



# WIDE OPEN

EXCELLENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

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## EXCELLENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

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**WIDE  
OPEN**



PRESENTED BY THE DAIRY BARN ARTS CENTER

## THE DAIRY BARN ARTS CENTER

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER	MARILYN KRUPA
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### WIDEOPEN: EXCELLENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Edition

Includes index

1. Contemporary Photography Catalog

2. The Dairy Barn Arts Center

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# FOREWORD

BY EXHIBITION DIRECTOR HOLLY ITTEL  
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEAH MAGYARY

We hear it over and over again; 2020 is unprecedented. We have developed a whole new vocabulary to describe our existence as we learn to navigate the world in new ways. We socially distance, flatten the curve, contact trace, and shelter in place. But the COVID-19 pandemic is not the only factor impacting our current existence. Systemic racism, wildfire mitigation, global warming, divisive politics, and international strife all rear their heads at us in 2020- and photographers are grabbing their cameras.

In this turbulent year, we are pleased to see many of the photographers focus on the important topics of our time. Ellen Jacob's *Immigrants: Aura and Her Daughter* is a touching image of a mother holding her child close, inside their NYC sanctuary, safe from deportation. Darren Lee Miller's series *How Do You Want to be Seen?* is an example of increased technology use during the pandemic to connect to the outside world, and is an intimate perspective on the societal gaze placed on gay men. Richard Tsong-Taatarii's series *George Floyd* offers us scenes from the Minneapolis protest in response to the police murder of George Floyd and of the mourners at Mr. Floyd's Funeral. *Hong Kong In 2019* by Xiaomei Chen pairs together scenes of everyday life with scenes of chaos. Photographers are storytellers, and each of these stories are important documentations of our experience.

For the selection of the second biennial WideOpen, our committee gathered a dynamic jury to exhibit. The jury of Ardiné Nelson, Michael Rubenstein, and

Pete Souza met virtually for four days to discuss the merits of each photograph. Ultimately, out of 370 entries, 65 individual photos were selected by 35 photographers. Each juror's insight stemmed from his or her own diverse background, and the conversation that led to the final exhibition was lively and inspirational. Thank you to each jury member for providing the expertise, vision, and thoroughness that made this exhibition an outstanding showcase of excellence in photography.

In an effort to make WideOpen 2020 accessible to more photographers, The Dairy Barn Arts Center partnered with White House Custom Colour, who generously provided prints for the exhibition. In addition, SONY sponsored the exhibition and multiple awards. SONY is also hosting a portion of the exhibit at SonySquare NYC in 2021. We thank SONY for their continued and generous support. Thank you to Ohio University School of Visual Communication for again sponsoring the Ohio University Alumni Award and providing many committee members to help guide this ambitious project. Thank you to Hog Island, sponsor of the Travel Award, and to Terry Eiler and Lyntha Scott Eiler for sponsoring the Award of Excellence.

We congratulate the photographers in this exhibition, who have shown us a profound glimpse at what life in this new decade looks like. We thank our sponsors and our committee of dedicated individuals who helped make this exhibition a success.

## JUROR STATEMENTS

BY WIDEOPEN JUROR ARDINE NELSON

A photographic exhibition titled WideOpen to me means literally both wide open subject matter and approach to making an effectively expressive image. The image maker may employ analogue or digital cameras, darkroom or digital lab equipment and eventually consider complete a straightforward print or something highly manipulated. In other words, I believe WideOpen as an exhibition has no theme or other requirement than a compelling visual image which somehow employs a lens and light sensitive material along the way.

We began our task with 370 pictures to choose from. Reviewing the group first alone, then together live online, was quite a challenge. Ultimately, we reviewed the submissions more than six times over the preliminary, then four full day, online meetings, to select these 65 final exhibition images. We had multiple discussions about the submitted images often from our own unique points of view. I expected to be able to support works that were both visually strong and technically appropriate to the underlining idea. The inclusion of an artist statement / description of the piece was very helpful for me to feel I was appropriately understanding the work.

