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EN FOCO ANNOUNCES NEW PHOTO EXHIBITION *DEEP ROOTS* IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CHILDREN'S ART CARNIVAL



Deep Roots

Curated by Lisa DuBois

Artists: Samantha Box, Burroughs Lamar, Carmen Lizardo, Richard Louissaint, and Joana Toro

On view July 24 – August 19, 2021 at The Children's Art Carnival (62 Hamilton Terrace) and on the En Foco website, www.enfoco.org.

Opening Reception: Saturday, July 24, 3:00 - 5:00 pm ET. Please note that masks will be required for entry. Space is limited to ten individuals per 15-minute interval. To RSVP, please visit rb.gy/n6d2aa

(July 16, 2021) – En Foco, in collaboration with The Children's Art Carnival, presents *Deep Roots* – an Apartment Gallery Series exhibition featuring photographers Samantha Box, Burroughs Lamar, Carmen Lizardo, Richard Louissaint, and Joana Toro.

Deep Roots includes visual narratives that poignantly connect the artists with their beloved heritage, past and present. The photo essays explore themes of history, survival, and tradition; depicting the various ways each photographer has retained the customs and culture of their birthplace in their adopted land.

In her series *Caribbean Dreams*, [Samantha Box](#) uses food and self-portraiture to explore Jamaican tradition, history, and identity.

[Burroughs Lamar](#) expertly photographs traditions in Harlem such as food, religion and entertainment. Each image expresses an important aspect of life in his hometown.

[Carmen Lizardo](#)'s series *To Swallow a River* uses the idea of bodies of water, portraits from public and personal archives, found photos, as well as original photographs to explore the relationship between immigration and slavery.

[Richard Louissaint](#) skillfully photographs his family to show the feminine side of Haiti in his own backyard. The images of the women show strength, beauty, pride and form a historical record of his familial bonds.

[Joana Toro](#) poignantly portrays life inside of a Puerto Rican social club. Each image is shot in a way that we as observers feel connected to the club through Joana's lens. While far away from their family's birthplace, the photographers honor their heritage in their own neighborhoods to strengthen the connections between themselves and their homeland.

About the Artists

Samantha Box is a Jamaican-born, Bronx-based photographer. Her work has been exhibited at the Houston Center of Photography (2019), and the Andrew Freedman House (2020). In 2021, Box will join the Bronx Museum of the Arts' AIM Fellowship program and will be in residence at the Center of Photography at Woodstock. Box holds a certificate in

Photojournalism and Documentary Studies from the International Center of Photography (2006). She also holds an MFA in Advanced Photographic Studies from the International Center of Photographer/Bard College (2019).

Burroughs Lamar was born and raised in New York City, (Harlem) and attended its public schools. Working his way through college, he earned a B.A. in Management and Administration, The City College, and a M.A. in English (Creative Writing), The City College. Earning a full scholarship, he completed half the work at Hunter College Graduate School for Social Work in its One Year residency program.

Carmen Lizardo was born in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 19. She holds a BFA in Photography and an MFA in Digital Art from Pratt Institute. Lizardo has received several awards including a Women Studio Workshop Book Production Grant, a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship. Lizardo was one of five American Artists of Latino descent awarded with an international travel and production grant from the U.S. Department of Cultural Affairs.

Richard Louissaint is an award-winning writer, filmmaker, and photographer from New York City. A first-generation Haitian American, his portraiture and film work centers around underrepresented communities such as his own; highlighting the humanity of his subjects and their ability to persevere, find joy, invent and thrive against the odds.

Joana Toro is a self-taught Colombian photographer based in New York City and Bogota, Colombia. Her work explores issues of immigration, human rights and identity and has been featured in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, World Press Photo Witness, and Open Society Foundations, among others. In 2020, Joana received the Eyewitness Photojournalism Grant by The Pulitzer Center and Diversify Photo and a National Geographic COVID-19 Emergency

About the Curator

Lisa DuBois is an artist, curator and photographer who was born in Harlem. She received her professional photography degree from the Germain School of Photography, with an award in photojournalism. She also earned a doctorate in Metaphysical Science. Her first job as a photographer was for The Black American News. Later she went on to work with stock agencies and publications such as The Village Voice and the New York Post. In 2017 she founded the X Gallery. Here she featured the work of many local artists while creating her own art. Lisa has been recognized by the New York times and the Guardian for her work as a photographer, artist and curator. DuBois 's work has been shown at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Gordon Parks Museum, and around the world . Her most recent project was as the creative consultant and curator for ArtontheAve. She is a member of En Foco, a contributor to the Social Documentary Network, and to the Edge of Humanity Magazine and Routes magazine.

About En Foco

En Foco, Inc. is a non-profit that supports contemporary primarily U.S.-based photographers of African, Asian, Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islander heritage. Founded in 1974, En Foco makes their work visible to the art world, yet remains accessible to under-served communities. Through exhibitions, workshops, events, and publications, it provides professional recognition, honoraria, and assistance to photographers as they grow into different stages of their careers.

About The Children's Art Carnival

The Children's Art Carnival is a Harlem-based not-for-profit organization providing visual arts education to young people and their families residing in Hamilton Heights and throughout New York City and opportunities and resources to early-career and emerging artists.

The Apartment Gallery Series

Now in its fourth year, the Apartment Gallery Series is committed to providing a platform for photographers of color and their communities to come together and create new opportunities for cultural expression and exchange. AGS introduces underserved communities to high-quality arts programming through residences, converted to temporary gallery spaces.

This exhibition is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Ford Foundation, The Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Joy of Giving Something, Inc., and private contributions. Member of the Urban Arts Cooperative.



Image Credit: Carmen Lizardo, *Self-Portrait with Pearls, To Swallow the River* series, 2020.