Pandora

Steven Tabor
2023 (c)

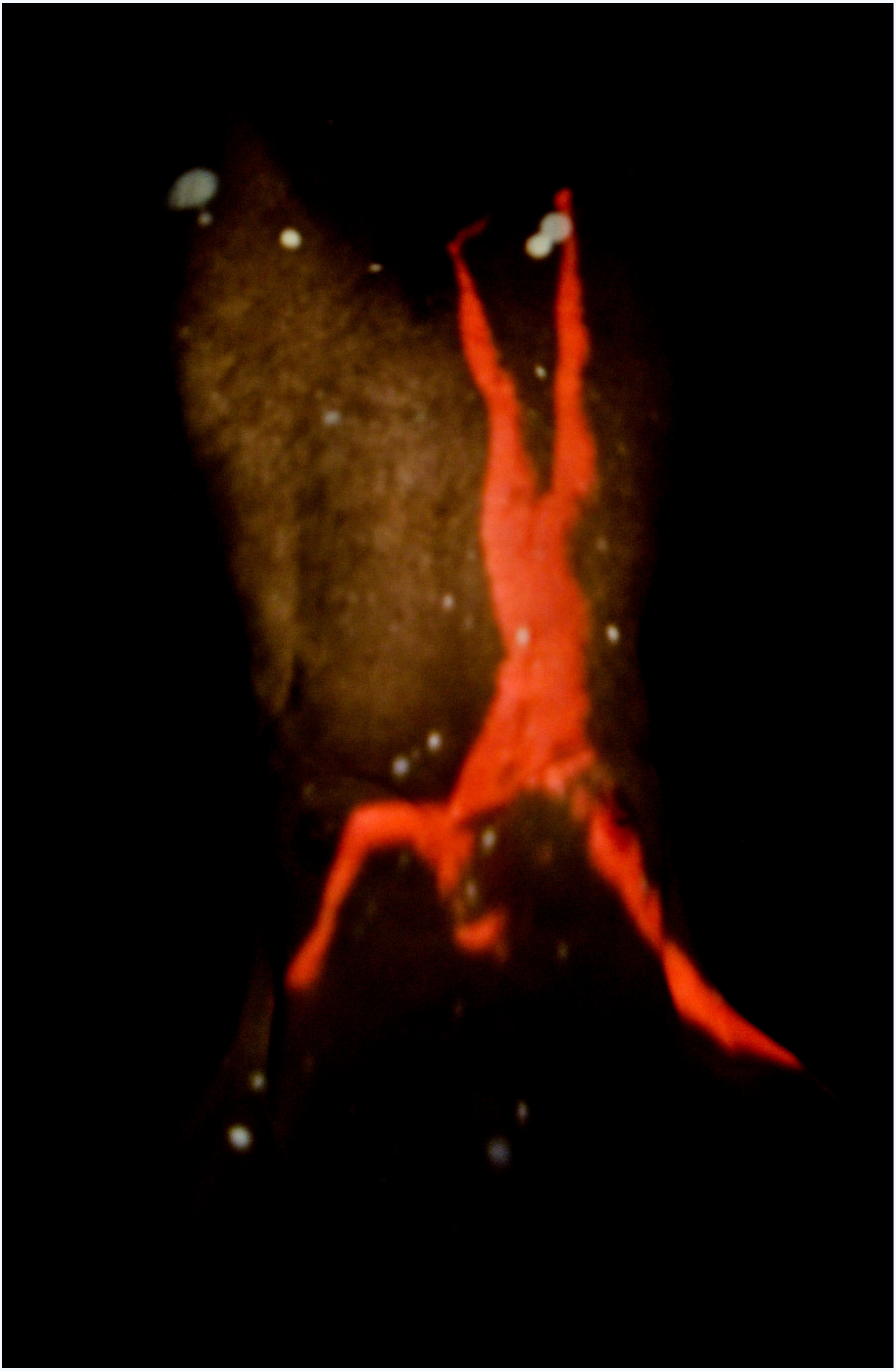
Pandora

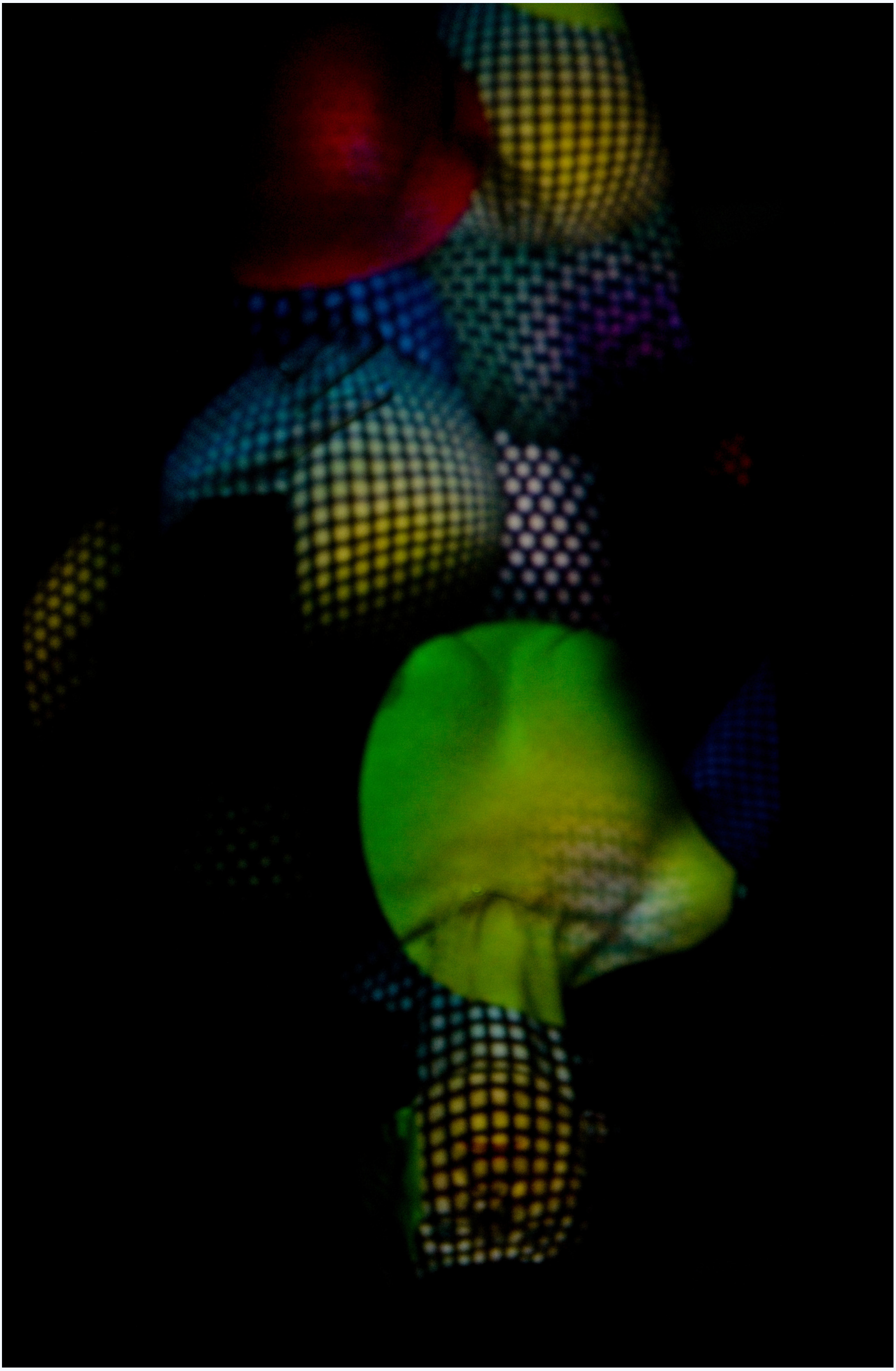
By mid-2020, I had undertaken projection portraiture sessions with several professional models. These resulted in portraiture series that were a cross between body painting and abstract art. The professional models that I had worked with knew how to pose, and, most importantly, they didn't mind posing in a near-dark room with a mini-beamer shining in their eyes. This made me wonder how a projection portraiture session would turn out if a "real person" were the subject of a shoot.