Through this process we each learned some new thinking about the range of imagery we were seeing.

In the end, the process ultimately required at least two of the jurors to support the piece's inclusion for the exhibition. I go through this description of our process to help those who submitted work but ultimately weren't included, to not become discouraged, to keep looking, and recording your interpretation of our world.

Choosing the final award-winning images required many new discussions about the relative strength of the work already selected for the exhibition.

When I received the first email from Holly Ittel earlier this year asking if I would be interested in being one of the jurors for WideOpen 2020, I quickly replied I would but also quickly asked who the other jurors would be. When she told me Pete Souza and Michael Rubenstein, I was all in. I have admired Pete Souza's work for some time and am always interested to learn of other photographers such as Michael Rubenstein. I am so very glad I said yes! I would like to thank the WideOpen committee and The Dairy Barn for their invitation to be a juror. I would also wish to thank the many photographers who submitted their work. Congratulations to everyone included in the exhibition this year and especially to those who have received an award.

## BY WIDEOPEN JUROR MICHAEL RUBENSTEIN

As a photographer I understand that it is terribly difficult to offer up your work to be judged by others. It is incredibly brave to submit to contests knowing full well your images will be dissected by your peers, talked about and ranked. I want everyone that submitted their work to The Dairy Barn WideOpen exhibition to know that it was my pleasure to look through all of the submissions and very difficult to choose those that would make it into the exhibition let alone win prizes. To those that were not accepted, please do not be discouraged, I urge you to submit again; the next show may be the one you win!

While judging, I was looking for images that, no matter the form of photography, demonstrated beautiful composition, structure, and storytelling. Excellence was the yard stick all images were measured against and while Pete, Ardine and myself all had different ideas of what measured up, I believe that we chose

## BY WIDEOPEN JUROR PETE SOUZA

This was my first time judging a photography contest that was not strictly a photojournalism-only contest. So it took some adjustment in evaluating the photographs from so many different genres. Luckily, I was teamed with two other jurors who are not from the photojournalism world which made for some interesting discussion and opened my eyes to looking at photographs through their perspective.

In addition, our mission was two-fold. One, choosing images for the exhibit. And two, choosing images as category "winners." As with all photography contests, our choices were subjective. We all bring our own viewpoints and backgrounds into deciding which photographs are the "best." That said, I felt there was pretty wide agreement on the photographs that truly rose to the top. There were some disagreements, sometimes vehemently (maybe from me), but that didn't happen as often as one might think.

Overall, I'm very satisfied with the photographs that we chose for the exhibit. And I'm very satisfied with the process that we went about in choosing them. We also made sure that every photograph or series of photographs had ample opportunity to be seen. Even after we had made our final selections, we still

a collection of images that speak to the goal of the WideOpen Exhibition. We chose images from all types of photography that, in my opinion, were a step above the images we see in our everyday lives. Images that spoke to us.

Choosing the award winners was the most difficult section of judging for me. I want to congratulate those who were chosen, especially the photographers who won Best of Show, the OU VISCOM Award and my personal Juror Award. Your work really touched me.

I'd like to thank Pete Souza and Ardine Nelson for the conversations and disagreements over the four days of judging. I learned quite a lot just from being in the "room" with the two of you. I'd also like to thank Leah Magyary and Terry Eiler for selecting me as a judge. This was my first time judging a photography contest and I will treasure the experience.

made the effort to go back through each and every "out" to ensure that we hadn't inadvertently left a worthy entry out of the mix. One can disagree with our choices, but I feel confident that we collectively gave every entry a viable chance to be in the exhibit.

