

OPENING RECEPTION TUE. OCT 13, 5-7PM

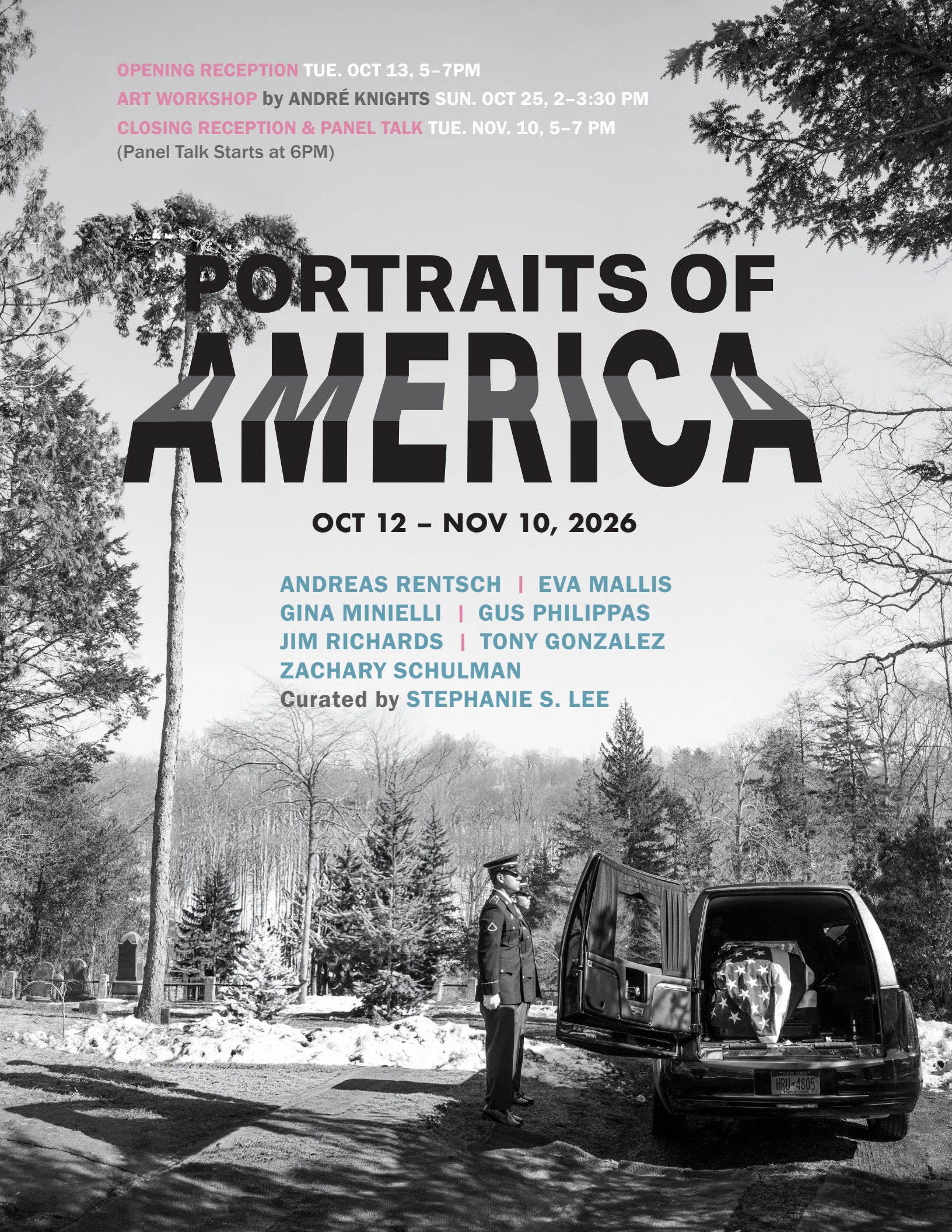
ART WORKSHOP by ANDRÉ KNIGHTS SUN. OCT 25, 2-3:30 PM

CLOSING RECEPTION & PANEL TALK TUE. NOV. 10, 5-7 PM
(Panel Talk Starts at 6PM)

PORTRAITS OF AMERICA

OCT 12 – NOV 10, 2026

ANDREAS RENTSCH | EVA MALLIS
GINA MINIELLI | GUS PHILIPPAS
JIM RICHARDS | TONY GONZALEZ
ZACHARY SCHULMAN
Curated by **STEPHANIE S. LEE**





ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Flushing Town Hall presents *Portraits of America*, a group photography exhibition bringing together portraits of individuals whose distinct histories, cultural backgrounds, and lived experiences reflect the complex and continually evolving idea of American identity.

