

## Black History Month: Photographer Nona Faustine Pays Tribute To Black Women Who Were Slaves

February 2, 2016 2:36 PM

**NEW YORK (CBSNewYork)**— [Photographer Nona Faustine's](#) subject is the black female body: naked, objectified, and vulnerable.


Faustine was inspired by daguerreotypes taken of plantation slaves in 1850.

"You can't say that anger is not a part of creating this work," Faustine told WCBS 880's Jane Tillman Irving.

The body in this work is her own... heavy, fleshy, clad in white high-heeled shoes, and wrist shackles.

Faustine posed surrogates in a pre-revolutionary Dutch cemetery in Brooklyn, where three favored slaves were "honored" by being buried with their owners.

"Front, back, and side, life-sized cutout images of myself," she said.

The images are faceless, representing their anonymity. Faustine said the images form a memorial among the tombstones for the countless enslaved black [women](#) .

Faustine's photographs, called "White Shoes," are on display at the [Smack Mellon gallery](#) in Brooklyn and can be found online at <http://nonafaustine.virb.com>.