The entries that stood out to me were the photographs that had both technical and aesthetic excellence. Some entries were poorly executed in their origins or in their post-processing. Some of the entry series contained individual image(s) which didn't hold up to the other images in the series. (In several cases, we eliminated the weak images but included the remaining ones in the exhibit.) My advice for future contests is to be sure to choose your images carefully because one weak image can bring down the effectiveness of a series and I know some jurors might eliminate the entire series because of that. Perhaps because of COVID-19, it was difficult for entrants to receive feedback on their entries beforehand.

I look forward to seeing how the curator of the exhibit presents the photographs that we chose. And let's hope that we will be in a place where people will in fact be able to view them in person.

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## EXCELLENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD WINNERS

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### BEST IN SHOW

IT'S JUST SCOUTING  
CAROLYN ROGERS  
Shoreham, New York  
24" x 36"

Twins Maevry and Adele McCombs were the first two girls to join Cub Scouts in Marietta, Ohio. The decision to join Pack 207 was simple. It was a matter of becoming official participants of a club they had been around all their lives.



GEORGE  
RICHARDSON  
Minneapolis  
19" x 13"



## TERRY AND LYNTHA SCOTT EILER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

GEORGE FLOYD  
RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
19" x 13"

This series details the community reaction to the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police Department officers. The images begin at the 3rd Precinct, where protesters expressed their anger in different forms. On the fourth night, the rioting culminated in the burning of the police station. In the last image, mourners expressed their grief at the funeral. Floyd's death sparked a national movement against police brutality and for police reform. Days of protest following Floyd's death resulted in major civil strife, and Governor Tim Walz mobilized the National Guard in response.

Scouts  
letter of  
values.

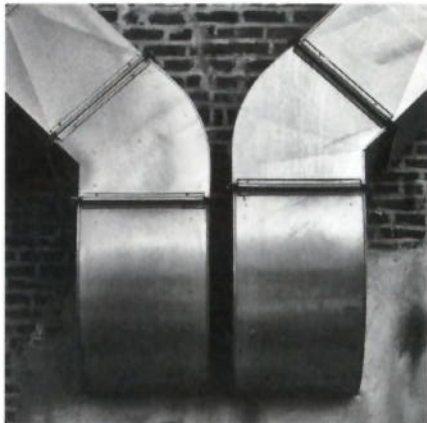
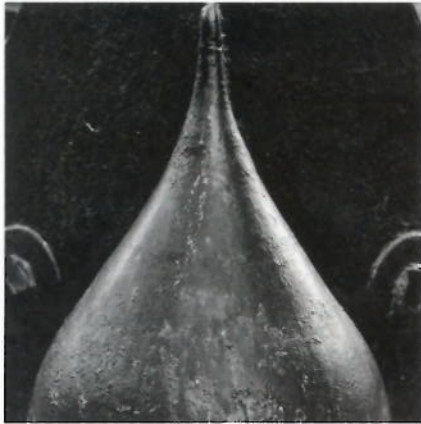


TERRY AND LYNTHA SCOTT EILER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

GEORGE FLOYD  
RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
19" x 13"



TRIPTY  
MICHAEL  
Brooklyn,  
26" x 11"

