

# MEMORY IS A **VERB**



## TRAVELING EXHIBITION PROPOSAL

**Availability:** 2023-2025

**Booking Period:** 2 - 6 months

**Contents Approx:** 70 pieces

*Memory is a Verb* brings together eleven women photographers exploring the liminal space between time and transience. Represented in this body of work are the universal concepts of loss, mortality, and legacy, and the exploration of what inspires us to seek solace, and reexamine our histories; subsequently unearthing discoveries about ourselves, our relationships, and our place in the universe.

### **Artists:**

Aline Smithson, Annette LeMay Burke, Annie Omens, Dena Eber, Diane Hemingway, Elizabeth Bailey, Jennifer Pritchard, Lori Ordovery, Rosalie Rosenthal, Sarah Hadley, Susan Lapidés.

### **Current Exhibition Dates:**

Oceanside Museum of Art, Oceanside, CA: January 28 - May 14, 2023

Dallas Center for Photography, Dallas, TX: April 15 - May 13, 2023

Bonsack Gallery, St. Louis, MO: Fall 2023, dates TBA

Brand Library and Art Center, Glendale, CA: Dec 2023 - Feb 2024, dates TBA

### **Gallery Installation:**

*Memory Is a Verb* includes work in a range of sizes and fabrication/presentation to create a dynamic gallery space with an audio element. **This exhibition is customized to each venue.** The physical layout and the viewing experience will enhance the themes of transience and non-linear memory contained within the individual images.

### **Events and Engagement:**

To engage the community, *Memory is a Verb* artists may give artist talks, participate in speaker panels, and lead workshops on topics related to the exhibition, as arranged.

**More Info:** [www.memoryisaverb.com](http://www.memoryisaverb.com)



Installation Shots: Oceanside Museum of Art, Jan 2023

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“*Memory is a Verb* presents the work of eleven women artists who are reexamining various histories in order to fully express and reclaim their contemporary moment. Reaching into the past, these artists restructure both history and the present, creating a new framework and placing themselves at the center. *Memory is a Verb* reclaims both the self and the framework, demonstrating a state of ownership over both—‘I am of my times,’ is transformed by their artistic efforts into proud, fierce declarations: ‘I AM’ and ‘MY times.’”

—Lisa Volpe, Associate Curator of Photography,  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

