Information about Our Exhibitors

Elizabeth S. Derickson is a photographer and a sociologist. After graduating from Swarthmore College, she began doing photography during her Peace Corps service in the Cape Verde Islands (West Africa). She is currently pursuing a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy at Princeton University. Her research interests include urban and suburban neighborhoods, inequality, social policy, socio-spatial relations, and culture. Her research includes studies of urban neighborhood gentrification, suburban affordable housing development, and the social organization of urban small businesses. Her research employs a variety of methods, including visual ethnography. She collaborates with photographers Leandre Jackson and Anisa Rahim on the "Living" project - a collection of photos of daily life around the world.
Contact: elizabeth.derickson@gmail.com

Lauren Hansen-Flaschen is a freelance photographer based in Philadelphia. Her documentary work focuses on bringing together cross-cultural understanding and community development initiatives. Her background includes extensive travel abroad, primarily in South and Southeast Asia, two years as an AmeriCorps volunteer, and employment in several Philadelphia nonprofit organizations. Her social justice work was selected and showcased at the Constitution Center for the Bread and Roses Tribute to Change 2010 event, and at the AxD gallery for the Women's Medical Fund's Reproductive Justice Art event. Lauren is also currently an Executive graduate student at Penn's Fels Institute for Government, and she is compiling a documentary film on a grassroots NGO in Bangladesh that she shot in 2009. She graduated from Boston University in 2004 with a B.A. in Religious Studies and Sociology.
Website: http://www.lhfphotography.com/
Contact: l.hansenflaschen@gmail.com; 610-639-6051
On screen are:
1. Land for the Landless. Shatkhira District, Bangladesh.
2. Education for All. Tala, Bangladesh.

Leandre K. Jackson has been a professional photographer since 1971. Born in Chester, PA, he currently resides in Philadelphia, PA. He holds a B.A. in English literature from Swarthmore College and a M.A. in mass media from Temple University. His work has appeared in newspapers, journals, magazines, books, and CDs, and on television. The Leandre K. Jackson Collection, which was established in 1980, is housed in the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library. His photographs are also part of the permanent collection of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center of Howard University. He has had solo exhibitions at Penn’s DuBois House, Swarthmore’s Trotter Hall, Widener University Art Gallery, the 16th Annual Celebration of Black Writing, Rider College, Glassboro State College, Swarthmore College, Antioch College, and the Free Library of Philadelphia.
Website: http://leandrejackson.com/
Contact: leandrejackson@yahoo.com
Ann Marie Kirk is the Co-Founder and Director of Art for Justice. She co-founded Art for Justice with Charles Lawson who is serving a sentence of life without parole at Graterford Prison, PA. Ann Marie has 35 years of experience as a teacher, social worker and advocate for social justice. In 2008, Ms. Kirk received the Leeway Foundation’s Transformation Award (for her poetry and photography) which is given to women artists who have worked for social change. Through her work with Art for Justice she has brought inspirational prisoner art to over 46 venues in diverse locations in the Philadelphia area. Art for Justice works are currently on view at the “Inside/Outside” exhibit at Philadelphia City Hall.

Ms. Kirk co-created and presents the Road Map for Life Workshops©. The Workshops use the art and statements of prison artists to stimulate dialogue with high risk youth, inspiring them to revise their life path and break the cycle of poverty and crime that lead to incarceration. The paintings and poetry of incarcerated individuals serve as a cautionary tale to youth, many of whom exclaim that their participation in the Workshops has been a life changing experience for them.

Ms. Kirk is determined to bring people together to change the nation’s obsessive, misguided policies that address so many social problems and wrongdoings with incarceration. She sees her work with Art for Justice along a continuum of family involvement in the struggle for social justice - in the 1800’s her Quaker relatives were active in the Underground Railroad. Dr. Alan K. Chalmers, her Great Uncle, was the Chairman of the Scottsboro Defense in the 1940’s and later Treasurer for the NAACP.

Website:  http://www.artforjustice.org/
Contact: amkirk@artforjustice.org

Anisa Rahim is a photographer and a lawyer. She has a B.A. from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from Temple University’s Beasley School of Law. After college, she spent time in India with women's NGOs through a University of Chicago Human Rights Fellowship and a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. Since 2006, she has been part of a collaborative exhibition with Leandre Jackson and Elizabeth Derickson titled "Living" which depicts the lives of ordinary people. She is currently practicing law in the areas of employment/unemployment and language access as a staff attorney at Legal Services of New Jersey.

Contact: anisarahim78@yahoo.com

Zoe Strauss is a (self-described) lesbian anarchist from Philadelphia, PA.

Website:  http://www.zoestrauss.com/zoe.html
Contact: mailto:info@zoestrauss.com

JJ Tiziou is a visual storyteller specializing in portraiture and movement documentation; he has never encountered an un-photogenic person in his life. His images are used both in corporate and editorial contexts as well as arts and activism. JJ is the recipient of Spiral Q's 2010 Artist-Activist award; he strives to use his work to celebrate, empower and inspire the individuals, communities and organizations that are working to build a better world. Born in Washington, DC to French parents, he has called Philadelphia home since 1997. Samples of his work are online
Mpozi Mshale Tolbert was an imposing and impressive figure; he was 6’6” tall and had long dreadlocks, but by all accounts was a gentle and loving man. He sold his first photograph to the Philadelphia Daily News when he was 16 years old. His work in Philadelphia covered the gamut from breaking news to the hip hop scene. He documented the rise of the hip hop group The Roots. At 26, after working for the Associated Press and Vibe magazine, he became a staff photographer for the Indianapolis Star. He was also known in Indianapolis music circles for his DJing. Mpozi was 34 years old when he died of cardiac arrest one day after his birthday in 2006. There is an NPR tribute of Mpozi Tolbert that is well worth listening to. It can be found at http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5629480. Contact: Maisha Jackson, Mpozi’s mother, at Mjack11@verizon.net.