NeON: Photography

























# NeON: Photography

NeON: Photography is an exhibition featuring photographs from workshops offered by the NYC Department of Probation's Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) and Seeing for Ourselves. In these classes, participants receive professional training designed to introduce students to the history of photography, technical skills, and the art of visual storytelling. Offered in Brownsville, Bedford-Stuyvesant, East New York, Harlem, Jamaica, the South Bronx, and Staten Island, the workshops are open to community members regardless of justice involvement. Graduates have been hired as event photographers by the New York City Mayor's Office, New York City Department of Probation, Carnegie Hall, Park Avenue Pianos, New York Fashion Week, and the tennis legend John McEnroe, just to name a few. The photographers will have their work published in a book and shared with an international audience later this year.

On view is a selection of photographs from the Bedford-Stuyvesant, Harlem, and South Bronx workshops that will be on display for the month of March at Hunter East Harlem Gallery, located inside the Silberman School of Social Work--where many of the students, faculty, and staff work closely with the programs of the New York City Department of Probation.

### @NeON\_Photographers

The exhibition is sponsored by: Seeing for Ourselves, Neighborhood Opportunity Network, New York City Department of Probation, National Endowment for the Arts, Sigma Cameras, and New York City Mayor's Office. The exhibition is made possible by the Department of Probation, Seeing for Ourselves, and Hunter East Harlem Gallery.







### NeON: Photographers

Garrie Edwards

Albert Henry	Gerald Monval	Moshelle Fisher Scott
Alisha Price Sylvain	Isaiah Felicano	Napoleon Bond
Ana Torres	Isaiah Burdette	Nathalie Marc
Andre Whitehead	Isaiah Reid	Nicodemus Hartzog
Andrew Lorenzo	J'Veon Jefferson	Nyree Perry
Angel Tejeda	Jaden Inniss	Patrice Payne
Anthony Fauntleroy	Japridede Carter	Pelrique Price
Ashley Evans	Jashonna Jenkins	Prince Foster
Azoriah Smith	Jasmine Faulkner	Rashein Smith
Brittany Wilson	Javanni Lovelace	Renoy Johnson
Carl McIntosh	Jesus Cerda	Rham Robinson
Celeste Whitner	John Skyes	Sandra Haibor
Christopher Workman	Joseph Bevel	Saniyah Paul-Trice
Clayton Harris	Joseph Cordova	Sha-King Robinson
Clifton Anderson	Kalefe Williams	Shamel Mitchell
Clyde Pryce	Kenneth Swindell	Shaquweice Mills
Collie Crawford	Kenya Johnson	Sharon Harris
Cory Carr	Kevin Green	Siddeequah Taylor
Deandre Ellison	Keyshana Mims	Starlien Arevalo
Denasia Martinez	Kezia King	Storme Crooks
Denroy Golding	Khallil Ragin	Taquan Spencer
Devonte Rhodes	Kiani Smith	Tatiana Frost
Diamond Marquez	Kirk Lawrence	Tavel Williams
Dillon Miller	Lamall K. Kinsey	Terry Yeboah
Dylan Henry	Laquan Chestnut	Tiffany Zayas
Ebony Walden	Leo Mojica	Todiyah Williams
Elayshah Garcia	Lorenzo Freeman	Trishana Brown
Eli Matos	Matthew Karim	Triston Acosta White
Emily Alvarez	Mekai Wilson	Tyrek Smith
Emrose Dowdy	Michael Gomez	Tysean Hennegan
Eric McLeod	Michael McIntosh	Vernell Hamlett
Erika Perez	Michael Odumosu	Vincent Harriston
Franze Williams	Mikal Campbell	William Estrada-Bonill

Molly Cobery

# LEFT WALL



# LEFT WALL CAPTIONS

#### 1. Michael Gomez

Off guards photos are the best. They show how you look when you're not posing. You can see the stress, the depression, and the pain.

#### 2. Patrice Payne

America, Through My Eyes

To be seen yet unseen

Threatened by my mere appearance and identity Looking upward and onward

There are two sides

Seeking hopefulness and strength

Stripes

On the flag and on my headscarf

Mimicking each other

Trying to find a balance

#### 3. Pelrique Price

Dada, leaving but not for long, ok. Coming back soon, so we can sing our song. Ok, Dada.