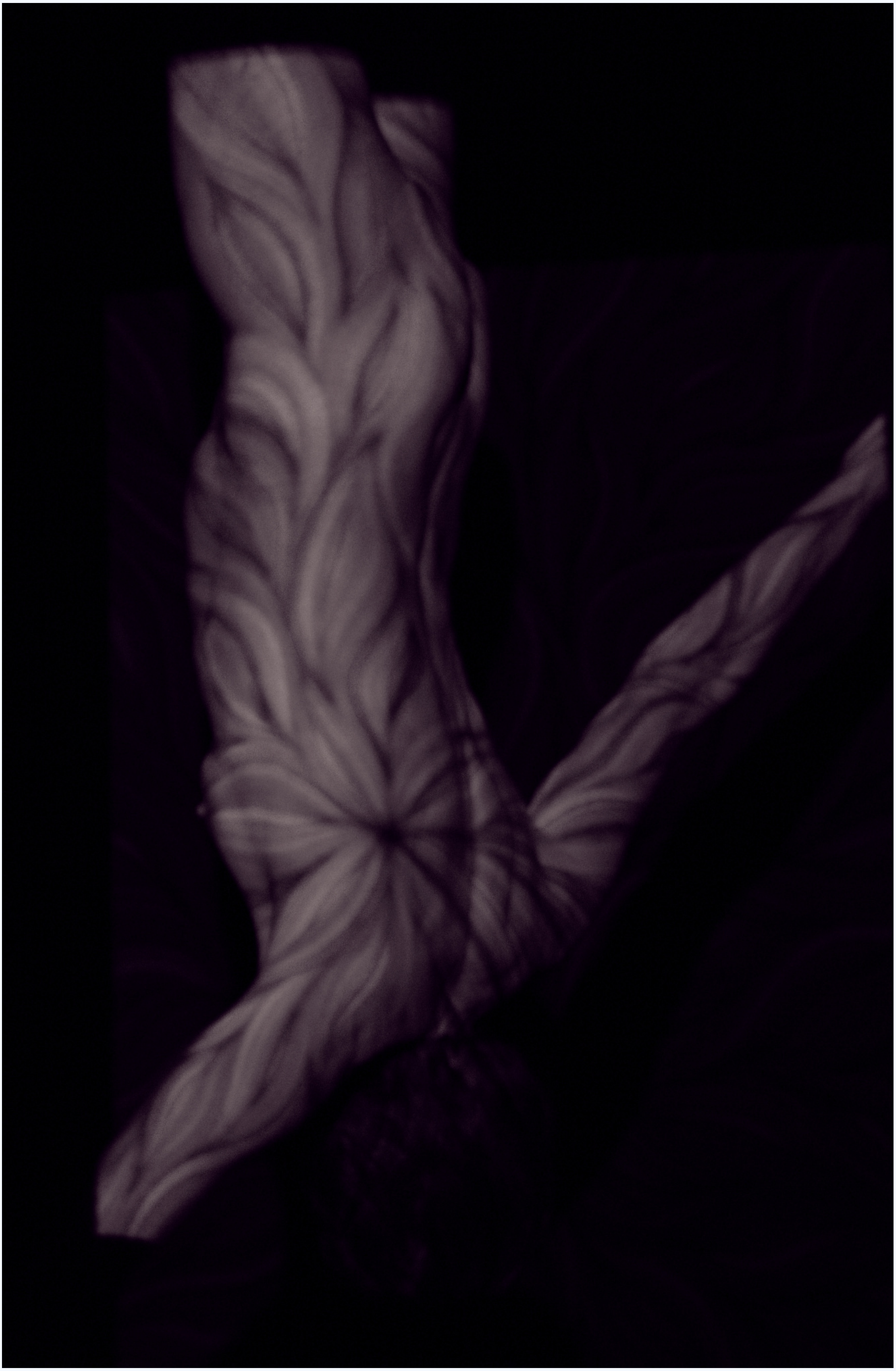
To answer this question, I approached a relative to ask if she would like to participate in a projection portraiture session. She agreed and was asked to select images that she'd like to have projected onto herself. She selected rather dark abstract images. The photo session went well but the subject decided not to inform her husband beforehand that she was going to participate in the photo-shoot. Ultimately, this decision triggered considerable friction within the family. I've come to think of this subject as being Pandora-like since conflicts often follow in her wake, and these images seem to reflect that hidden side of her personality.

