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We are pleased to announce *MONEYGAME*, a solo exhibition of photographs by Elizabeth Waterman. An Opening Reception will be held Friday, June 23rd from 5-8pm. Join us for light refreshments and meet the artist.

Waterman has spent the last seven years photographing inside strip clubs between Los Angeles, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Miami, and New York. *MONEYGAME* shines light into a subculture rarely depicted from the female perspective. The work tells the untold narrative of these clubs where professional dancers share their humanity, joy, humor, and incredible talent. These images are not meant to dispute issues within the adult entertainment industry, but to celebrate the women who master their art of performance. Waterman captures the moments in between the grind where friendships run deep and the female gaze is affectionately exchanged between women.

Please note this exhibition does include some nudity.

A professional voyeur, I've dabbled in and orbited many subcultures: drag, club, carnival—lots of nightlife. I've developed my photographic style in the field, skating along the periphery of other people's moments. For years I was hesitant to document the world of strippers, sex workers, and other marginalized professional women, but was mesmerized by it all the same. I needed to find a way in.

I scoured the city for a strip club where I could take pictures. For months I had no success, but in July 2016 I finally discovered a place in Queens where the manager gave me the go-ahead. It took me a while to find my footing and I felt the cold ripples of their suspicion; no one quite understood what I was doing there, but I came in week after week. I helped to collect the dollar bills littering the stage. Finally, with time, the dancers began to warm to me. I showed them my work, and they liked how I saw them. Soon they were volunteering to pose on the pole.

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I struck up conversations with the girls in the changing room and invited them to come sit for portraits at my Bushwick studio. Sunshine, from Queens, in her thirties, was supporting three kids. Nylah fairly sparkled with youth; she was chipping away at her college loans and fighting her way up.

I have encountered much to admire in the girls, and much to be inspired by. And in ways I'm still sorting out, I know the experience has changed me. I know I've taken on some of their audacity.

– Elizabeth Waterman