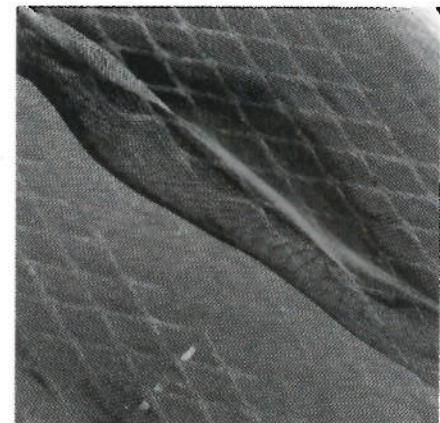
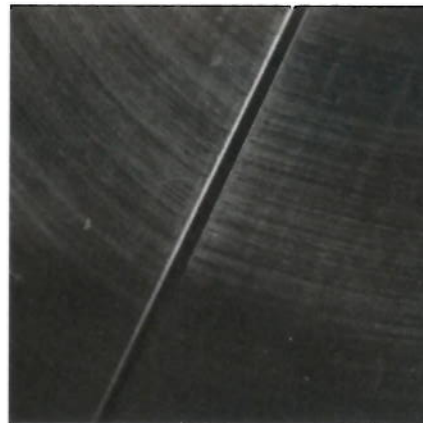
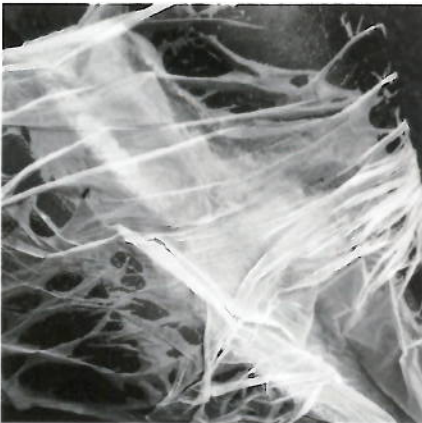
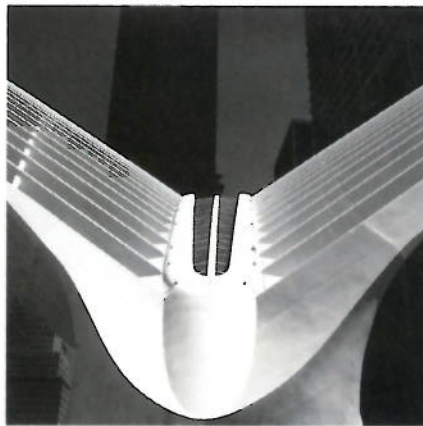
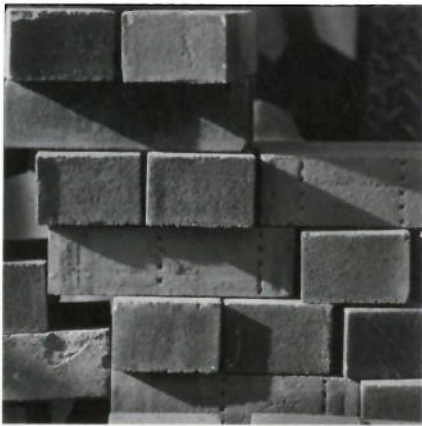


ELLENCE

TRIPTYCH SERIES  
MICHAEL LUPPINO  
Brooklyn, New York  
26" x 11"

## OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARD

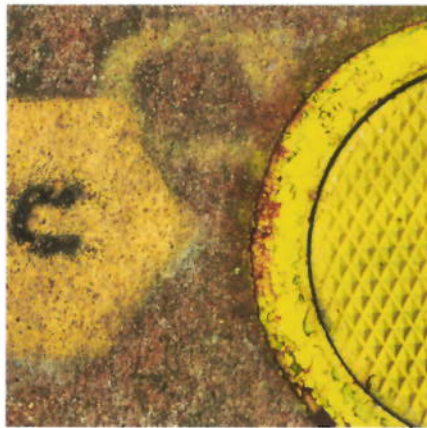
Light, color, and texture are to photography what mirepoix is to cooking. These elements are the inspiration for my work. I create a new photograph every day. The only requirement for success is that I love that image. These triptychs are never pre-planned but later combined from those daily images. Purposely random and non-thematic, I leave it to the viewer to determine how the images relate to the triptych as a whole. Light, color, and texture are the only themes.



OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARD

TRIPTYCH SERIES  
MICHAEL LUPPINO  
Brooklyn, New York  
26" x 11"

TRIPTYCH SERIES  
MICHAEL LUPPINO  
Brooklyn, New York  
26" x 11"



OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARD

TRIPTYCH SERIES  
MICHAEL LUPPINO  
Brooklyn, New York  
26" x 11"



## HOG ISLAND TRAVEL AWARD

A FREE MAN  
YUJIA WANG  
Athens, Ohio  
27" x 17"

Xiao Lin, dressed in his traditional Chinese-style outfit, holds a folding fan in Wuzhen Water Village, China. He wants a portrait, but professional photography is prohibited there. We draw the guard's attention as soon as I take out the camera and flash. I quickly took this portrait for Xiao Lin while the guard was standing on the left and calling for support. Xiao Lin has a unique dressing style among all the young Chinese people I saw in the park. When we met, he had just quit his job and tried to relax and be free.

ROBERT  
NELSON  
From the  
*Diamond*  
RICH-JOS  
Millfield, O  
20" x 20"



#### HUMAN CONDITION AWARD

ROBERTA,  
NELSONVILLE, OHIO  
From the series *Black  
Diamonds*  
RICH-JOSEPH FACUN  
Millfield, Ohio  
20" x 20"

*Black Diamonds* is an effort to connect with and understand the region I now call home. As a person of color, I define my community based on personal experience, which diverges from the stereotypes of race, religion, gender and politics attached to the area by outsiders. When violence across the nation aims toward specific groups, my images implicitly ask: am I accepted in this community? Am I safe here? It is also a visual narration hinting at life as it once was, as it is today and the uncertainty of what it is to become in a post-coal era.





HUMAN CONDITION AWARD

MORNING COMMUTE:  
MILLFIELD  
From the series *Black  
Diamonds*  
RICH-JOSEPH FACUN  
Millfield, Ohio  
20" x 20"

GHOST  
From the  
*Diamonds*  
RICH-JO  
Millfield, O  
20" x 20"



HUMAN CONDITION AWARD

GHOST: ATHENS  
From the series *Black  
Diamonds*  
RICH-JOSEPH FACUN  
Millfield, Ohio  
20" x 20"

