



Sasha Phylars-Burgess, Red shorts (Stay Ready), New Orleans," 2021

CPW Launches Inaugural Upstate Photography Biennial to Showcase Hudson Valley Lens-Based Artists

Exhibition on View: May 30 – September 6, 2026

Opening reception: Saturday, May 30, from 5-8 PM

This summer, CPW will launch the first ***Upstate Photography Biennial***, a landmark new exhibition series celebrating the diversity and vitality of photographic practices in upstate New York. Highlighting the extraordinary proliferation of creative cultural activity in the region, the exhibition will showcase the work of thirty-nine artists, drawn in part from an open call for submissions. The extensive exhibition, organized by CPW curators Marina Chao and Adam Giles Ryan, will open at CPW on Saturday, May 30, 2026, and be on view through September 6, 2026.

The ***Upstate Photography Biennial*** will spotlight the breadth and richness of contemporary photographic practices across the Hudson Valley and the upstate region. The goal of the ongoing series is to foster meaningful dialogue and community engagement around the evolving role of photographic work in the region.

“Over the past decade, upstate New York has become a central node of the photography world in the U.S.,” said Brian Wallis, CPW Executive Director. “The inaugural Upstate Photography Biennial at CPW aims to capture the extraordinary vibrance of this historic cultural moment and the phenomenal surge in creativity from this all-embracing community of artists.”

The ***Upstate Photography Biennial*** brings together artists who use photography to explore the most relevant issues of our time: identity and the meaning of place, healthcare and the fragility of the human body, climate change and the physical and psychic spaces we inhabit. For the artists in this exhibition, “upstate” describes not only a geographic region but also a condition of transition—between city and countryside, public life and private experience, past and present. Many of the Biennial artists work with historic photographic processes—tintypes, pinhole cameras, collages, cyanotypes, and meticulously crafted prints—underscoring the photograph as a physical object. At a time when most images appear only briefly on screens, this interest in archaic visual models is not simply a nostalgic throwback but a deliberate political choice of resistance. Altogether, these works demonstrate how photography continues to shape our understanding of history, memory, vision, and realism in a rapidly changing world, where the notions of truth and stability may seem to be crumbling.

The ***Upstate Photography Biennial*** will be accompanied by a catalogue designed and produced by the in-house CPW Book Press, and will be available after a launch party in June.

“The many thoughtful and ambitious artists included in the Upstate Photography Biennial reflect the remarkable strength of the photographic community that has taken root here,” says Biennial curator Adam Giles Ryan. “Our role at CPW is to recognize that work, support it, and make sure it’s seen.”

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Adrianna Ault	Lyle Ashton Harris	Sasha Phylars-Burgess
Richard Beaven	Jordanna Kalman	Jack Platner
Marion Belanger	Robert Kalman	Seth David Rubin
Onaje Benjamin	David La Spina	Stephen Shore
Corinne Botz	Ruth Lauer Manenti	Ben Sloat
Ann Burke Daly	An-My Lê	Kate Steciw
Kaitlyn Danielson	Nancy MacNamara	Michael Torres, <i>in memoriam</i>
Tim Davis	Tanya Marcuse	Allie Tsubota
Allison DeBritz	Sam Margevicius	Viktorsha Uliyanova
Luis Manuel Diaz	Raymond Meeks	Kevin Williamson
Jenia Fridlyand	Meryl Meisler	Letha Wilson
Judit German-Heins	Andrew Moore	Sara J. Winston
Morgan Gwenwald	Elizabeth Pedinotti Haynes	
	Sofia Peeters	

The ***Upstate Photography Biennial*** highlights CPW’s ongoing commitment to community. For nearly fifty years, CPW has celebrated photographic artists of the region and partnered with other local cultural organizations. This collective spirit is exemplified by our long-standing artist residency program Woodstock AIR, our Community Gallery, as well as our numerous partnerships across the region, including the Dorsky Museum of Art, My Kingston Kids, Kingston High School, Place Corps, Upstate Films, and the Woodstock Film Festival. Coinciding with Upstate Art Weekend (June 25-29, 2026), the

Biennial will offer participating artists valuable exposure to local audiences as well as to visitors from around New York State and beyond.

Upcoming events

Saturday, June 27, 5:30-7:30PM

Upstate Photography Biennial catalog launch, happening during Upstate Art Weekend, and featuring selected exhibition artists who, along with the curators, will walk visitors through the works on view.

Saturday, August 8-Sunday, August 9

The Fourth Annual Photobook + Zine Fair will feature over 40 independent local and visiting publishers and independent artists showcasing leading-edge photobooks and zines. Participants include:

1080PRESS, La Horchata, Good Neighbor, Robert Cooper, Saint Lucy Press, GAUCHE, KGP Monolith, The Song Cave, Lanesville Press—and many more.

About CPW

Founded in 1977 as the Center for Photography at Woodstock, [CPW](#) 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 to provide 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. Having relocated from Woodstock to Kingston, NY, CPW now operates from its 40,000-square-foot headquarters which houses a photography museum, educational space, and community center.

Follow CPW on: Instagram [@cpw_kingston](#) | YouTube [@cpw_kingston](#) | X [@cpw_kingston](#)

CPW

25 Dederick St, Kingston, NY 12401

Gallery Hours: Thursday to Sunday 11am – 5pm

Free admission

For more information about CPW programs, visit [cpw.org](#)

Press contacts

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