Chad Gaines
Artist's Statement

The situation that the community of Hannibal Square faces is that of gentrification, the erasure of its heritage and history. Given my interest in portraiture, I chose to have an African American woman stand in the heavily gentrified portion of this community. The darkness of the photos serves to isolate the subject. To have an artifact of the community to engage with, each photo has a small part in the background upon which the captions will engage with. Previous iterations of this project dealt with stereotyping in media, this topic is more subtly addressed than in previous realizations. The angles at which the subject is photographed are considered “unflattering”. This is an attempt to evoke a sense of the way in which our media has portrayed African Americans and the communities in which they live. Furthermore, the captions aim to attack this notion of gentrification as progress or renewal (which only serves to encourage further acts of erasure).