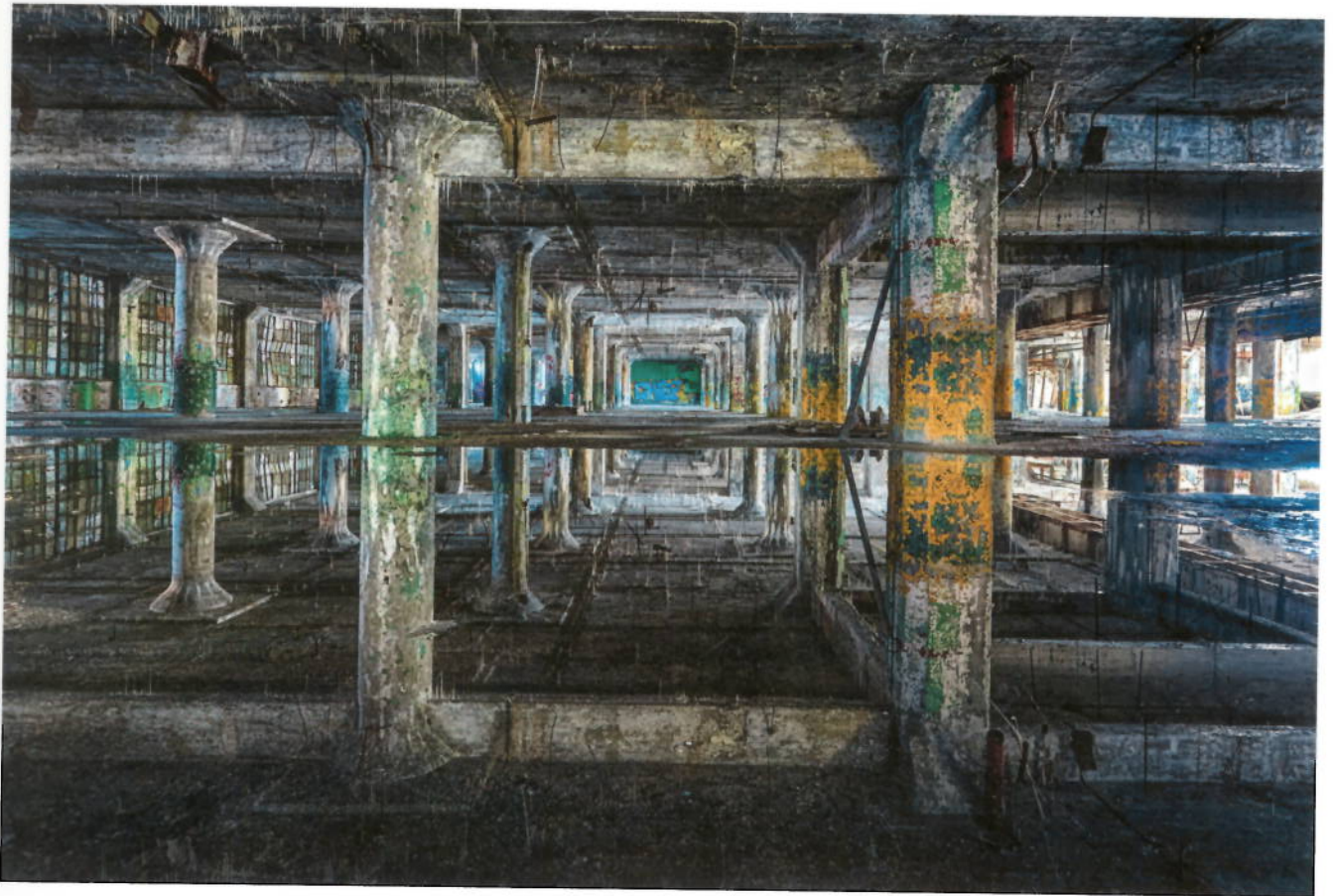


HUMAN CONDITION AWARD

CAREY, BLACK LUNG  
SCREENING FOR COAL  
MINERS: ATHENS  
From the series *Black Diamonds*  
RICH-JOSEPH FACUN  
Millfield, Ohio  
20" x 20"