#### 4. Kenya Johnson

There is so much beauty within turmoil, especially when one is able to take the pain and move toward it. To defy all odds and somehow find balance, clarity, and strength, creating a sense of awareness with no filters. Then in each moment capturing all the elements with a clear view.

#### 5. Nicodemus Hartzog

The Eye Catcher

#### 6. Andrew Lorenzo

If Walls Could Talk

Walls can either unite us or divide us. Every wall has a story to tell. They can give us a roof over our heads or confine us. They can bring us joy and happiness, but also tears and sorrow. They can put us on a pedestal or eight feet underground. What side of the wall are you standing on?

#### 7. Diamond Marquez

It's always good to be grateful for the people you love. #Thanksgiving2018

#### 8. Andrew Lorenzo

REFLECTION

Even after the biggest storm, at the end the sun will always shine.

#### 9. Alisha Price Sylvain

"I wouldn't change you for the world, but I would change the world for you." Signed, mother of a special needs child affectionately known as Soleil.

#### 10. Todiyah Williams Brooklyn, New York

#### 11. Alisha Price Sylvain

I see the tears you cry and without being told to do so, I comfort you with a kiss. I don't need words because you don't have any. I understand. "Don't worry, I will take care of you, Soleil."

#### 12. Laquan Chestnut

Overground Railroad

#### 13. Denasia Martinez

You see right through me.

#### 14. Nicodemus Hartzog

The Eye of New York

#### 15. Tatiana Frost

Mani's & Rings

#### 16. Angel Tejeda

Me and my son at the Knicks game.

#### 17. Napoleon Bond

Outer beauty pleases the eye. Inner beauty captivates the heart.

#### 18. Moshelle Fisher Scott

The future lies in the distance. B&H Depth of Field Photography Conference.

#### 19. Anthony Fauntleroy

Self love.

New York City Hall, October 2018.

#### 20. Kenneth Swindell

The young lion in winter.

The young one's mind races, yet all in silence. The weekend outing to the Museum of Natural History has begun and the unknown discoveries lay ahead and swirl in his mind. A frost filled breeze lays resident to the station, but it deters his excitement none, the youthful New Yorker is bundled correctly. Dinosaur fossils and the creatures of the earth claim his destination and he will confront them with eagerness...even as Dad attempts to break his concentration temporarily to photograph the moment.

Sebastian, age 8, in contemplation.

#### 21. Kirk Lawrence

There's something about the anonymity of the DJ that appeals to me, which is why I chose this career path. The DJ's presence is absolute, yet invisible.

#### 22. Kirk Lawrence

When you live in Schenectady, NY, having that dream is important, no matter what you do. Either you make it or you don't. The community college is the bloodline of the city. Everyone uses their dreams as fuel.

#### 23. Trishana Brown

She is my best creation. I can't go a day without her. When she's not with me I can't breathe.

#### 24. Michael Gomez

A girl that has lost friends, relationships, and family still always finds a way to have a perfect smile.

#### 25. Brittany Wilson

New York, New York

#### 26. Jesus Cerda

Life is beautiful. Don't hold back to show your colors. How, in every way. When you wake up in the morning, you see the sun shine. You hear the voice of the birds that becomes music to your ears and you see the colors of the plants that surround you.

#### 27. Patrice Payne

Reflection

This photograph represents how I often perceive myself as a Black woman artist in New York City: confined to a small space within a metropolis, feeling like I am a scaled down version of myself, having aspects of me distorted and out of focus, while trying to establish my true sense of identity. However, my appreciation and passion for art will never diminish, as I purposely capture my reflection between two painted portraits, indicating that my mark is just as important and that one can still find beauty anywhere.

#### 28. Tavel Williams

Place love inside your mind
For some it's hard to find
Hold on to love
For it is like a dove
But don't lock love in your mental cage
Picture love as gas and you as a car
With it you will resemble a superstar
They can spread love across a stage
For they know
Love helps them grow
Without love you may not prosper
Love heals like a doctor
Without love there's no unity
Do you see love in your community?

#### 29. Sharon Harris

Traveling light while taking a ride on the crowded #4 subway line.

#### 30. Brittany Wilson

New York, New York

#### 31. Vernell Hamlett

So much happiness being displayed, in an event where people were coming together, this little girl was showing her dance skills and people are encouraging her to keep going.

