



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This fall, CPW presents three exhibitions that explore memory, cultural identity, and everyday life in the American South. Through richly detailed color and black-and-white photographs, ***Rahim Fortune*** examines the histories and rituals that shape Southern Black communities; ***Kinship & Community: Selections from the Texas African American Photography Archive***, co-curated by Nicole R. Fleetwood and CPW Executive Director Brian Wallis, highlights the work of mid-20th century Black photographers in Texas, revealing how vernacular images serve as powerful records of collective memory; and ***Everyday Culture: Seven Projects by Documentary Arts*** brings together four decades of work by **Documentary Arts**, presenting photographs, films, music, and folk art that chronicle marginalized cultural traditions and creative practices. These three exhibitions could not be more relevant today, when attempts to rectify the injustices of history are being undermined by the politics of erasure.

FALL EXHIBITIONS

On view: September 20, 2025-January 11, 2026

Kinship & Community: Selections from the Texas African American Photographers Archive



Kinship & Community presents approximately 50 photographs from the Texas African American Photography Archive that span a period from the 1940s to the 1980s. Co-curated by Nicole R. Fleetwood, the exhibition provides an overview of African American photography in rural and urban areas of Texas, underscoring the community photographer's role in shaping and bolstering self-esteem by documenting local life and culture. ***Kinship & Community*** includes studio portraits, school photos, parades, protests and other gatherings. It brings the ordinary world of Black Texans—their social and political doings—out of the shadows and onto the center stage of daily life.

The Texas African American Photography Archive was founded by Alan Govenar and artist Kaleta Doolin in 1995 with collections assembled by Documentary Arts over the last forty years. The Archive provides a broad overview of African American photographers working in urban neighborhoods in Dallas and Houston and small towns in East Texas from 1942 to 1984, and represents a variety of processes and makers. The Archive is unique in its comprehensiveness and consists of over 60,000 images and more than 20 oral histories collected from African American photographers.

Nicole R. Fleetwood is a renowned writer, curator, art critic, New York University Professor, and MacArthur Fellow. She is the author of the award-winning *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* and has curated numerous groundbreaking exhibitions that center Black cultural production, incarceration, and vernacular photography.

Curated by Nicole R. Fleetwood and CPW Executive Director Brian Wallis, *Kinship & Community* will be accompanied by a catalogue published by Aperture.

Everyday Culture: Seven Projects by Documentary Arts



Everyday Culture presents seven key projects by Documentary Arts over the past forty years that focus on tattooing, blues music in Texas, Black cowboys and rodeos, folk artists, Texas-Mexico border culture, urban street life in Dallas, and vernacular photography. Represented through photographs, films, music, and folk art, the materials in *Everyday Culture* point to previously marginalized or ostracized cultural forms that have largely gone mainstream and are now part of America's vibrant cultural heritage. The exhibition's presentation of these creative expressions, once seen as the purview of "outsiders," preserves materials and practices from the 1970s and 80s. And it demonstrates how the past four decades have brought a sea-change to art that is considered worthy of attention and serious consideration.

The non-profit organization Documentary Arts was founded in 1985 by Alan Govenar, a Guggenheim Fellow and interdisciplinary artist, historian, and folklorist whose expansive career has been at the edge of advancing public dialogue about a kaleidoscope of overlooked voices across America. In a multitude of ways, Govenar and his work with Documentary Arts has unearthed America's grassroots stories in cities, sprawling suburbs, and out-of-the way rural towns. Over the past 50+ years, Govenar has authored more

than 40 books, directed 20+ documentary films, created Off-Broadway musicals, and had his photographs and artist books featured in numerous exhibitions and public collections

Documentary Arts is a network of like-minded collaborators, from a cross-section of academic disciplines and creatives, in Dallas and New York City, focused on advancing essential perspectives on art revolving around themes of change and the interconnectedness of diverse people and the potential for finding harmony in unexpected places.

Curated by CPW Executive Director Brian Wallis, *Everyday Culture* will be accompanied by a book of the same title, published by CPW, co-authored by Wallis and Govenar.

Rahim Fortune: Between a Memory and Me



Rahim Fortune is a contemporary photographer who grew up between Austin, Texas, and Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma. Fortune's richly toned black-and-white portraits and other photographs document small-town life in rural areas with tenderness and sharp attention to visual detail. Fortune's memories of growing up in the South and his photographs of life there now include images of farmers, bull riders, pageant queens, and church goers. They nod to a specific kind of Americana and engage with a shared cultural fantasy of the region. In March 2024, Fortune published *Hardtack* (Loose Joints), which will accompany the CPW exhibition. Both *Hardtack* and the exhibition testify to Black Culture's long-enduring traditions, which Fortune locates in a landscape that has absorbed the conflicts and nuances of post-emancipation America.

A portfolio of Fortune's work is featured in the Aperture catalogue for *Kinship & Community*, supported in part by Documentary Arts.

The exhibition is curated by CPW curator Marina Chao.

Community Gallery - *In Common Practice*
September 20 – October 19, 2025



In Common Practice celebrates the work of participants from two vibrant CPW artistic communities: Lesly Deschler Canossi's *Monthly Crit Group* and the *Project Salon* led by Charles Purvis.

Both programs, which began in 2024 and have each hosted three artist cohorts to date, embody the artists' ongoing commitment to developing their work and craft in collaboration with fellow creators through conversation and inquiry. These initiatives foster connections that extend beyond CPW, creating lasting networks of mutual support and artistic exchange within the broader creative community.

The exhibition offers a variety of styles, techniques, and perspectives, highlighting individual expression and creativity while celebrating the collective journey of artistic development. Each work reflects not only personal vision but also the enriching influence of peer engagement and supportive critique that ripples outward, strengthening the wider artistic ecosystem.

About CPW

Founded in 1977 as the Center for Photography at Woodstock, [CPW](https://cpw.kingston.org/) is a not-for-profit arts organization with a dual mission: to support artists working in photography and related media, and to engage audiences through creation, discovery, and learning. At the heart of

CPW's mission is programming that is community-based, artist-centered, and collaborative. To foster public conversation around critical issues in photography, CPW offers exhibitions, workshops, artists' residencies, and access to its Digital Media Lab. In 2022, CPW relocated from Woodstock to Kingston, NY and in January 2025, CPW opened its new headquarters – housing a photography museum, and an educational and community center– in a 40,000-square-foot factory building at 25 Dederick Street.

Follow CPW on social media: Instagram [@cpw_kingston](https://www.instagram.com/cpw_kingston) | Facebook [cpw.kingston](https://www.facebook.com/cpw.kingston)
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CPW Kingston
25 Dederick St, Kingston, NY 12401

Gallery Hours: Thursday to Sunday 11am – 5pm

Free admission

For more information about CPW Kingston programs, visit cpw.org

Press contacts

To request high-resolution images for press reproduction and interviews, please contact:

Myrtille Beauvert, +1 347- 295-7694

Meryl Cooper, +1 917-974-0022

press@cpw.org

Photos:

Josie Washington, *Social Tea, Dallas, Texas, 1955*. Hand-colored gelatin silver print. Collection Texas African American Photography Archive, Dallas, TX.

Alan Govenar. *The grandparents of Esequiel Hernández Jr. at his gravesite, Redford, Texas, 1997*. Courtesy of the photographer

Rahim Fortune. *Prairie View Homecoming Parade, Prairie View, Texas, 2024*. Copyright of the artist and courtesy of Sasha Wolf Projects, New York.

Flynn Larsen