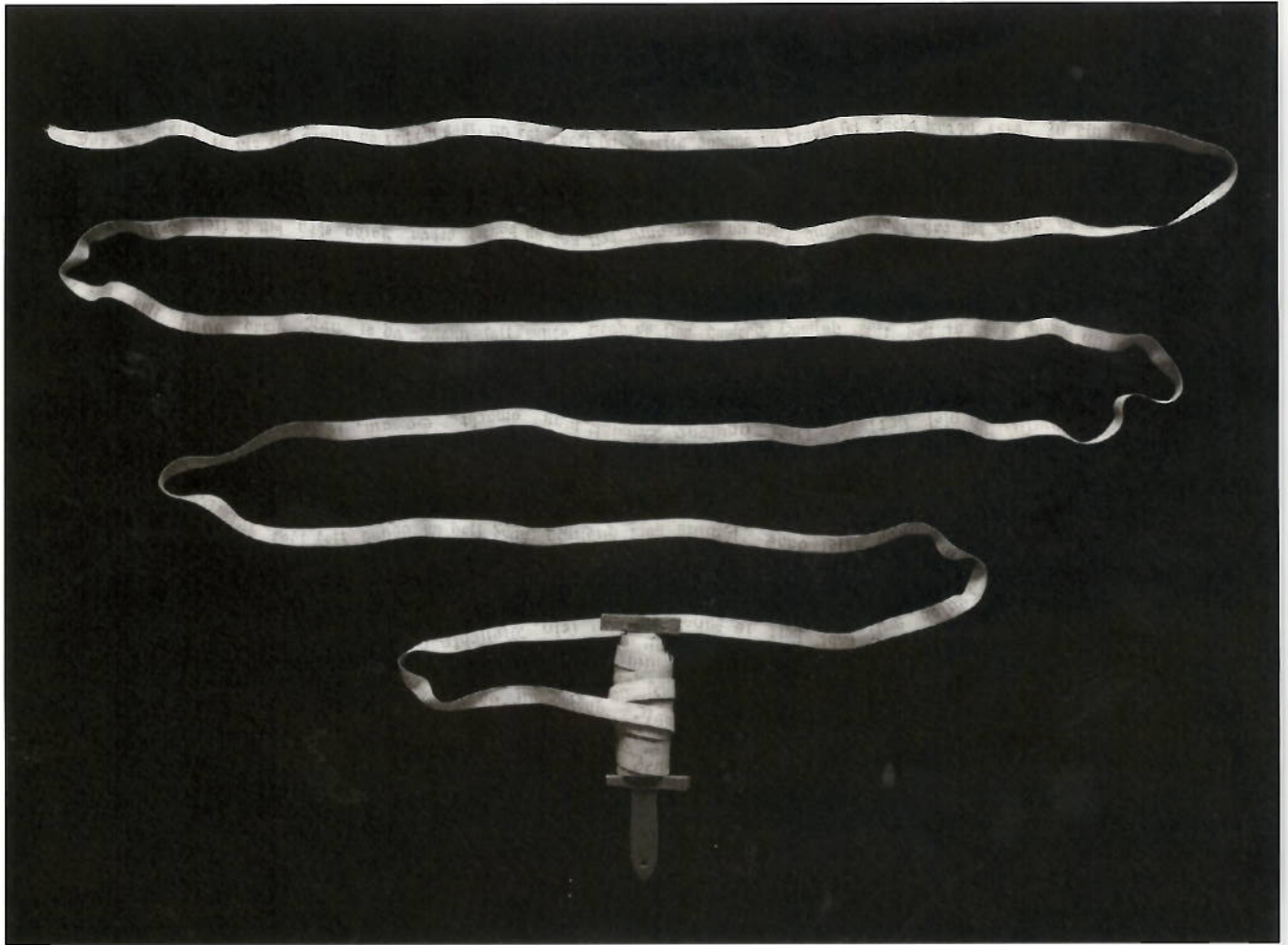
INDUSTRIAL  
ROBERT C  
Batavia, Ohio  
30" x 20"



## LANDSCAPE AWARD

INDUSTRIAL FOREST  
ROBERT COOMER  
Batavia, Ohio  
30" x 20"

This image is a study of rigidity and organic structure and the ways this abandoned building mimics nature. Decay has brought out organic textures and colors and introduced the element of water. The building is cave-like, with darkness and speleothems growing from the ceiling. It also contains the trunk-like structures of the columns reaching to the ceiling. The greens and blues appear both industrial and natural in origin.



### 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER AWARD

THE FIVE TALENTS II  
STEPHEN ALTHOUSE  
Rebersburg, Pennsylvania  
60" x 88"

I find more satisfaction by metaphorically expressing aspects of our species through artifacts than through actual portrayals of people. In this image, I'm privately addressing humankind's spirituality. The object depicted in this image is a "pseudo-implement" that I fabricated specifically for this photograph. It portrays an imaginary "message tape" upon which I hand-penned a controversial biblical passage in old Fraktur script and Pennsylvania Deitsch dialect. This indicates the current influences of my living in a predominantly Amish community and my very close involvement with the Amish culture.

LIZZY  
CHRIST  
Columbu  
20" x 14"



### 35 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER AWARD

LIZZY GIRL  
CHRISTIANA BOTIC  
Columbus, Ohio  
20" x 14"

Lizzy, 10, rests in the doorway leading to the "adults only" section of her family's convenience store in Appalachian Ohio. Like her father before her, Lizzy has essentially grown up at their store — though the merchandise has changed over generations to accommodate its customers. This image is part of a photographic essay on a rural community at a crossroads in Athens County.



