



ASSUME NOTHING  
REBECCASWAN

FOREWORD BY JUDITH "JACK" HALBERSTAM





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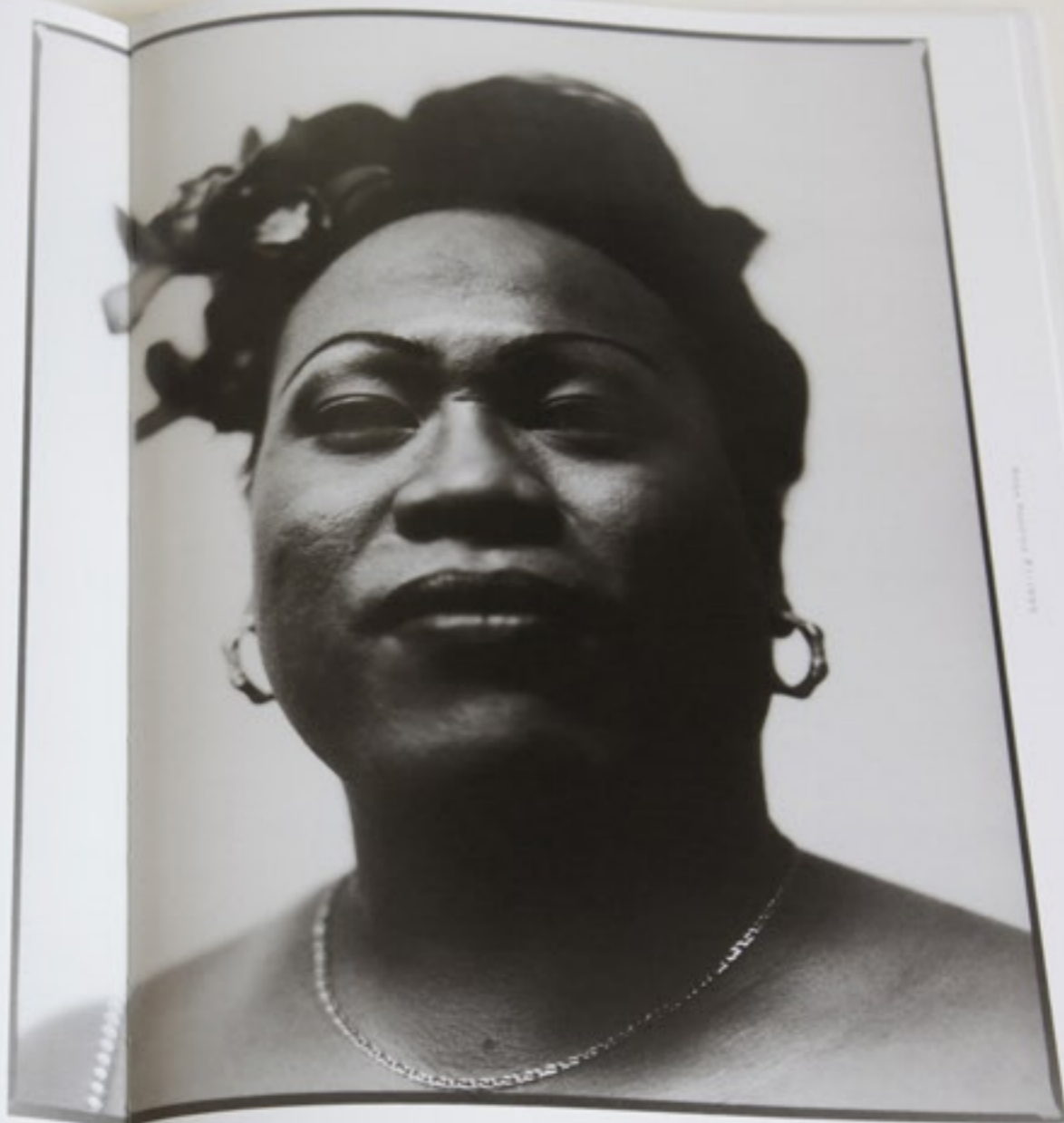


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1991



My name is Rusty. I come from a town in Western Australia down near the Margaret River. That's where my father's people came from.

The first time I would have discovered my gender was when I was about five years old. I used to loam with my Grandmothers which switches on and turns balls stuck down her bra. I vaguely remember my poor old Nan screaming "Get back here with my bladders on."