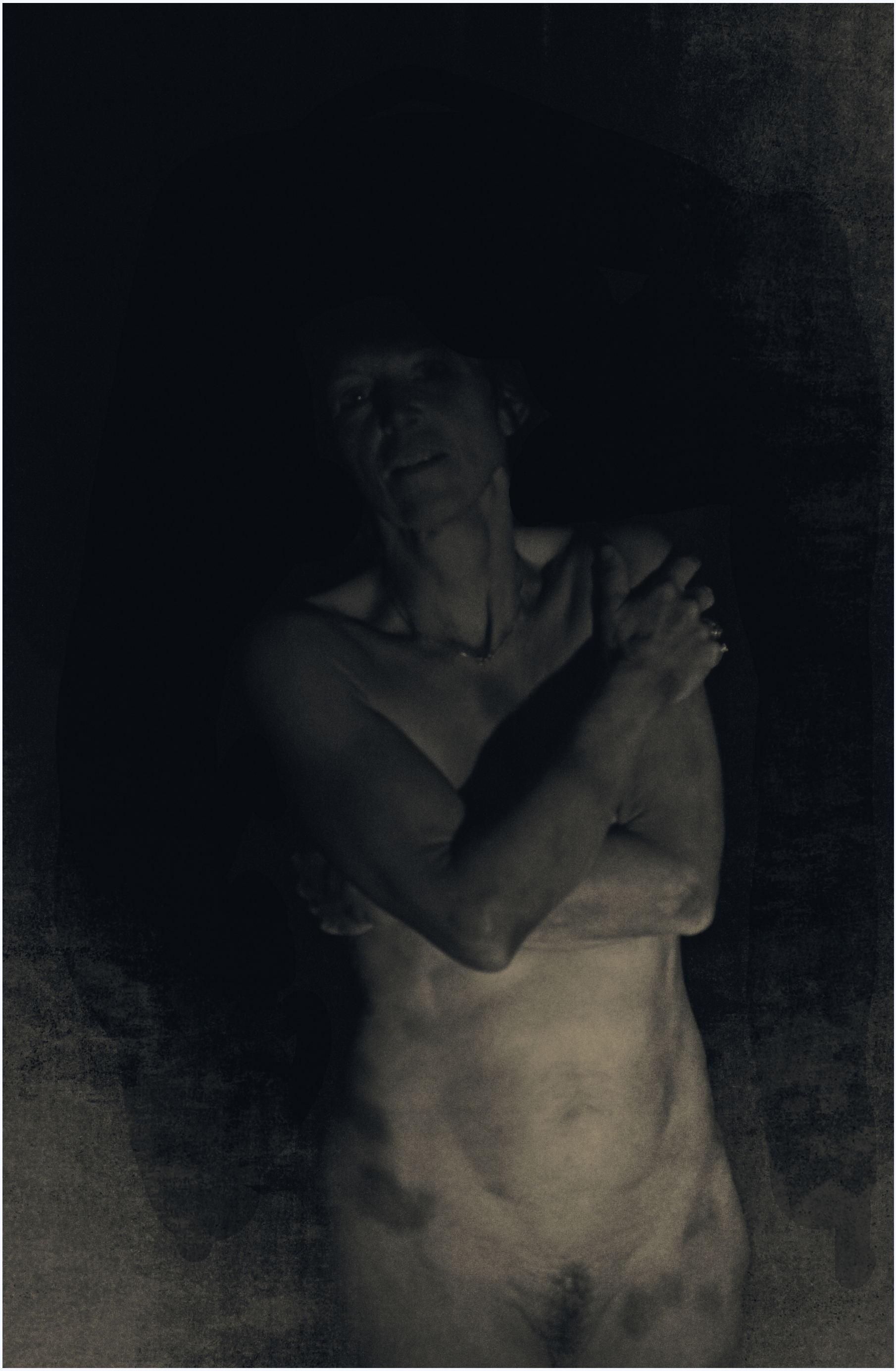
In Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman created by the gods, fashioned by Hephaestus and endowed with various gifts from the deities. However, her most famous association comes from her curious nature and her unintended release of suffering and hardship upon the world. Zeus, the king of the gods, presented Pandora with a mysterious box (or jar) as a gift, warning her never to open it. Unable to resist her curiosity, Pandora eventually gave in to temptation and opened the box, unwittingly releasing a myriad of malevolent forces that swiftly spread across the world.