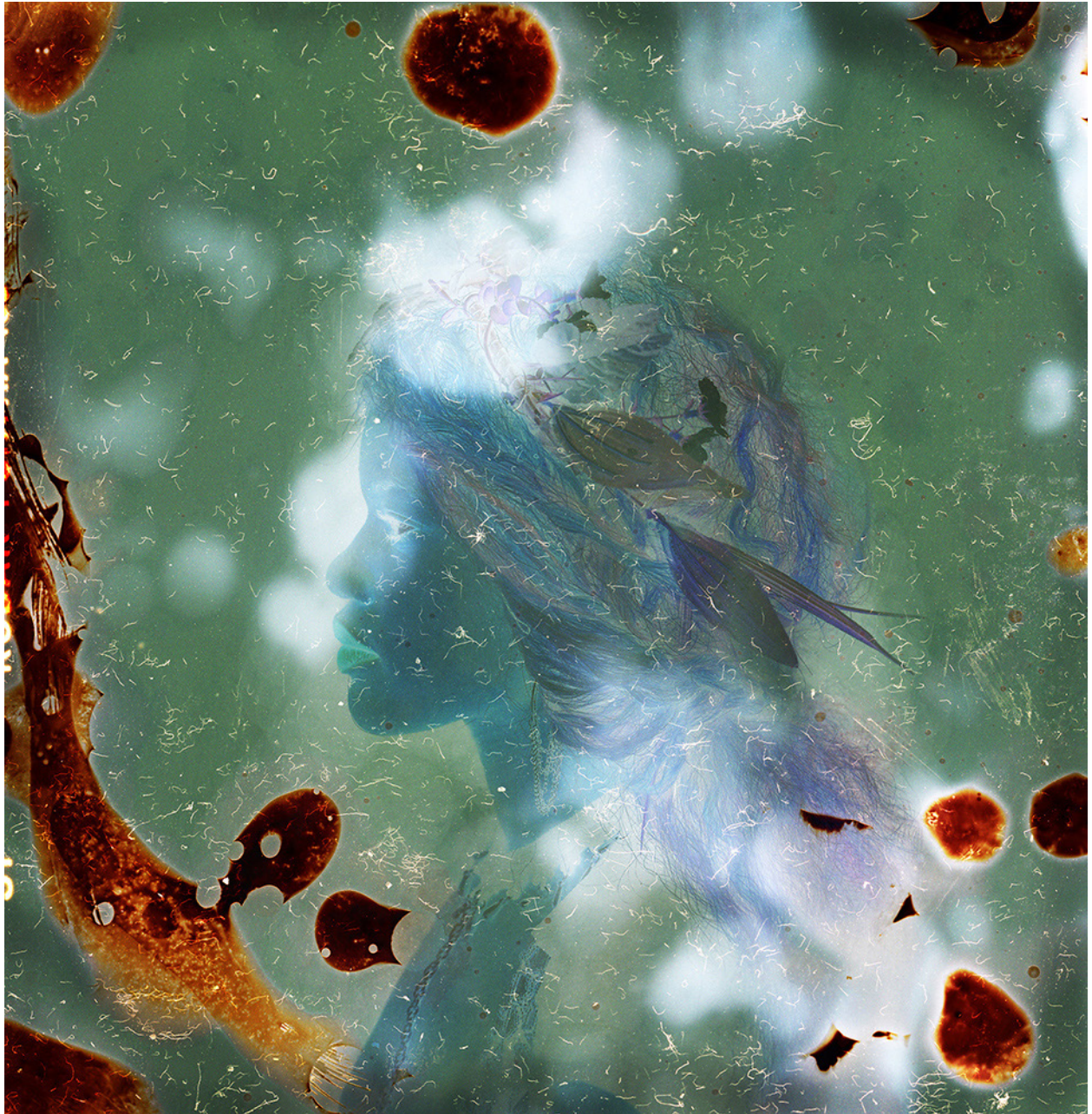
“In *Memory Is a Verb*, eleven women offer their singular perspectives on time and transience, coming and going, arriving and leaving, in long sentences punctuated by breath, by the moment when the mirror goes up and the curtain comes down.”

— Alexa Dilworth, Publishing and Awards Director and Senior Editor,  
Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University

“Unsurprisingly, the past has its own unique way of infiltrating the present moment and forces all of us to re-examine the nature of our memories. Each art piece featured in this exhibition embarks on its own quest to recall the past—be it through an exploration of gender, discrimination, identity, diversity, patriarchy, violence, love, loss, death, family, or environmental issues—in order to deliver a timeline of events that viewers can reflect on.”

— Marisa Caichiolo, Curator and Founder, Building Bridges Art Exchange





**Aline Smithson:** *Fugue State*

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*Fugue State* speaks to the potential loss of the tangible photograph in future generations. For this project, after creating analog portraits of people in my life, I have damaged the emulsion of my negatives, wounding the film stock with a variety of chemicals. I then reinterpret the image in the digital darkroom in the original, negative state where the potential for both the restoration and erasure of memory are present. I am in fact, damaging my own photographic legacy as a way to call attention to this shift from the physical to the visual.





**Annette LeMay Burke:** *Memory Building*

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In response to my parents' deaths, I created the series *Memory Building* by projecting my family's vernacular photographs onto the surfaces of my childhood home and re-photographing the scene. By fusing the photos from the past onto the present-day walls, I unearthed 60 years of engrained memories and captured my family's vanishing history that once permeated our mid-century suburban house. With so many formative experiences rooted and intertwined within this building, saying goodbye to it was also saying goodbye to my parents.