**JUROR'S AWARD SELECTED BY ARDINE NELSON**

**THE COMPASSIONATE  
EXIT**  
NATALIE ALLGYER  
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina  
24" x 24"

I had a hard time writing about this one. This piece is as much cerebral as it is emotional. It doesn't have words, which is rare for my work. The meaning of this piece cuts deep into an unnamed and lost part of my soul. On the one hand, I love it to bits, and on the other hand, it makes me feel sick. As with all of my works, this one is full of symbolism. There are no accidents. Every tiny, minute detail in this image has a purpose.

OLIV  
EMILY  
VARG  
Clevel  
20" x 2



**JUROR'S AWARD SELECTED BY MICHAEL RUBENSTIEN**

**OLIVE LOAF**  
EMILY METZGER AND RACHEL  
VARGA  
Cleveland, Ohio  
20" x 20"

*Olive Loaf* creates a cohesive discomfort, allowing the mind to wander; the work created before a determined narrative. Emily and Rachel are a photographer and stylist duo based in Cleveland, Ohio. Branding their work as appropriately inappropriate, these women are drawn to designing surreal environments in hopes of sparking emotion within their audience.





JUROR'S AWARD SELECTED BY PETE SOUZA

GABRIEL REACHING  
FOR MANGOES  
From the series *How Do  
You Want to Be Seen?*  
DARREN LEE MILLER  
Columbus, Ohio  
16" x 20"

24

I began shooting *How Do You Want to Be Seen?* at the start of the pandemic. Using gay dating apps to connect with my collaborators, I asked them to consider the power of images to give them control of their own depiction. Each photo pairs with a quotation from the person seen in the portrait, which answers the question posed in this series's title. "I came out when I was 11. I've experienced homophobia, but I haven't had the same struggles as my friends from older generations. More often, I feel like I'm tokenized when teachers or administrators expect me to represent entire communities."

LUCH  
From  
Want  
DARRE  
Columb  
16" x 20



JUROR'S AWARD SELECTED BY PETE SOUZA

LUCHO IN THE GARDEN  
From the series *How Do You  
Want to Be Seen?*  
DARREN LEE MILLER  
Columbus, Ohio  
16" x 20"

"It's taken me a long time to accept certain things about myself... it's not like I've arrived there—treating myself with loving-kindness—it's kind of an ongoing practice."



JUROR'S AWARD SELECTED BY PETE SOUZA

JUANKI ON THE STAIRS  
From the series *How Do You  
Want to Be Seen?*  
DARREN LEE MILLER  
Columbus, Ohio  
16" x 20"

"My cis-gendered appearance affords privilege that leaves me feeling conflicted. On the one hand, I don't deserve any more consideration than anyone else. On the other hand, if I'm feeling unsafe or threatened, I'll fall back on my apparent normativity to protect myself from harm."

## ABOUT THE DAIRY BARN ARTS CENTER



The Dairy Barn Arts Center's mission is to offer exhibitions, events, and educational programs that nurture and promote area artists and artisans, develop art appreciation among all ages, provide the community access to fine arts and crafts from outside the region, and draw attention and visitors to Southeast Ohio.

The twelve-month program calendar includes international juried exhibitions, festivals, touring exhibits, programs of regional interest, live performances, and activities for all ages. Some events are produced entirely by The Dairy Barn Arts Center while others are the result of cooperation with regional education, arts, or community organizations. Exhibits such as OH+5: A Biennial Ohio Border Exhibition feature outstanding regionally produced artwork in a variety of media. The Dairy Barn Arts Center has also developed an international reputation for excellence with Quilt National, a biennial exhibition that has attracted more than 100,000 visitors to Athens from around the world since its premiere in 1979.

# WIDEOPEN: EXCELLENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

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TERRY AND LYNTHA SCOTT EILER



PRESENTED BY THE OHIO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS CENTER