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## Curator's Statement: *When Places Speak*

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## CURATOR'S STATEMENT:

### *WHEN PLACES SPEAK*

#### **Tasoulla Hadjiyanni PhD**

Photograph of exhibit featuring the photography of Xavier Tavera and Shiraz Mukarram

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Juvenile sex trafficking is attached to places—places where youth are recruited, places where ads are posted online, places used by purchasers to meet victims, places used by law enforcement to stop trafficking, and places where victims can transition and heal. Design is implicated in the process in multiple ways: from hotels with accessible windows that allow easy access to victims to gas stations with restrooms located in such a way that unforeseen uses can go undetected. *When Places Speak* is a photography exhibit that aims to raise awareness about trafficking in Minnesota and challenge viewers to explore the role they can play in combating exploitation and helping survivors regain a renewed definition of dignity.

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Tasoulla Hadjiyanni PhD is Associate Professor in the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel College of Design at the University of Minnesota. Research specialties include the intersection of design and culture, design and sex trafficking, design and mental health. She states, “As a faculty member at the University of Minnesota, I integrate my research, teaching, and service to develop and implement “culturally sensitive design” (CSD), design that supports multiple ways of living and being in the world. My goals are to cultivate respect for marginalized populations, particularly women and children; transform the next generation of designers into global citizens; and build the collaborations needed to bring about change.”

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