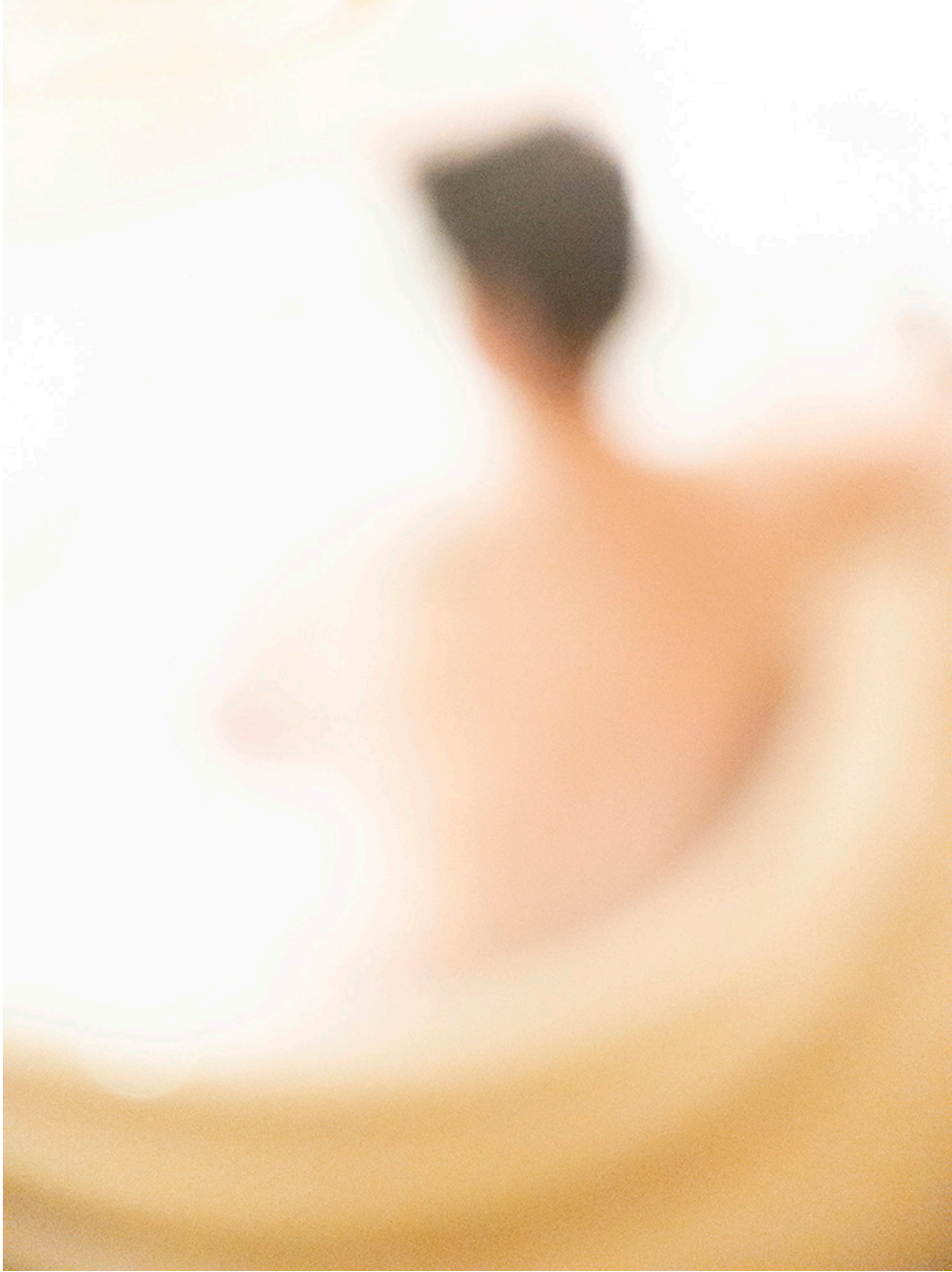


**Annie Omens:** *Transcending the Temporal*

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Inspired by the study of Shamanism, I use photography to explore the border where the temporal and the transcendent intersect. By layering photographic images of nature, I attempt to dissolve boundaries, bringing forth glimpses of the ethereal realm to reveal the mystical dimension of the ordinary world.





**Dena Eber:** *You Refuse to Believe that You Ever Liked Pink*

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*You Refuse to Believe that You Ever Liked Pink* is a project that reveals the process of my child Margaret discovering and transitioning to a new non-binary and asexual identity as Alex. As the mother, I am learning who this new person is, learning to love who Alex is becoming, and considering my own evolution as a mother. Alex's journey represents a new freedom for Gen Z as they explore their gender and sexuality in ways that were not as accepted in the past. This work is about one Gen Zer and one mother, but it represents a changing landscape for many in this generation, especially for those who love them.



**Diane Hemingway:** *The Wild Cosmos*

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The photographs and recorded prose in *The Wild Cosmos* chronicle my interior journey through life and profound loss. Even as an adult, nothing prepared me for when the stars—my mom, dad, and brother—fell from the sky. Seeking solace, I immersed myself in the land and in my art, trusting that my world would right itself. Much like the transcendentalists, I believe that it is essential to experience the simplicity and solitude of nature to really know what we are made of. Both my photography and my recorded prose are love letters to places, memories, dreams and family.