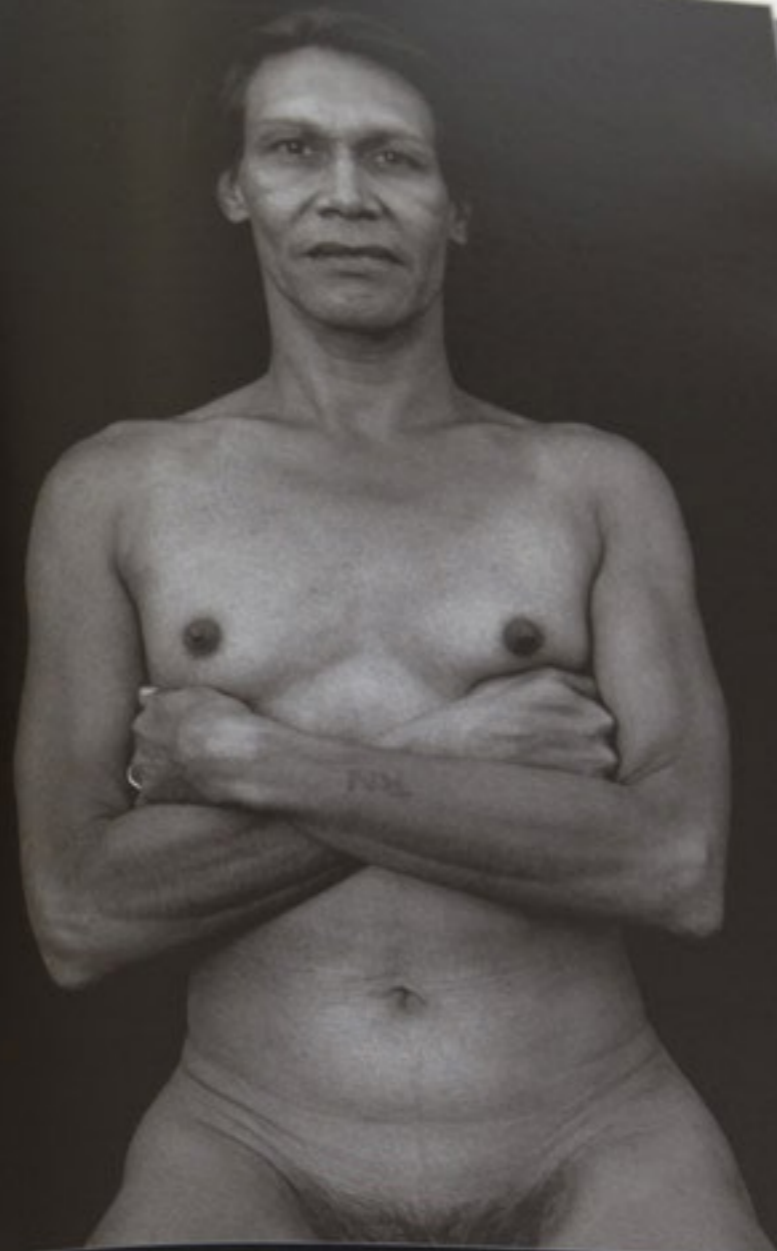
When I was growing up, it was the isolation that was the hardest thing. The fact that you can live within your own family unit or in your own home town and you're still isolated. To think about having breasts was like a pie in the sky fantasy. Moving to Sydney meant there were avenues for me. It was in Sydney that I made the transition.

To see other black transgender girls in Sydney I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. I started on the hormones in my early thirties but I haven't had lower surgery for financial reasons.

Once you've found your own being, your own soul, once you've got yourself back and you're happy and contented with who you are, then your body itself will fall into place. Then you'll look at life differently.

I know who I am, I'm comfortable with who I am.

