

SF CAMERAWORK

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SF CAMERAWORK BENEFIT AUCTION 2020: SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL I AM

September 3, 2020 San Francisco, CA - The San Francisco Camerawork Benefit Auction 2020 goes live online September 10–25 on Artsy and will explore themes of visibility, equity, presence and the power of the camera.

The 2020 theme *See How Beautiful I Am* is drawn from the Langston Hughes poem “I, Too” (1926), penned in response to Walt Whitman’s “I Hear America Singing” (1860). The poem begins, “I, too, sing America / I am the darker brother” and ends with a vision of the future in which his voice takes its rightful place in the chorus.

This year’s Auction follows an open letter from SF Camerawork Board President Michelle Branch, committing the organization to solidarity with Black imagemakers. In the letter Branch writes:

To our Black artists and community members, I want to say directly: As an African-American woman and your SF Camerawork Board President, I acknowledge and commit to amplifying your voices. I want you all to know that SF Camerawork is dedicated to the Power of the Camera and to the importance of Black artists creating, promoting, and benefitting from those images.

The *See How Beautiful I Am* theme provoked an outpouring of support from a wide range of artists—emerging and established, local and international—including featured work Isaac Julien’s “Looking for Langston Vintage Series” (1989/2016), based on the life and work of Langston Hughes. Other artists who have contributed works include Khalik Allah, Marcella Pardo Ariza, Dawoud Bey, Adrian Burrell, Jonathan Calm, Tammy Rae Carland, Kennedi Carter, Binh Danh, Lalla Essaydi, Rodney Ewing, Carla Jay Harris, Jamil Hellu, Zig Jackson, Jason Lazarus, Michael Light, Kija Lucas, Rania Matar, Ima Mfon, Mikael Owunna, Alec Soth, Chanell Stone, Lewis Watts, Guanyu Xu and many more.

The SF Camerawork Benefit Auction 2020 is the organization’s largest event each year, raising crucial funds that support SF Camerawork’s exhibitions and experiences for all who value new ideas in photography. The auction also directly supports artists. This year, each artist may choose to receive up to 50% of proceeds from the sale of their work, up from 20% in previous years.

SF Camerawork is thrilled to partner with Minnesota Street Fine Arts Services and Sterling Art Services to deliver this year’s auction. Additional guidance and support have been provided by James G. Leventhal, as well as Rick Wester, Rick Wester Fine Art, Inc.

SF CAMERAWORK

OUR MISSION

SF Camerawork provokes discovery, experimentation, and exchange through exhibitions and experiences for all who value new ideas in photography.

OUR VALUES

Community-minded: We are community-minded and respectful.

Innovative: We are dedicated to exploring and illuminating new ideas and approaches in photography.

Inclusive: We are committed to welcoming and serving the full cultural diversity of San Francisco.

Thought-provoking: We are inquisitive and willing to challenge ourselves and others.

Focused on learning: We are in constant pursuit of learning and sharing new ideas internally and with our community.

SF Camerawork Stands in [Solidarity with Black Imagemakers](#).

ABOUT SF CAMERAWORK

SF Camerawork is a long-standing leader in the San Francisco arts milieu. The organization was founded in 1974 by a collective of artists who welcomed experimental photography, unconventional techniques, and sociopolitical themes and who fostered a range of alternative styles and approaches. The essence of the founders' vision remains at the core of SF Camerawork even as the organization has adapted to the changing scope of photography and surrounding cultural landscape. In January 2020, SFMOMA opened the exhibition *Thought Pieces*, showcasing groundbreaking work by three of SF Camerawork's founders: Hal Fischer, Donna-Lee Phillips, and Lew Thomas (now available to experience virtually).