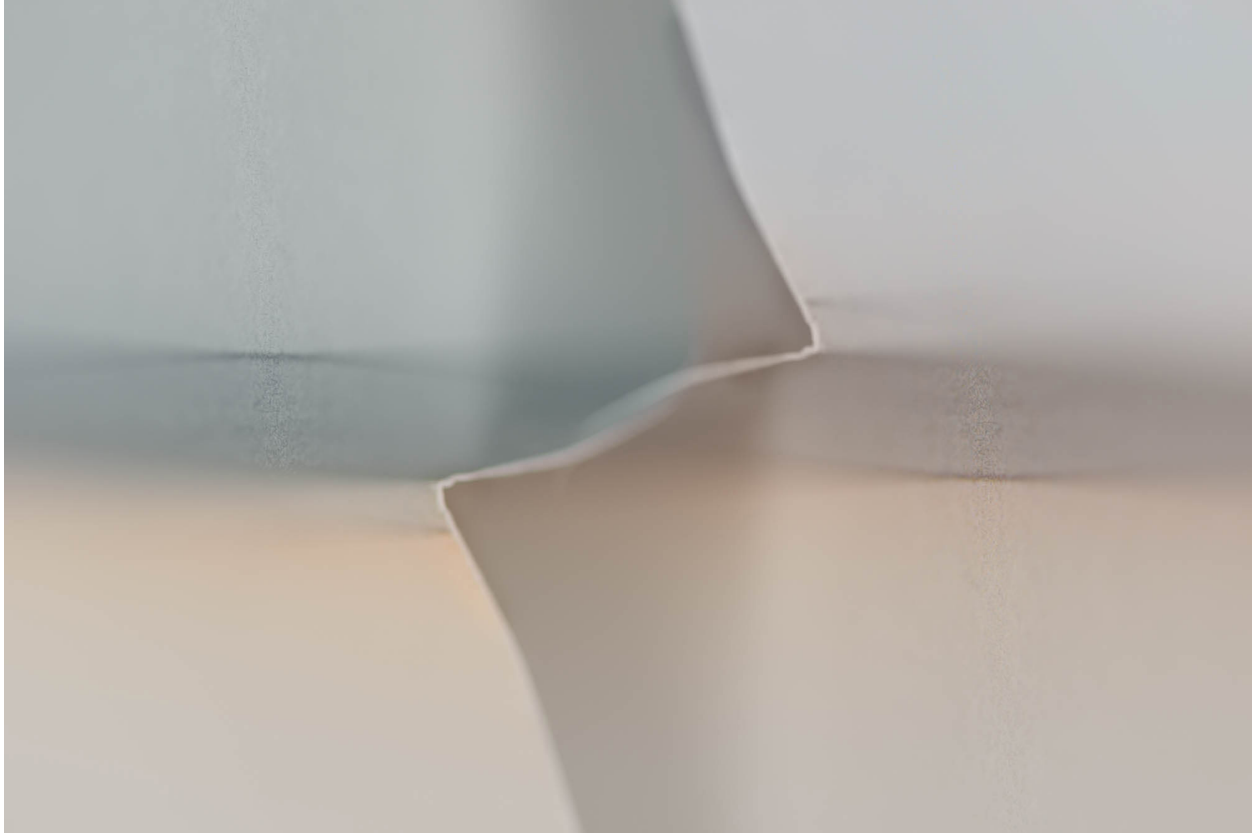




**Elizabeth Bailey:** *The House Next Door*

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Driven by emotional voyeurism, *The House Next Door* documents my time as an interloper; the days and weeks and months when my growing obsession with another woman's life story began blurring into my own reality. Seeking to understand my reclusive neighbor who died with no next of kin, I began entering her vacant house - and crossing boundaries, both physical and psychological. Ultimately a meditation on atypical beauty, perception, and point of view, *The House Next Door* considers how one individual's untold story can impact and alter the life of another.



**Jennifer Pritchard:** *The Offing*

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*The Offing* is a navigational term referring to the part of the deep sea seen from shore. February of 2021 was a perfect block of time - 4 weeks of 7 days stacked upon one another that provided me an opportunity to reset after the challenges of 2020. I set out to make an analog typology only to watch time conflate, turn on itself, and the steadiness of the horizon become something I didn't understand any longer.