**RUSTY**

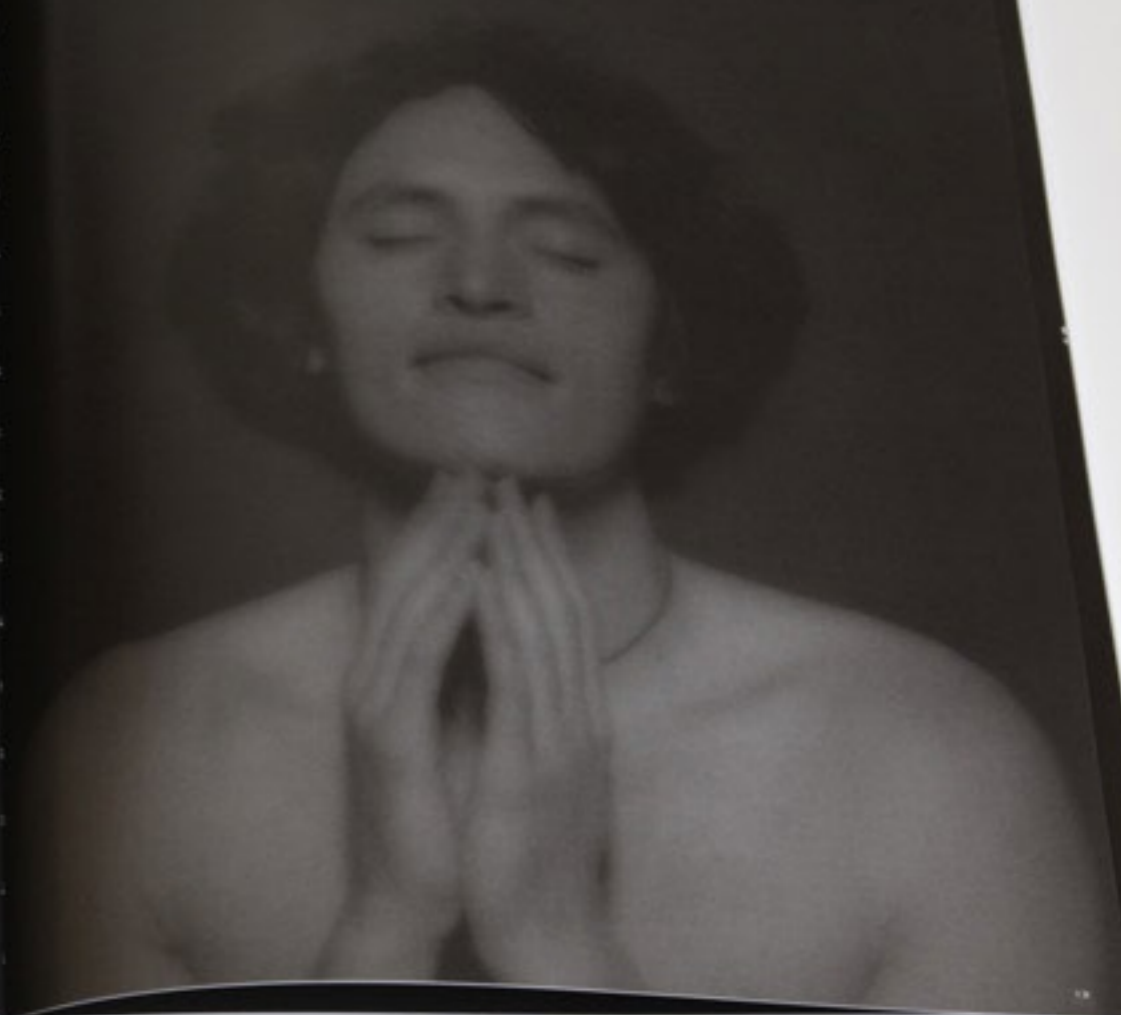


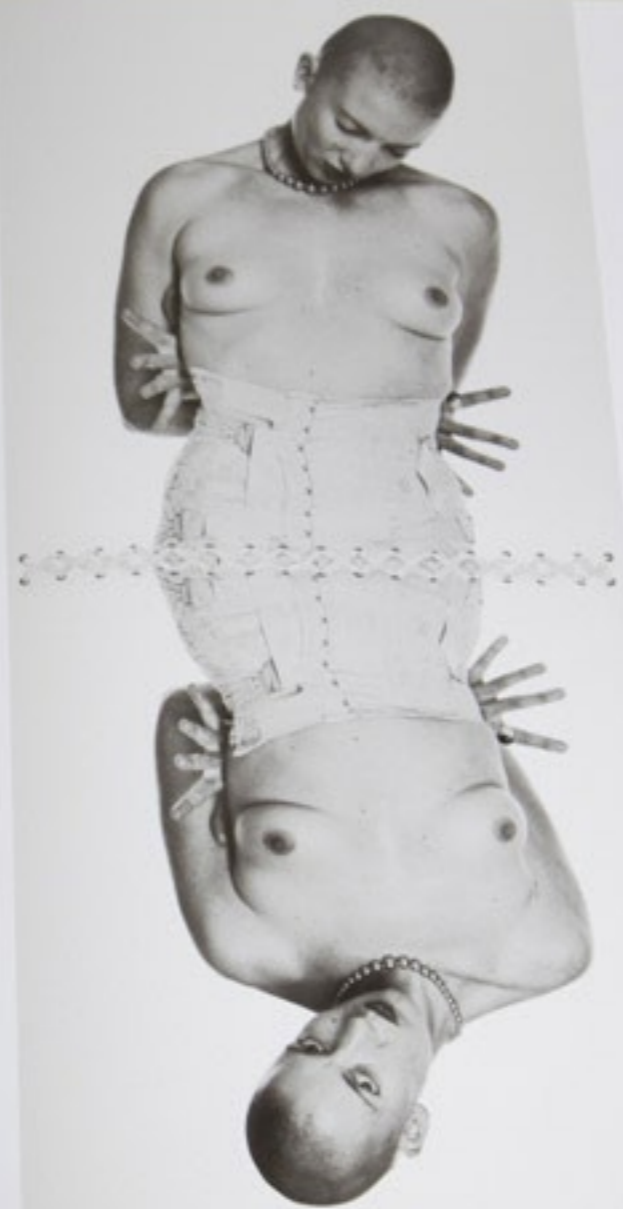
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Lucy Ruyter





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