Through photography, the exhibition considers a question that is at once personal and collective: *What does it mean to be American today?*

Rather than offering a singular image or definition, *Portraits of America* presents a multiplicity of faces and experiences. The individuals depicted come from different generations, communities, cultural backgrounds, and personal histories, yet each occupies a place within the larger American landscape.

Portraiture has long functioned as both a personal record and a social document. In this exhibition, the camera becomes a space of encounter—inviting viewers to pause before another person, to observe a face, gesture, posture, or surrounding, and to consider the assumptions we carry about identity and belonging.

Here, “American” is not presented as a fixed or easily defined identity. It emerges through migration and ancestry, memory and family, geography and community, as well as through the everyday experiences that shape how individuals understand themselves and how they are perceived by others.

Presented in Queens—a borough shaped by generations of migration and cultural coexistence—the exhibition takes on particular resonance. These individual portraits collectively suggest a broader portrait of America: layered, varied, continually changing, and impossible to contain within a single image.

Portraits of America does not attempt to define what an American looks like. Instead, it asks us to look more closely at the people who make up the country—and at the many different stories contained within the word *American*.

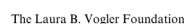
PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Andreas Rentsch | Eva Mallis | Gina Minielli | Gus Philippas
Jim Richards | Tony Gonzalez | Zachary Schulman

CURATED BY Stephanie S. Lee

ART WORKSHOP | Sunday, Oct. 25, 2–3:30 PM | Led by André Knights

PANEL TALK | Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6–7 PM

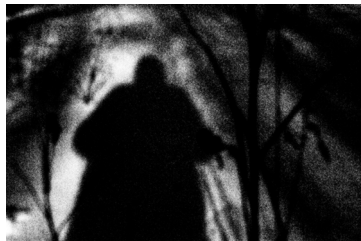


Andreas Rentsch

Andreas Rentsch received a B.F.A. from Les Écoles d'Arts Appliqués in Vevey, Switzerland, and an M.F.A. in Studio Art from Stony Brook University. His work has been exhibited internationally, including a solo exhibition at the Musée de l'Elysée in Switzerland, and is held in numerous museum collections. He is the recipient of two New York Foundation for the Arts fellowships and two grants from the Polaroid Corporation. Rentsch has taught at the International Center of Photography, Stony Brook University, and St. John's University, and is currently Associate Professor of Photography at Lycoming College.

The Wanderer is a recurring figure in Rentsch's work, appearing across four series over more than two decades to explore the mysteries, anxieties, and possibilities of life's journey. His interdisciplinary projects combine photography, moving image, music, and self-portraiture. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his Lockdown series used self-portraiture to examine the emotional experience of isolation and uncertainty.

For more information, please visit www.andreasrentsch.com.



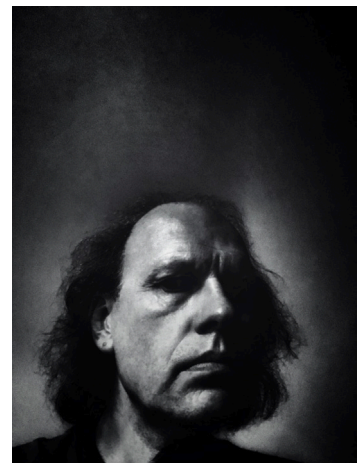
The Wanderer #45
2014 | 17 x 22 in.



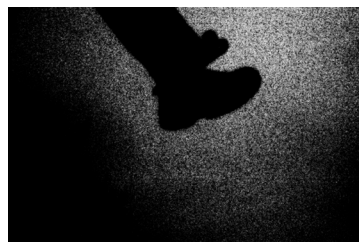
The Wanderer #74
2020 | 17 x 22 in.



The Wanderer #77
2020 | 17 x 22 in.



Lockdown (Self-Portrait)
2020 | 22 x 17 in.



The Wanderer #21
2012 | 17 x 22 in.

Eva Mallis

Eva Mallis is a New York City-based documentary photographer whose work captures the energy, character, and unexpected moments of everyday life. Her photographs have been exhibited nationally and internationally at venues including Photoville, Soho Photo Gallery, Atlantic Gallery, Leica Gallery Mumbai, and Villa Altieri in Rome. Her work has received recognition from the International Photography Awards and Monochrome Photography Awards and has appeared in publications including *Street Photography Magazine*, *All About Photo*, and *The Queens Gazette*.