**Lori Ordovery:** *Silence Is*

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Unlike most chaotic and cacophonous childhoods, mine was spent in silence. Growing up with a deaf mother, I spent most of my youth not being heard. My project, *Silence Is* evokes my experience of her through self-portraits, family photographs and empty spaces.



**Rosalie Rosenthal:** *Midlife Tableaux*

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Midlife is traditionally a nexus for recalibration; parents reach an age of needing care, children become adults, and those of us in the middle assess and adapt. My project, *Midlife Tableaux*, is a manifestation of that reconsideration of self through the examination of family heirlooms. *Midlife Tableaux* touches the very human experiences of loss and transition, while considering the gift and weight of a legacy in both material and individual terms.





**Sarah Hadley:** *Story Lines*

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*Story Lines* explores the female interior landscape. Influenced by French New Wave cinema of the 60's and the surrealists, I create intimate cinematic stories of women caught in a moment of reflection or transformation. By altering reality through collage and playing with the limits of reality and fiction, my work considers the poetry in the hidden and intangible parts of life, and the desires and dreams we keep buried deep inside.



**Susan Lapedes:** *Sea Change*

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*Sea Change* was inspired by the 26 foot tidal landscape and the lobster industry of the Bay of Fundy in St. George, New Brunswick, Canada. Photographing girls from this region annually, each holding a lobster—a symbol of their community—I show how each girl's gender identity evolves over time and with the pervasive influences of local culture and society at large. *Sea Change* captures the significant transformation from girlhood to adolescence to adulthood.





## ARTIST BIOS

### Aline Smithson

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Aline Smithson is a visual artist, editor, and educator based in Los Angeles, California. She has exhibited widely including over 40 solo shows at a variety of international institutions and her work has been featured in publications including The New York Times, The New Yorker, and PDN.

Smithson is the Founder of Lenscratch, a daily journal on photography. She has received the Rising Star Award through the Griffin Museum of Photography and the prestigious Excellence in Teaching Award from CENTER. In 2014 and 2019, Smithson's work was selected for the Critical Mass Top 50. In 2015, the Magenta Foundation published her retrospective monograph, *Self & Others: Portrait as Autobiography*, and in 2016, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum commissioned Smithson to create a series of portraits for the Faces of Our Planet Exhibition. In 2018 and 2019, her work was exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery in London as part of the Taylor Wessing Prize. Kris Graves Projects published her book, *LOST II: Los Angeles* and included her work in SOLACE and On Death. Peanut Press released her monograph, *Fugue State*, in Fall of 2021.

Aline has been a juror for a host of organizations and galleries and reviewer and educator at photo festivals around the U.S.

### Annette LeMay Burke

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Annette LeMay Burke is a photographic artist and Northern California native who lives in the heart of Silicon Valley. A longtime observer of the evolution of the western landscape, Burke's work is about connection, especially in relationship to the land and place. She is interested in how our environment changes over time and the telltale artifacts — both tangible and temporal — that are left behind. Burke received a BA in Geology from the University of California at Berkeley. After a decade long career in high-tech, she now focuses on her artistic practice.

In 2022, Burke was selected for Critical Mass Top 50. In 2021, she was awarded first place in the LENSSCRATCH Vernacular Photography Exhibition and won the Imago Lisboa Photography Festival in Portugal.

Burke's work is exhibited widely at institutions such as Center for Photographic Art, Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Candela Gallery, Griffin Museum of Photography and Los Angeles Center for Photography.

Her work has been featured in The NY Times, L.A. Times, Hyperallergic, Sierra Club Magazine, Newsweek

Japan, Elle Decor Italy, Fraction, All About Photo, KATALOG and The Riv Magazine.

Burke's monograph, *Fauxliage: Disguised Cell Phone Towers of the American West*, was published by Daylight Books in 2021.

## **Annie Omens**

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Annie Omens is a photographic and mixed media artist who explores the natural world with a conscious perception of what is hidden, what is known, and how nature impacts the human psyche. Informed by her interest in Shamanism and Celtic lore, Omens uses photomontage to examine the intersection of the real and the dimensional depth of the unseen, mixing modalities and meanings with what is perceived and what might be.

Omens' education includes studies in photography and art at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, the Savannah College of Art and Design, Marquette University and Mount San Jacinto College in Menifee, CA.