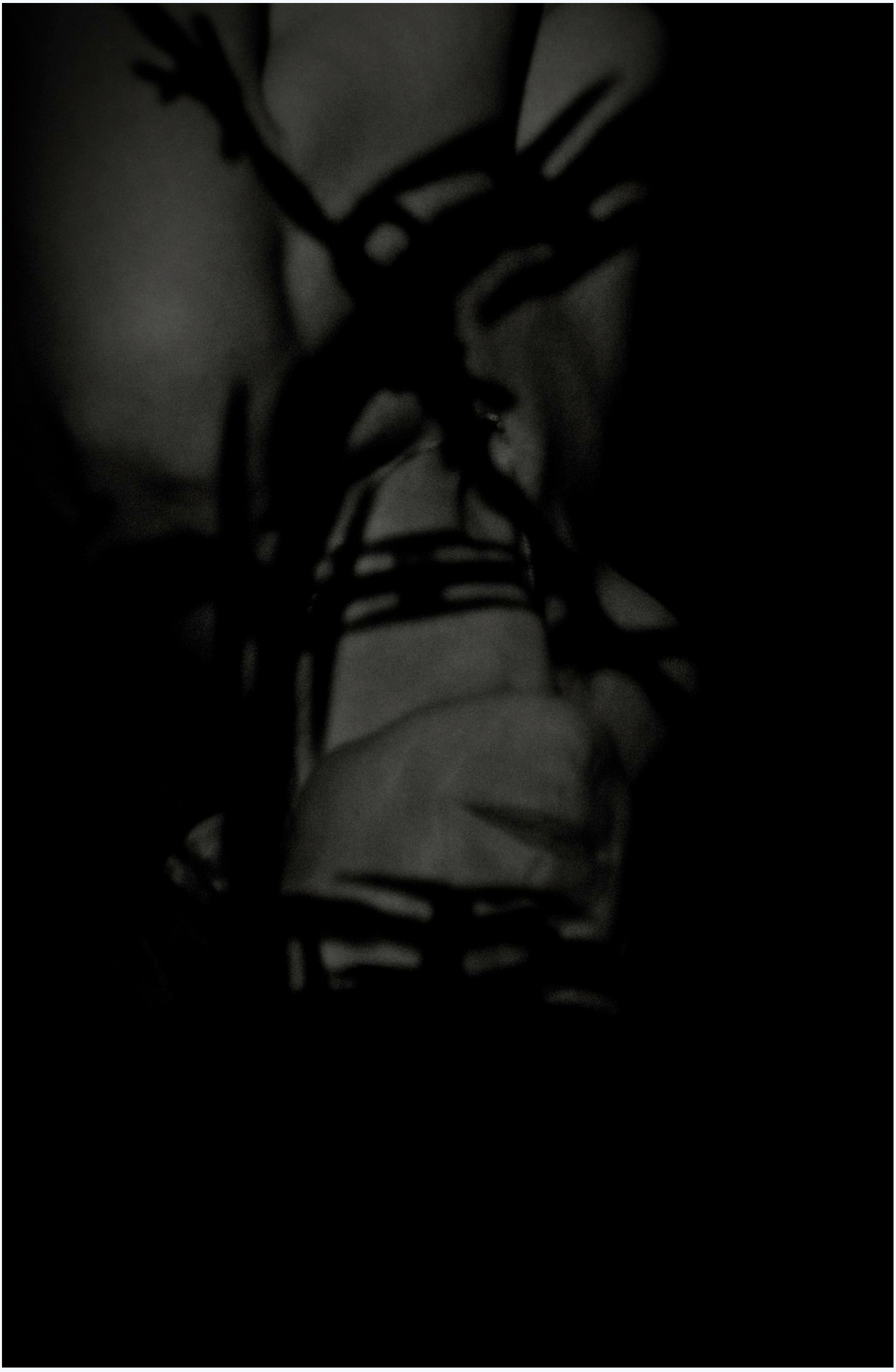
Pandora's story has become a symbol of the consequences of curiosity and the complexities of human existence. Pandora's Box has transcended its mythological origins, becoming a metaphor for the hidden troubles that can be unleashed when one delves into the unknown.