Mallis is drawn to the human realities found within seemingly ordinary moments. Photography heightens her awareness of the overlooked, allowing her to isolate brief fragments of everyday life that might otherwise pass unnoticed.

In these works, spontaneous Halloween street portraits appear alongside a portrait of a local shoemaker, bringing together moments of performance, labor, individuality, and chance encounter. Through attentive observation and timing, Mallis captures the distinct presence of each subject while inviting viewers to consider the people, gestures, and stories that animate everyday public life.

For more information, please visit www.evamallisphoto.com.



Art & Soul
2020 | 13 x 19 in.



More Chocolate Icecream, Please.
2021 | 15 x 23 in.



Glamour Babe
2019 | 19 x 29 in.



Fragments
2020 | 15 x 23 in.

Gina Minielli

Gina Minielli is a Queens-based photographer with an M.F.A. from Queens College and a B.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts. She previously served as Chief Photographer for the New York Mets and as First Assistant to renowned portrait photographer Arnold Newman. A lifelong Queens resident, Minielli is deeply committed to documenting the people, histories, and social issues that shape her community. She currently teaches photography at Queens College, Queensborough Community College, and Molloy University.

Minielli's *Bound by Bowne* is a photographic portrait series exploring the history of religious freedom and diversity in Flushing, Queens. Inspired by the Flushing Remonstrance of 1657, the project portrays religious leaders within their respective houses of worship. Together, the photographs connect Flushing's historic legacy of religious tolerance with the cultural and spiritual diversity that continues to define the community today.

For more information, please visit www.instagram.com/ginaminielli.



Quaker Meeting House
2017 | 12 x 18 in.



The Hindu Temple Society of North America
2017 | 25 x 18 in.



First Baptist Church of Flushing
2017 | 25 x 18 in.



Church on the Hill
2017 | 25 x 18 in.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Flushing
2017 | 25 x 18 in.

Gus Philippas

Gus Philippas is a New York-based photographer whose professional practice spans portraiture and music photography. He holds a B.F.A. in Photography from the School of Visual Arts and has been engaged with photography since childhood, when he first developed photographs in his father's home darkroom. His work is permanently displayed at Fordham University's Keating Hall in connection with public radio station WFUV.

Philippas approaches portraiture as a way of capturing organic, unguarded moments between photographer and subject. His images emphasize presence and human connection, creating portraits in which viewers may feel an immediate sense of communication with the person pictured.

For more information, please visit www.instagram.com/guspinfoocus.



Courage
2019 | 12 x 18 in.



Scrap Yard Austin Texas
2012 | 12 x 18 in.



Jean-Luc | 2019
12 x 18 in.



Fabi Reyna | 2024
12 x 18 in.



Charley Crockett | 2025
12 x 18 in.



Keisha St. Joan | 2025
12 x 18 in.



Pete Seeger | 2011
12 x 18 in.



Veteran
2019 | 30 x 40 in.

Jim Richards

Jim Richards is a New York City-based photographer, sculptor, papermaker, and curator. His practice has developed through self-directed study as well as coursework at the Art Students League, Penland School of Crafts, and Women's Studio Workshop. His work has been exhibited by galleries and arts organizations throughout the United States and has received several awards. Richards is also involved in curatorial projects across New York City.

Richards' photographic practice is rooted in light, pattern, storytelling, and human connection. His "straw camera," a wooden box containing approximately 4,000 straws, functions as a subtractive projector that fragments and transforms the image of a sitter. By obscuring certain visual information, the process reveals qualities that might otherwise remain unseen. Richards further extends the photographs through printing and framing methods that incorporate sculptural elements into the finished work.

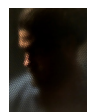
For more information, please visit www.makerjim.com.



Kay | 2023
30 x 25.5 x 3 in.



Roman | 2021



Mike | 2025



Defne | 2025



Gretchen | 2025

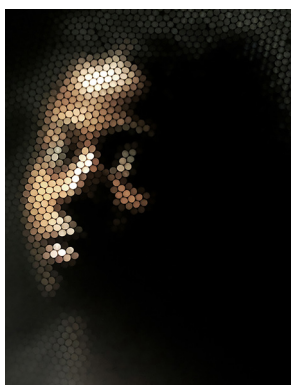


PA | 2021

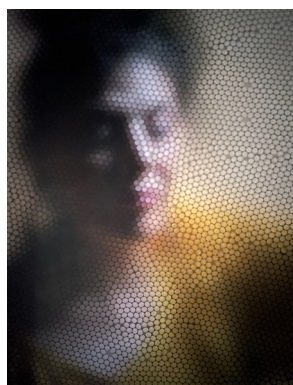


Heather Up | 2018
30 x 23.5 x 3 in.

