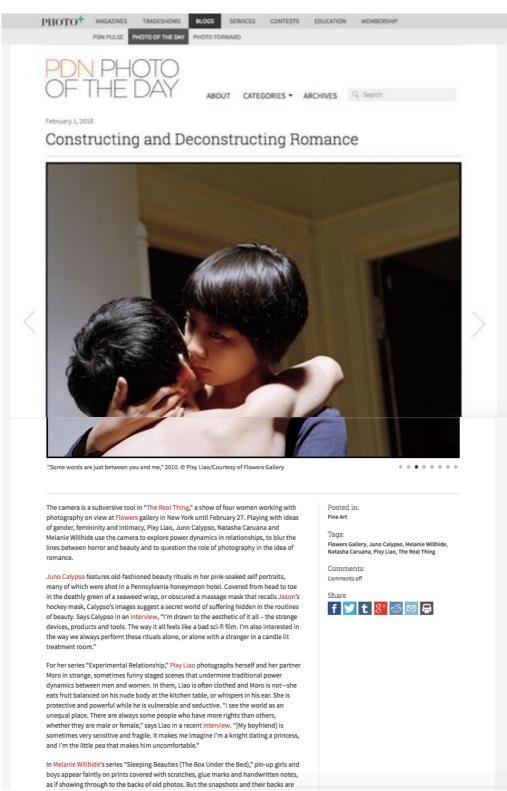
## LEO XU PROJECTS

**Photo District News**, *PDN Photo of the day: Constructing and Deconstructing Romance*, Text/Rebecca Robertson, February 1 2016





http://potd.pdnonline.com/2016/02/36458/#gallery-3

## LEO XU PROJECTS

as if showing through to the backs of old photos. But the snapshots and their backs are completely fabricated by Willhide, tokens of love affairs that never happened. "For me photography is a type of artificial intimacy," Willhide says in an interview. "This work is all about artifice...thousand-layer phyllo dough of artifice: artificial pictures, artificial subjects, artificial situations, and artificial text. All of this points to the illusion."

For her series "Married Man," Natasha Caruana went on 80 dates with men she met through a matchmaking site for married people. Shot with a disposable camera, the blurry, askew pictures depict the mise en scène of 80 dullish dates - tables covered in pint glasses and coffee cups, just emptied chairs. Many include the hands of the man across from her, but never his face. The offhand look of the images enforces their authenticity as records of secret encounters, and the banality of infidelity. "I was always aware I didn't really want their faces, I wanted gestures," says Natasha Caruana in an interview. "An image of where the pint glass is finished and the man's hands are pushed together in anticipation. What happens now? Do we get another drink? Do we go somewhere else? Photography has this amazing power of being able to capture that."

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