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THIS ARTIST TURNS WEIRD STATE LAWS INTO MIND-BOGGLING PHOTOS

By Molly McLaughlin, September 17, 2017



Did you know that in Delaware it is illegal to consume perfume? Well, that's what people say anyway. New York-based photographer Olivia Locher's book *I Fought The Law* is not concerned with technicalities. In fact, quite the opposite. She has selected her "fifty favourite alleged state laws" and photographed them in her trademark colourful, intriguing, pop-art style. Some of the laws are true, some were true once and some have been passed along as fact so many times they might as well be.

Locher is a young photographer who has garnered a huge following for her work on social media, and her photos have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *W*, *Glamour*, to name a few. With this project, she has demonstrated a talent for blurring the murky lines between the personal and the political, in a visually stunning combination. Her point is that there is no point to many of these laws, and that the legal system and our established social conventions should always be up for debate. The law professes to be definite, hard and unwavering, even when it is wrong. Locher's photos are the exact opposite of that, drawing attention to the contrived nature of the legal system through art.

There is a darker side to these playful photographs, as many of the laws in the United States today can be used to disproportionately target women and minorities. These "silly, little laws" are used to force abortion clinics to close their doors, to regulate the lives of the queer community and to prosecute people of color for comparatively minor infringements. By questioning established social conventions and the bias in the legal system through her photographs, Locher reminds us that the law is not inherently good or right, and sometimes it's even funny