

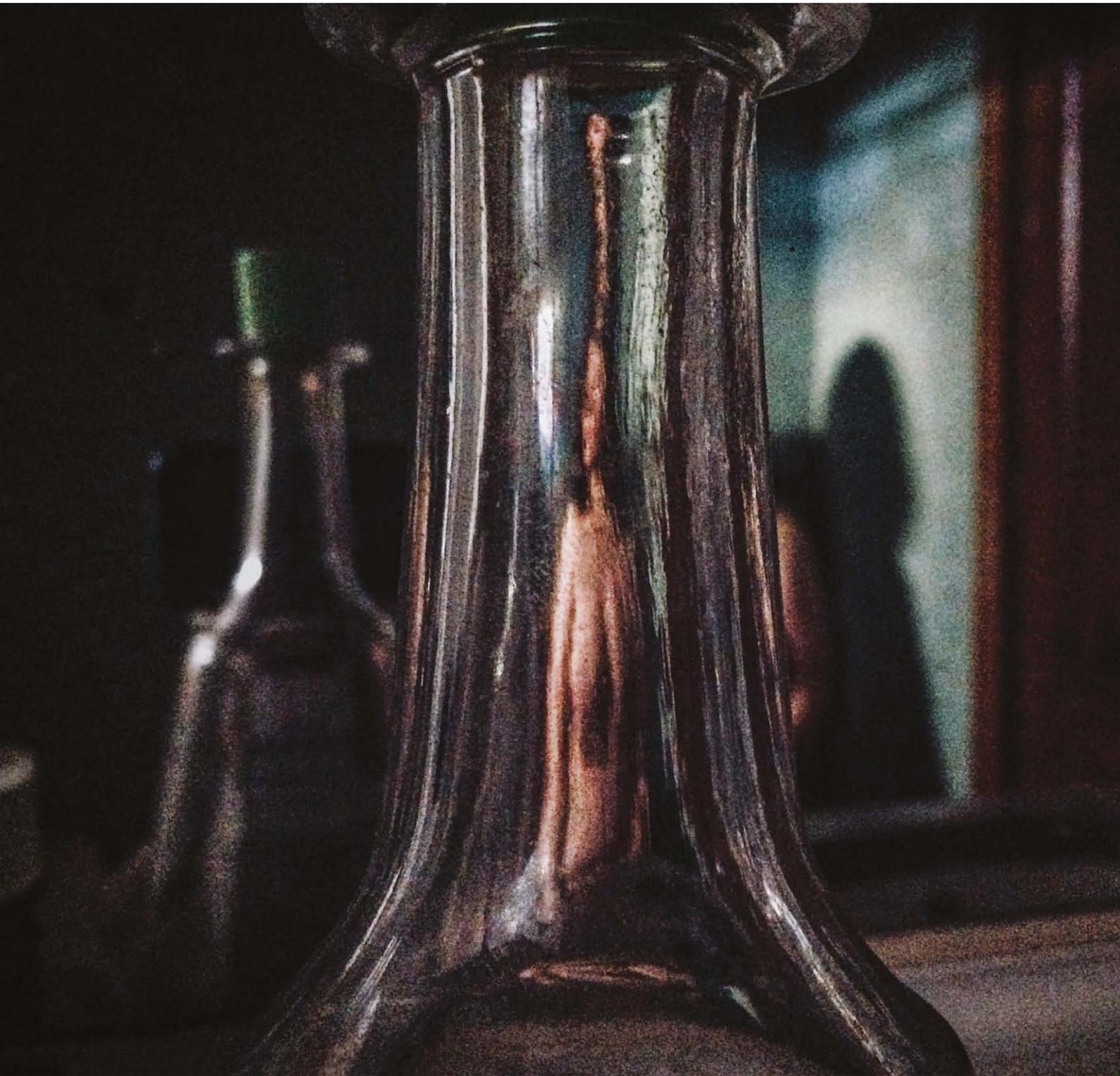
Gretta Hernández*

SELF-PORTRAITS

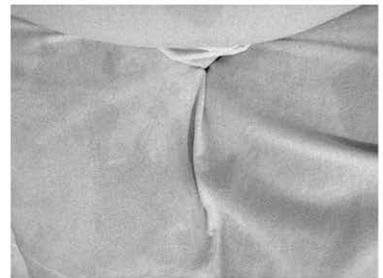
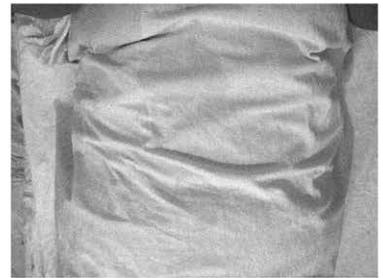


▲ *Marine Goddess Caring for Leonardo: my loving gaze follows your path, son.*

* Photographer @grettaph



▲ *Paristan Fairy*. In Persian mythology, Paristan is the place where often-female genies (fairies) live. These winged creatures cast spells on the stars and curse the land of humans.



Resurrection in the Time of a ▶
Pandemic. I was born under the
Chinese sign of the Rat. The year
2020 was the beginning of a new
Chinese zodiac cycle. The rat
symbolizes perseverance,
prosperity, and survival. This year
I asked myself whether surviving
such dark times suggested some
kind of design. A year later, I knew:
I survived cancer, unemployment,
oblivion, and an epidemic. After
baptizing myself in thermal waters,
I self-proclaimed my resurrection.
I'd leave behind the pain of the past,
I'd give voice to the polyphony in
my mind, and I'd seek, through
self-portraiture, the path
to giving life to all the souls
living within me.



▲ *The Thousand-Legged Bug*: Infiltrating ductal carcinoma is the name of the tumor that took over my right breast. To me it was like a dark invertebrate, staking its claim right next to my heart. This diptych represents the metaphor of the mother in two parts: surgery and radiation therapy.



▲ *Gardens of Babylon*: In November my days were covered with insects that drew their last breath at the foot of my door and my window sill. I tenderly gave them a home, and these beings inhabited my photographs.



▲ *The Queen is Not Dead*: In a self-portrait workshop, one of my tasks was to create an image of my opposite. I chose the nineteenth-century Mexican aristocracy to represent a lineage that's very harmful to us. **MM**