Omens has exhibited nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at the Griffin Museum of Photography in Boston, Massachusetts; A. Smith Gallery in Johnson, Texas; the Oceanside Museum of Art; San Diego Art Institute; Galleria 980 in Loreto, Mexico; the Pennsylvania Center for Photography; and the Encaustic Arts Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico amongst others. She has received numerous awards for her work and her work is in collections nationally and internationally including at the Encaustic Art Museum.

She lives and works in San Diego, California.

## **Diane Hemingway**

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Diane Hemingway is an artist who tells stories of life through photography and interdisciplinary media. Her photographic work, which includes written and recorded prose, explores the spiritual, emotional, and physical link between the natural world, memory, and lived experience.

Hemingway received her MFA, from Maine Media College, Rockport Maine. She has exhibited nationally at the Griffin Museum of Photography, Praxis Gallery, A Smith Gallery, Panopticon Gallery, PhotoPlace Gallery, SE Center for Photography, Atlanta Photography Group, Cove Street Arts, and Gallery 263 among others.

Hemingway has published two monographs, *The Fire in My Throat* in 2021 and *The Wild Cosmos* in 2020 which is a multi-media publication combining image, text, and audio. Her work has also been included in editions published by NORDphotography, curated by Cig Harvey.

She lives and works in Maine.

## **Dena Elisabeth Eber**

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Dena Elisabeth Eber is an artist based in Northwest Ohio whose artistic endeavors include VR art works, photography, and interactive installations. Her current work is intimate and personal, addressing deep loss and change. Recently she has begun to challenge photographic conventions in order to discover renewal after profound grief. Dr. Eber has shown her work at numerous international and national exhibition venues including Gallery D'ART for the Images and Visualization International Symposium on Digital Art, SIGGRAPH, the Society for Photographic Educators, the Griffin Museum of Photography, The Photoplace Gallery, Manifest Gallery, The Los Angeles Center of Photography, and the International Digital Media and Arts Association.

She was recently named on the Photolucida's Critical Mass Finalist list, won a purchase award from TFAS, and earned an honorable mention from the British Journal of Society's Portrait of Humanity award. She also recently won the Julia Margaret Cameron award for the series of portraits category.

Her recent project, *You Refuse to Believe that You Ever Liked Pink*, is being published by Schilt Publishing and is expected to be out in the states by the middle of 2023.

Dr. Eber is a Professor of Photography and Digital Arts at Bowling Green State University where she has taught since 1997. She earned her Ph.D. and her MFA in Art from the University of Georgia, and her MS in Computer Science and her BS in Mathematics from Colorado State University.

## **Elizabeth Bailey**

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Elizabeth Bailey is a Los Angeles based artist who uses photography to create evocative imagery that explores the themes of self, identity, memory, and longing. She uses staged scenes, portraiture and self-portraiture with implied narratives to consider what we conceal and reveal about ourselves, to others.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Bailey moved to Los Angeles at 18 to attend Occidental College. After receiving a BA in Philosophy, she studied photography and graphic design, finding that each informed the other. She currently works as a graphic designer and fine art photographer.

Her work has been exhibited in galleries nationally and internationally, including Light Box Gallery in Portland, Oregon; A Smith Gallery in Johnson City, Texas; and PH21 in Budapest, Hungary. Her photographs have been published in books and magazines including Float, Stubborn, and SHOTS Magazine, and are held in private collections.

## **Jennifer Pritchard**

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Pritchard is a photographic artist and storyteller based in Laguna Beach, California. Her experience includes



years as an innovative, creative fashion executive leading global brands - telling rich and compelling stories to engage and excite consumers. A skilled business leader in delivering results in complex situations and markets, her passion and highly collaborative nature galvanized teams to accomplish their goals.

In 2015, her father's death inspired her to tell her own stories.

Geographies have played an essential part in her perspective, whether the New England of her birth, her Mid-Atlantic upbringing, Southern schooling, or internationally through her roles in Global Brand Leadership. In Pritchard, understanding places and their rich stories engendered a deep appreciation of the unique and the common. A natural curiosity combined with a paradox-filled childhood inspired explorations of life and loss, memory, and dreams across a diverse photographic and literary toolbox.

