

EXPOSURE 2024: The 28th Annual PRC Juried Members Exhibition

August 9 - September 29, 2024

Exhibition Juror: Samantha Johnston, Executive Director & Curator, Colorado Photographic Arts Center

EXPOSURE 2024 Juror Statement

The 13 artists in this year's Exposure Exhibition were selected from 170 applications from PRC members. I enjoyed the challenge of selecting bodies of work rather than a single image, allowing me to explore each artist's project on a deeper level. As I reviewed the many impressive submissions, I looked for stories that resonated with the personal and collective narratives of our time -- from dealing with the ongoing effects of COVID to the role of social media influencers in the way we connect with each other.

As I finalized my selection for the exhibit, I saw common threads emerge. COVID-19 affected us all in different ways and continues to impact many peoples' lives, as Amy Giese reminds us in her fragmented self-portraits reflecting her experience of long COVID. Kim Llerena's contemplative series captures the pandemic as a time marked by stillness, vividly expressed in her image *Lifevest*. Liu and Tabor embraced an unknown partnership. Although they are on opposite sides of the country, they double-exposed the same film, releasing a sense of control over the image to create something new.

Many artists explored themes of home and place. There is a quietness in Abbey Hepner's documentation of her home and a beautiful metaphor for lightness and darkness that she eloquently portrays in her image *Three Dimensions*. Home is not just the physical place we reside but the towns and cities around us. Greer Muldowney's landscapes document Sommerville, Massachusetts, a community feeling the strain of gentrification and monetary forces.

History and found objects played a role in many artists' submissions. Jeffrey Heyne juxtaposes contemporary photographs of Colorado's ranchlands and mountains with Walter Goodacre's vintage moon map from 1910. Dean Teraski's photomontages layer found letters written by Japanese Americans forcibly relocated to incarceration camps during World War II with photographs of the incarceration camp sites. Both projects provide a different way of seeing the landscape and its history.

Threads of space, time, and memory can be drawn through many of the works selected. There are so many visual layers to Suzanne Theodora White's work, which utilizes photography, video, and site-specific installations to create imaginary landscapes inspired by images of her farmland. Astrid Reischwitz weaves personal and collective family narratives through her still life compositions, arranging everyday objects that evoke a familiar comfort of domestic spaces. Anastasia Sierra's ongoing body of work explores conflicting emotions of motherhood. Collaborating with her son, she too uses light and shadow as a metaphor to describe moments they share during the day.

Self-portraiture can be an intimate and powerful approach to storytelling, and I was struck by Elizabeth Wiese's tranquil self-portraits that incorporate her love for movement, demonstrated in the serene moments she captures of herself moving through nature. Andrew Zou uses self-portraits to explore his identity and queerness while prompting broader conversations about how queer communities survive in China.

Finally, I saw several artists explore themes of connection. Among the most fascinating is Laura Beth Reese's series *#influenced*, in which she explores the role of the social media influencer as an intersection of reality television, celebrity, social media, and consumerism.

Together, these artists harness the power of photography to tell compelling stories that invite us to reflect on our shared experiences and the diverse ways in which we navigate our world. It was an honor to jury Exposure this year for the PRC. When I lived and taught in Boston, I often brought students to explore the space. Photography centers have a special place in the photo community.

Samantha Johnston
Executive Director & Curator
Colorado Photographic Arts Center
2024