#### 32. Ebony Walden

A truly strong person does not need the approval of others any more than a tiger needs the approval of sheep.

#### 33. Denasia Martinez

Morning Kisses

#### 34. Diamond Marquez

My sunshine doesn't come from the skies, it comes from the love that's in my dog's eyes.

#### 35. Collie Crawford

Gouverneur Morris Houses, Bronx, New York.

#### 36. Tatiana Frost

No Matter the Distance

#### 37. Sharon Harris

Life in Motion

#### 38. Pelrique Price

A path cut out for me to Flow, Grow and Glow.

#### 39. Tyrek Smith

Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn, New York

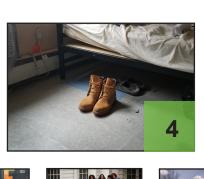
#### 40. Albert Henry

Harlem, New York

#### 41. Ana Torres

Arches of unity, without it becomes to isolated places.

# **RIGHT WALL**





























































# RIGHT WALL CAPTIONS

#### 1. William Estrada-Bonilla

As humans, we are designed to use our talent and make way for our children's future. Unfortunately, humans make the mistake to not put their talent to use, but give it to the injustice system by making human mistakes. People's talent and love for their children gets demolished by the system. People need to know that talent lies within everyone who breathes.

#### 2. Devonte Rhodes

Let the race begin. Either you're the drive or the backseat.

#### 3. Anthony Fauntleroy

Tunnel Vision

#### 4. Kenneth Swindell

The smallest order amidst chaos is a delicate lushness in a pervasive barrenness.

He worked hard. Long hours to provide for the men in his building, clients who relied on his services which often went thankless. Half shaven most days, he spoke cordially but quickly, his movements through the stairwell, up and down the elevator coordinated. His job always done by the early evening, usually retiring to the relaxation of his bed for a movie on his DVD player and the comforting solitude it brought. But never before his boots were placed neatly by his bed for the next day's work.

The boots of Daniel Tracy.

#### 5. Dylan Henry

We can't change the world unless we change ourselves. We all had a rough past, but we still come together to change our future.

NeON Arts Press Conference at City Hall. December 18, 2019.

#### 6. Jesus Cerda

Life from above. Don't know much when you look from far, until I arrive at the destination. You get to a point in your life when you have to choose a different path, so you do your best and stay calm. I have chosen the good path. I stay away from trouble and further my education.

#### 7. Leo Mojica

I stumbled upon a dream of steel and concrete. Rays of light dance, bowing for their applause, roses were tossed into the deep gray to feed the dying imaginations of man. A beautiful child was built, assigned his punishment with the giving of his name. To be judged by men would be his fate. Forced to spend half his life within a cage, but no matter how bleak the situation had seemed, this child kept a fierce smile on his face. When questioned by his

oppressor, of the state of his unbroken spirit, the child simply asked, do you not see the light?
-- LKM/Wolfpoet

#### 8. Emily Alvarez

No matter how far beyond life may take take you, no one can take a mile in your shoes. Where I come from, our neighborhood doesn't come from seeing doctors and lawyers. I come from drug dealers, gang bangers, robbers. To have the right role model, it gives us an opportunity to have support by our communities and elders. These are the miles that stood out to me when you have sight for hope.

#### 9. Christopher Workman

There's light everywhere, you just have to find it.

#### 10. Taquan Spencer

Coming out of the dirt.

#### 11. Eli Matos

City Greens

#### 12. Devonte Rhodes

Each step has a light to it. How bright do you think your future will be?

#### 13. Andre Whitehead

Dark times can shine the brightest light...

Twelve years ago, while I attended my favorite little cousin Quiaira's birthday party, my friend Chico was shot and killed sitting on this table. The dark spot in the background is where his body lay until the next morning. The brownstone behind the brightest street light is where we once lived, during a time when we used to play basketball with a bottomless crate that hung from the fence in our front yard. Since then, the City's built a basketball court. We had so many good memories in this park, many at a community center where Chico, our siblings and I attended afterschool programs and summer camp. We knew this park as Tompkins, now renamed Von King. As young adults, things changed. The park where we once played became a territory we warred over, which resulted in the murder of my very close friend Chico. This moment in the park changed me. It showed me that particular lifestyle is not for me. I am here for a reason!