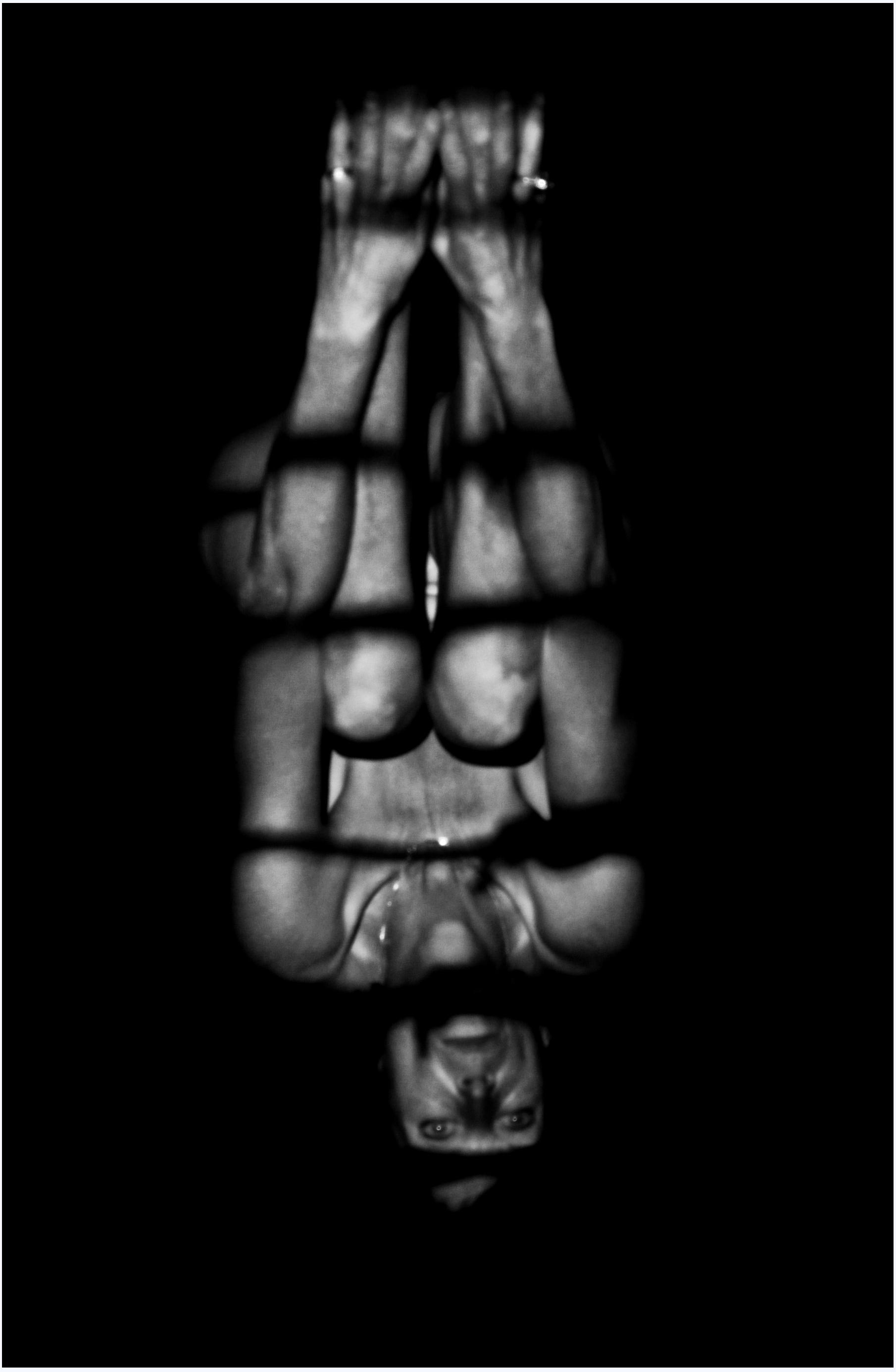