Pritchard was chosen as an Emerging Artist in 2017 by APA National, and in 2022 she was honored for Reverberations in the Critical Mass Top 200. Her work is an ongoing part of the collections at On Center Gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Her collection *The Offing* is included in the traveling exhibition *Memory is a Verb*, a group of 11 women photographers exploring Time and Transience, opening in January 2023 at the Oceanside Museum of Art, Oceanside, California.

## **Lori Ordover**

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Lori Ordover is a lens-based artist who uses memory, nature, and the family album to investigate elements of identity and geography. Her work examines nuances of emotion, beauty and tension in order to tell stories that allow for a reclamation and consideration of self.

She received a BA from Sarah Lawrence in Philosophy. After a career in New York real estate, Ordover graduated in 2014 from the International Center of Photography Continuing Education Program.

Ordover was selected as a Critical Mass 2021 finalist and her photographs have earned her recognition in International Fine Art Photography Awards, The International Photography Awards for Street Photography, The New York Center for Photographic Art and South x Southeast Magazine. She has exhibited with the International Center of Photography, the New York Center for Photographic Art, I(Le) Poisson Rouge Gallery, Umbrella Arts Gallery, Handwright Gallery and South x Southeast Gallery, amongst others.

She has just released an artist's book, Silence.

Ordover currently serves on the Board of Trustees of The Los Angeles Center of Photography, and Penumbra Organization.

## **Rosalie Rosenthal**

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Rosalie Rosenthal is an artist who uses lens based and camera-less photography to investigate the transience of objects and place, transformed by context and perspective. Her practice looks beyond the intended purpose,

or the expected vantage point, to cultivate nuance and possibility.

Rosenthal received a BFA from the University of Louisville's Hite Art Institute and a BA in History from Smith College. She has exhibited nationally at the Griffin Museum of Photography; Filter Space Gallery, Chicago; the Los Angeles Center of Photography; Spaulding University; the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft; and Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati.

Her photographs have been published in Fraction Magazine, aPhotoEditor, and Manifest Gallery Photography Annuals. Her work is collected by 21c Museum Hotels, Omni Louisville, and private collectors. Residencies include Makers Circle in Marshall, NC and Residency Unlimited in Brooklyn, New York. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Rosenthal now lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where she works from her studio in the Portland neighborhood.

## **Sarah Hadley**

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Sarah Hadley is a Los Angeles based artist whose narrative work focuses on issues of memory, place and identity. Originally from Boston, Hadley received degrees in Art History and Italian from Georgetown University, and Photography from the Corcoran College of Art. She lived in Washington DC, Italy and the UK before moving to Chicago where she founded the Filter Photo Festival in 2009. Hadley has received grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Chicago Artist Foundation, the California Center for Cultural Innovation, as well as Fellowships from the Ragdale Foundation.

Hadley has had solo shows in museums and galleries throughout the US including Afterimage Gallery, the Loyola Museum of Art, the Griffin Museum of Photography, and dnj Gallery. Her work has also been exhibited in photography festivals in France, China, Australia, India and Portugal and been featured in numerous magazines, blogs and publications including Le Monde, Elle Italia, L'Oeil de la Photographie and Lenscratch.

In 2020, her first monograph *Lost Venice* was published by Damiani Editore and is now in the collection of the Getty Research library, the Huntington Library, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Her photographs are held in public and private collections worldwide.

## **Susan Lapidés**

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Susan Lapidés is a photographic artist who creates time-based projects focusing on adolescence and place. Through her portraits and landscapes, she examines social, cultural and community issues.

Lapidés earned her BA in Art History from Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. She had an extensive career as a professional editorial photographer working for national publications. She photographed President Barack Obama, then the first African American editor of the Harvard Law Review and Rose Kennedy on her 91st birthday. The most lifechanging assignment was meeting her future husband photographing for People Magazine.

Lapides exhibits her fine art photography nationally and internationally. *Sea Change* premiered at Sunbury Shores Art Center in Canada in 2022. St. George exhibitions were presented at the Griffin Museum (Winchester, MA), Sunbury Shores and the Saint John Arts Centre (Canada). Her awards include 2019 Critical Mass Finalist, and the Beth Block Juried Membership Honoraria from the Houston Center for Photography. Lapides was invited to participate in “Outspoken, Extended,” an invitational exhibit of nine women photographers. Her photographs are held in permanent corporate and private collections. She resides in Boston, Massachusetts, USA and in New Brunswick, Canada.