#### 14. Kalefe Williams

3 Sisters from The Met

#### 15. William Estrada-Bonilla

Her presence is a symbol of faith and beauty in the city of Bronx. Mesmerized by this mural, I know that there is a God.

#### 16. Christopher Workman

A new beginning. No matter when you see a crane, it's always something starting from the beginning. You don't know what it is, but at the end of the day you always know that there's something new that's about to start. Every time I see a crane, I have to take a picture.

#### 17. Taquan Spencer

If you let your heart soar and be free, sky's the limit on how happy you'll be.

#### 18. Eric McLeod

#FashionWeek so proud of myself and what I accomplished.

#### 19. Vernell Hamlett

Looking up at the ceiling I thought I was seeing birds flying by, or underwater watching fish swimming. Got me thinking which world I'm looking at. Is it air or water? I'm seeing through the glass ceiling.

#### 20. Moshelle Fisher Scott

My son, Quadire, he raised me. Next came my daughter, Izena, she made me. Last came my daughter, Isis, she tamed me.

#### 21. <u>Nathalie Marc</u>

Secret Singularity

#### 22. Andre Whitehead

NeON has helped my little light shine three times as bright with photography.

My lows are just a blurred reflection of my highs, reminding me to stay focused.

#### 23. Dylan Henry

I like playing the piano, like I love taking pictures. Music is art to me. All I have to do is paint the picture.

Park Avenue Pianos photography shoot, TriBeCa, 2018.

#### 24. Emily Alvarez

When the youth has the right guidance, we can achieve wonders. Who knows what the future has to come.

Actor Michael K. Williams at NeON Inspires Carnegie Hall event. January 7, 2019.

#### 25. Trishana Brown

Love can be blind.

#### 26. Leo Mojica

In the vast space we refer to as the sky, mother gone, mother lost, I will return when I die. We've been so cold, most don't even know. It's your blood as our tears when we cry. As a mass, we are just so lost. Forgive us for our abuse, pardon us of our crimes. -- LKM/Wolf Poet

#### 27. Napoleon Bond

Enjoy every moment of life. Memories we cannot erase.

#### 28. Nathalie Marc

Portrait of a friend.

#### 29. Tavel Williams

Let's take a snapshot of fashion. New York Fashion Week, 2019.

#### 30. Eric McLeod

I was taught, "I'm in a jungle, I got to survive. Move like a king, not a yes man." So I'm going out like a king. You're all going to remember me. My city is going to remember my face. Anything I wanted to do, I did in a year. "I can't" will never be in my vocabulary.

#### 31. Isaiah Reid

Portrait of a Star-Crossed Hoodlum

In the throes of decadence, by corner stores we once stood

By the simple splendor of a moon slither, we split Dutchmasters

Through bloodshot eyes, we scanned the Ave.; the pavement of which became toxic with the traffic of fiends

Lights from the liquor store flickered destruction and flashed peril, illuminating a catwalk of black hoodies and scullies pulled sideways

We started in innocence, as small circles of friends; we became colleagues in an illicit trade

Occupiers of boldness, in the deep crevices of dark alleys

In the absence of light, it was clearly we, who migrated legendary backstreets to evade the relentless opposition

Our vivid thoughts were infiltrated with delusions of a diamond life; by means of our hesitation fully diminished, we attacked a path to sad tomorrows

The slick strides we developed took us nowhere, just as the crisp garments we enveloped ourselves in would leave us naked

In the end we dwindled in numbers, scattered between the unfortunate solitude of desolate graves and the misery of the bleakest iron cages

All that remained were the shallow memories, promised to fade, of a doomed destiny fulfilled by misguided youth

In the throes of decadence, by corner stores we once stood...

Poem by NeON Photographer Kenneth Carl

Hunter East Harlem Gallery is a multidisciplinary space for art exhibitions and socially minded projects. Located on the ground floor of Hunter College's Silberman School of Social Work at 119th Street and 3rd Avenue, the gallery presents exhibitions and public events that foster academic collaborations at Hunter College while addressing subjects relevant to the East Harlem community and greater New York City. The gallery seeks to initiate partnerships with publicly oriented organizations and focuses on showcasing artists who are engaging in social practice, public interventions, community projects, and alternative forms of public art. Since its inception in 2011, all exhibitions and programs at Hunter East Harlem Gallery are free and open to the public.

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The exhibition is sponsored by:













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