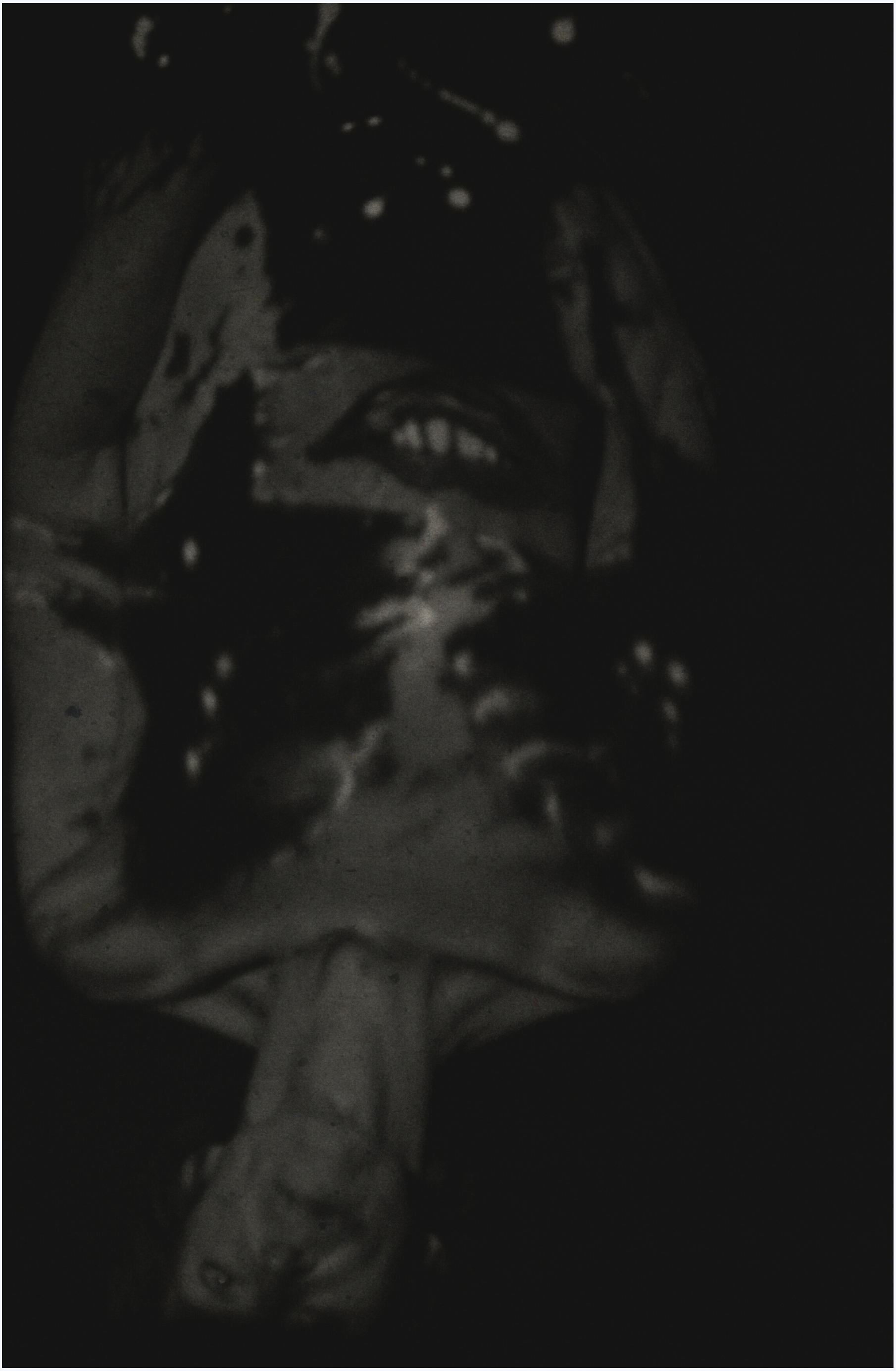