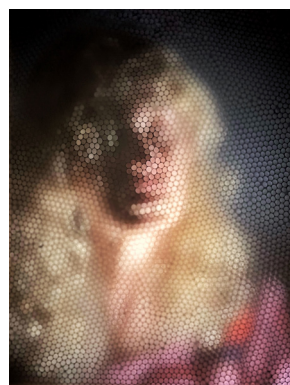
5 x 4 in. each



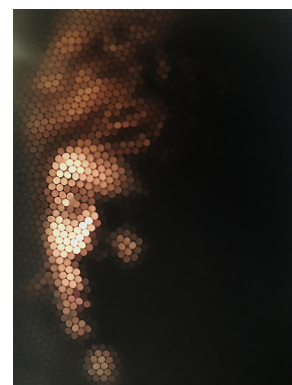
Raquel | 2018
12 x 9 in.



Gina | 2024
12 x 9 in.



Tina | 2025
12 x 9 in.



Heather | 2018
12 x 9 in.

Tony Gonzalez

Tony Gonzalez is an artist and educator based in Hudson, New York, and working in New York City. He received his B.F.A. from The Cooper Union School of Art and his M.F.A. from Yale University. Gonzalez has taught photography for more than 30 years, including at The Cooper Union, Pratt Institute, and New York University. Since 2002, he has taught full-time at Queens College, CUNY, where he is a tenured professor and Deputy Chair of the Photography & Imaging B.F.A. Program. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally.

Gonzalez's photographic practice includes the *Bathers*, *Bedroom*, *NAIADS*, and *Fairytale* series. His work brings historical photographic processes into dialogue with contemporary digital technologies. In his most recent *Fairytale* series, Gonzalez combines gum bichromate printing with digital methods, drawing on more than two decades of research into alternative photographic processes.

He has developed a process for creating tri-color gum prints over cyanotype using a digital workflow. As both an artist and educator, Gonzalez is committed to preserving the tactile qualities of historical photography while making these complex processes more accessible to contemporary photographers and students.

For more information, please visit www.tonygonzalezartist.com.



Melina (diving board) | 2009



Rachel (reclining) | 2009



Jaclyn (hair) | 2004



Jaclyn (curtain) | 2004



Lisa (sitting) | 2004



**White Rabbit
(holding mask) | 2019**



**White Rabbit
(unmasked) | 2019**



**Little Red (cornfield)
2017**



**Little Red (NOLA
sidewalk) | 2018**

17.25 x 11.5 in. each
Tri-Color Gum Bichromate
print over Cyanotype

For purchase information, please ask at the box office.

Zachary Schulman

Zachary Schulman is a New York City-based photographer and oral historian whose work engages with community, ancestry, migration, environmental concerns, mental health, and social change. His practice is rooted in working in solidarity with movements for social change. His work has been exhibited at the Museum of the City of New York, Central Park's Arsenal Gallery, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Photoville, and has appeared in numerous national publications and media outlets.

A community gardener for 23 years, Schulman also spent 14 years working directly with New York City community gardeners as an organizer, program manager, and advocate. His ongoing *Community Gardener Portrait Project* celebrates community gardeners throughout New York City and includes more than 150 portraits from over 50 gardens across the five boroughs. Combining environmental portraiture with one-on-one oral history interviews, Schulman centers gardeners as storytellers and historians, highlighting their knowledge, achievements, and contributions to their communities.

For more information, please visit zacharyschulman.com.



**Gemma Garcia, Community Gardener
Portrait Project**
2023 | 16 x 20 in.



**Yonnette Fleming,
Community Gardener
Portrait Project**
2023 | 12 x 18 in.



**Gregory Anderson,
Community Gardener
Portrait Project**
2023 | 12 x 18 in.



**Ada Smothers, Community
Gardener Portrait Project**
2019 | 12 x 18 in.



**Leila Jamison, Community
Gardener Portrait Project**
2023 | 12 x 18 in.



**Jennie Plewka, Community
Gardener Portrait Project**
2022 | 12 x 18 in.

All works are digital-c print.