For more than 45 years, SF Camerawork has provided a launching pad for many artists' careers, supplying invaluable financial support, exhibition space, curation, and patronage. In its early years, SF Camerawork was the first organization in the Bay Area to host exhibitions and lectures by controversial but ultimately highly influential artists such as Sally Mann, Robert Mapplethorpe, Susan Meiselas, and Joel-Peter Witkin. More recently, the organization has presented the first West Coast exhibitions for artists including John Chiara, Binh Danh, Erica Deeman, Jennifer Karady, Jason Lazurus, Chris McCaw, Wang Ning De, and Meghann Riepenhoff—artists who have emerged as leaders of a new generation gaining international prominence. SF Camerawork exhibitions have continuously received attention from both local and national media, including *The New York Times*, CNN, National Public Radio, *Art Forum*, *Art in America*, *The Huffington Post*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Art Practical*, *Frieze*, and *Photograph* magazine.

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As a nonprofit organization, SF Camerawork is uniquely positioned to present important new photography and opportunities that would not otherwise be provided by commercial galleries or museums. The nonprofit framework allows for creative freedom independent of a sales revenue model. SF Camerawork's gallery presents installation-based, genrehybrid, and materially experimental work, as well as work that addresses challenging sociopolitical issues. For all of these reasons, SF Camerawork is a place where emerging artists aspire to exhibit and where collectors are drawn to discover them. The organization also offers a rich array of programming beyond artist exhibitions. An annual calendar of critiques, workshops, lectures, panel discussions, and curator-led museum and gallery tours offer unique insight and access to San Francisco's local photography network.

SF Camerawork is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization and an integral contributor to San Francisco's position as one of the world's most important centers for creative photography.

San Francisco Camerawork: Benefit Auction 2020

See How Beautiful I Am

PRESS IMAGES

Marcella Pardo Ariza

Kin V, 2018

archival pigment print; 20 x 16 inches;
edition 2/3; signed, verso.

Courtesy of the artist.

\$1,600



Dawoud Bey

A Girl Eating a Hotdog, 1991

gelatin silver photograph; 14 x 11 inches;
signed, verso.

Courtesy of the artist, Stephen Daiter
Gallery, and
Rena Bransten Gallery.

\$4,000



Lalla Essaydi

Les Femmes du Maroc: La Sultane, 2008

Chromogenic print mounted to aluminum
and protected with Mactac luster laminate;
20 x 24 inches;

Edition 2/15; signed on mount.

Courtesy of the artist and Jenkins Johnson
Gallery, New York and San Francisco.

\$9,500



San Francisco Camerawork: Benefit Auction 2020

See How Beautiful I Am

Carla Jay Harris

Snake Bearer IV, 2018-2019/2020

archival pigment print, 14 x 11 inches;

AP; signed, verso.

Courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus

Los Angeles.

\$1,100



Jamil Hellu

100 Years of Solitude, 2014

archival pigment print, 36 x 24 inches;

edition 2/10; signed verso.

Courtesy of the artist.

\$3,000



Zig Jackson

Buffalo Enclosure, Golden Gate Park

(Entering Zig's Indian Reservation)#1 Of 4,

1997;

gelatin silver print; 14.2 x 17.8 inches;

signed, verso.

Courtesy the artist and Andrew Smith

Gallery.

\$1,800



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See How Beautiful I Am

Isaac Julien

Le Rêve No. 2

(*Looking for Langston Vintage Series*),
1989/2016

Ilford classic silver gelatin fine art paper,
mounted on aluminum; 23 x 29.6 inches;
edition 1/4; signed on mount.

Courtesy of the artist and Jessica
Silverman Gallery.

\$11,000



Rania Matar

Cyrus, Brookline, Massachusetts, 2020

archival pigment print; 28.8 x 46 inches;
edition 1/6 + 2 AP; signed, on label.

Courtesy of the artist and Robert Klein
Gallery.

\$5,000



Chanell Stone

Seraphim, 2018/2020

archival pigment print; 24 x 24 inches;
edition 1/4 + 1AP; signed, verso.

Courtesy of the artist.

\$5,000