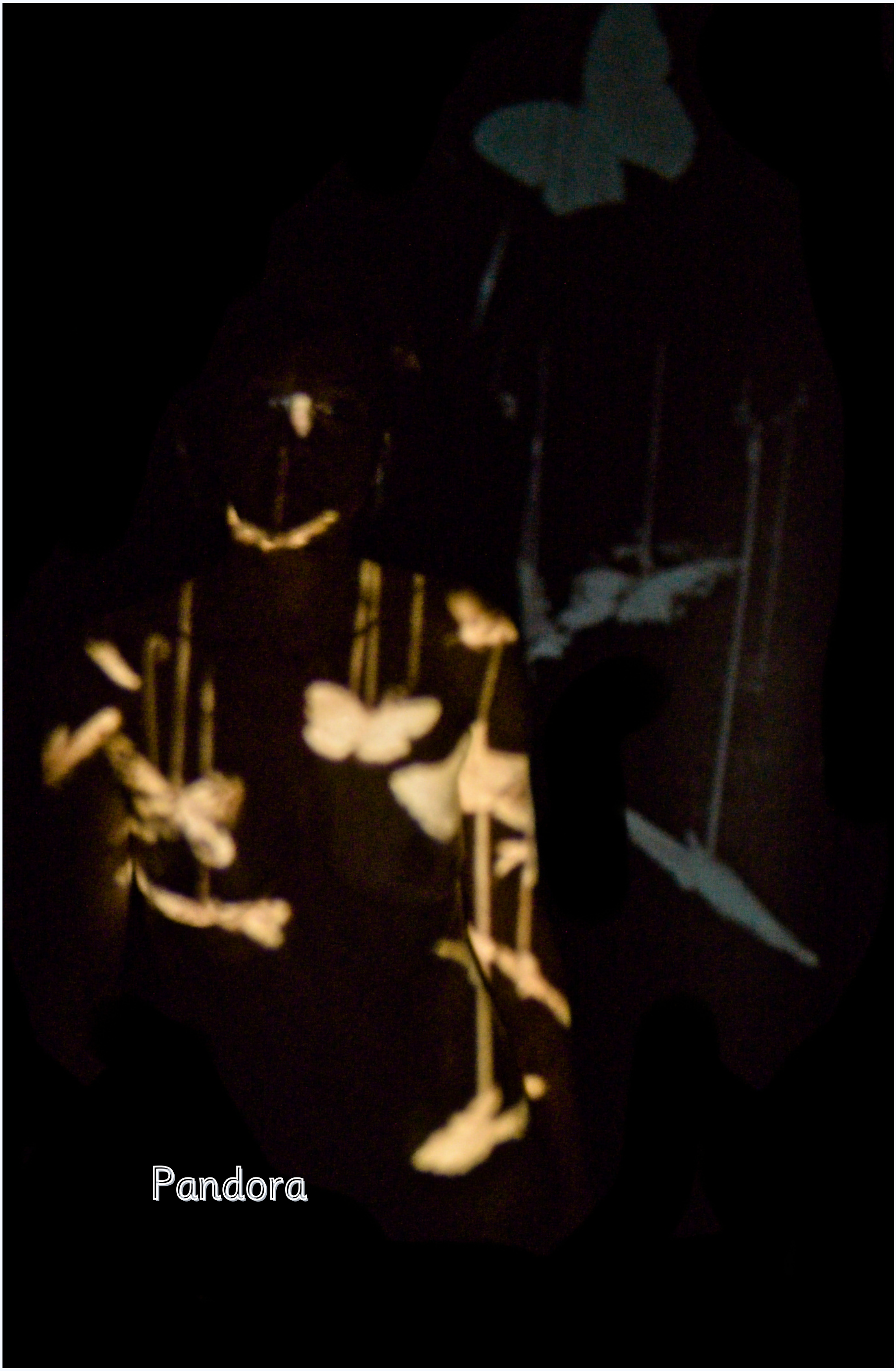











Pandora