Making and sending selfies and nudes can be an exercise of self-determination and also an act of pleasurable resistance against racism, sexism, machismo, conservatism and heteronormativity (check Fannie Sosa). Sharing your pictures or not must be a choice that is exclusively yours, making use of your right to privacy. So here are some strategies and tools that can help you keep or share them online in a safer way:

**DELETE OR HIDE WELL**

Life is ephemeral. We can just accept that and delete every nude immediately after sending them (with self-destruct mode on). But keeping your nudes in an encrypted folder can also be a good way to go. Remember your phone can create backups of your pictures in various folders, and that it is crucial to make sure every copy has been deleted. CCleaner is an app that helps to erase file traces, and it’s available for Android, Windows and Mac OS. In case you want to keep your nudes in your computer, make sure the folder is encrypted and that only you have access to the password or passphrase. But the state of the art – that which keeps your ass safe even from the NSA – is to use the PGP suite. PGP is available for Android, Windows and Mac OS. You just have to create your keys, memorize your private key, share your public key and use them every time you want to send or save a nude or other files you want to keep private.

**EXPOSED?**

If someone published your nudes without your consent, it’s possibly illegal. Most countries ensure the protection of personality rights, which comprise the right to protect your image, personal data and other private information. Therefore, you should always be able to request the removal of unauthorized images. Besides having the content removed, you can also get legal assistance regarding potential civil claims or criminal consequences against the person who posted your images. You can get more information about collecting evidence and how to proceed in such cases at:

- [http://withoutmyconsent.org](http://withoutmyconsent.org)
- [http://www.womenagainstrevengeporn.com](http://www.womenagainstrevengeporn.com)
- [http://www.takebackthetech.net/know-more](http://www.takebackthetech.net/know-more)

**WHY PRIVACY STILL MATTERS?**

Most of the time, these attacks take advantage of the amount of data we leave behind as footprints, when we use the internet. While we are online, our gestures, tastes and intimate moments are being constantly recorded as bits and bytes that are transmitted and stored across the globe. Most of the time, this happens without us being aware of who collects this information, where it is stored and for how long. Nevertheless, we can still make choices about it.

The right to privacy is exactly the power to choose who has access to our personal information and under what circumstances. And we can exercise this right also through informed choice of the communication technologies we use. Protecting our communications and data should be everyone’s concern. It’s not about being a hacker or geek. It’s about empowerment by curiosity and freedom of choice. Encryption tools and digital security strategies are available online, for free and are easy to use. This guide provides some tips for sharing private images more safely, but there is a lot more you can discover. Find out more at: [www.antiviligencia.org](http://www.antiviligencia.org)

**A SHOUT OUT TO THE MIRROR MAKING MAMMOS**

“If you want to make a human being into a monster, deny them, at the cultural level, any reflection of nétirité...” – June Glaz

*Amakgozimire* - SCZ, *diedonleedinhind*

by Fannie Sosa

When Natasha contacted me to write a piece about self-representation, I doubted a bit before answering yes. I felt this acute resistance to generate discourse around notions of the self as a way to empower oneself. I had to take a moment and examine this feeling. I found that I've read a lot of pieces either defending the concept of the self or criticizing it. I was not sure we needed to talk about this. Or we needed to talk about this as a way to talk about race, or cis-males that will argue about femme privileges. I am absolutely tired of hearing word on self-affirming practices involving queer bodies of color as contradictorily subversive, aka debatable in their ability to open up spaces. It sets out the debate on a dishonest so-called level playing field, where so many facts about sexism, xenophobia, racism, and violence are ignored. The debate is political, narcissistic, irresponsible and/or immoral.

See, for me, it’s not a debate. The self taken by my radiant community of SAPTOP bodies are not boring. Never have. Never will. Just like talking to white people that want to bring numbers and ideas that deny whit supremacy to a talk about race, or cis-males that will argue about femme privileges. I am absolutely tired of hearing word on self-affirming practices involving queer bodies of color as contradictorily subversive, aka debatable in their ability to open up spaces. It sets out the debate on a dishonest so-called level playing field, where so many facts about sexism, xenophobia, racism, and violence are ignored. The debate is political, narcissistic, irresponsible and/or immoral.

I want to state here something that is now very clear to me: If you’re organizing panels, asking yourself or others “is taking selfies a critical practice?” then you probably need to look around and smell the coffee: there is no Black or POC bodies around you that are struggling to be seen. Chances are you are white, financially stable and cis-identified. This piece is not aimed at adding to the countless inks about selfies and their paradoxical nature. What I’m doing here is story-telling and momma-thanking. I would like to speak of the herstories of self representation that paved the way for me to shamelessly capture my body and soul, knowing what those images would have meant to the girlchild and the emo teen that were I (by the way I was emo because growing up Brown, femme and chubby is hard), while bold, looking back on that white male gaze that depicted our expressions unvaried with a mixture of attention and telling it to kiss my brown ass. That is the third fold subversive action that a femme body of color achieves when taking a selfie:

1. **Finding space, time and technology to capture oneself.** For a lot of us this is an achievement. For others, financial.

2. **Lifting younger QTAPPEC (queer, transgender, intergender, agendered people of color) bodies of that are being shamed into thinking they shouldn’t be aspiring to being loved/desired/admired, or that they shouldn’t be the protagonists of their own life.**

3. **Reclaiming spaces of thick presence where white supremacist scrutiny and stereotyping reduced us to a watered down version of ourselves.** This piece is aimed to offer a reflection, to make and hold up a mirror in front of the bodies that do not see themselves represented wholesomely, including me as an awkward girlchild and teen, and to tell them: you’re not an orphan. You got mirror making mothers and siblings and they all want to know more about you.