



1011 MARKET STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103 | 415 487 1011

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SF Camerawork  
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## *CIRCUS*

### SF Camerawork Annual Juried Exhibition

**Exhibition Dates:** July 13 – August 19, 2017

**Opening Reception:** Thursday, July 13, 2017, 6 – 8 PM

**Juror Walkthrough:** Thursday, July 27, 2017, 6 – 8 PM

SF Camerawork is pleased to present *Circus*, our 2017 Annual Juried Exhibition, on view from July 13 - August 19, 2017. This exhibition features local, national, and international artists, and presents a wide range of photographic interpretations pertaining to the meaning, history, and symbolism of the circus. The 17 exhibiting artists were selected from over 100 submissions received from around the world.

The jury for this exhibition was comprised of Linde Lehtinen (Assistant Curator of Photography, SFMOMA), Paloma Shutes (Photography Editor, *California Sunday Magazine*), and Arthur Tress (documentary surrealist photographer).



Wiesje Peels, *Circus Renaissance* (left) and *Circus Bossle* (right) from the series “Mimus”

The word circus, whether describing a performance of skilled acrobats and trained animals in a private tent or the display of political and social activity in a public setting, encompasses the frenetic and chaotic yet composed and choreographed spectacle that life so often times can be. This summer marks the closing of the 146-year old Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus as well as the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love in

San Francisco, which included the infamous Invisible Circus, an environmental community happening, amongst the summer's maelstrom of social and political activity.



On left: Vanessa Woods, *Ball Throw*; On right: Jay Turner Frey Seawell, *Press Conference*

## EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Ty'ler Banks  
Michele Brancati  
Agathe Catel  
Susan Felter  
Kimberly Gremillion  
Rachael Jablo  
Michael J. Lessner  
Vanessa Marsh  
Kari Orvik  
Wiesje Peels  
Anna Rotty  
Norma Quintana  
Jay Turner Frey Seawell  
Jean Sousa  
Paul Turounet  
Sarah Windels  
Vanessa Woods

## EXHIBITING ARTIST BIOS

**Ty'ler Banks** is a 13 year-old Berkeley, California based photographer currently working with the First Exposures mentoring program. She uses micro-photography to explore specific components of the circus narrative.



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**Michele Brancati** is a photographer currently based in Koln, Germany. The series *Zirkus* follows the Circus Roncalli, capturing moments directly before and after the circus performance.

**Agathe Catel** is a French artist whose series follows the *Circuba*, Cuba's national circus, as it travels around Cuba, and portrays behind the scenes moments of this internationally esteemed circus.

**Susan Felter** is an artist based out of Oakland, California. Her work examines the notion that circuses exist because of the cultural need to combine the real and the surreal in the form of short lived, seemingly magical experiences.

**Kimberly Gremillion** is a photographer currently based in Houston, Texas. Her work looks over and above a simple reading of performance to challenge the aesthetics associated with the circus by creating images composed of shadows, silhouettes, and apparitions.

**Rachael Jablo** is an American photographer currently working in Berlin, Germany. In her *Under a Circus Sky* series, she focuses on themes which are eclipsed by the spectacle of the circus, such as the emptiness and stillness surrounding the main event.

**Michael J. Lessner** is a photographer based in Marin County, California, who followed The Occupy movement from San Francisco to Chicago. Lessner's work addresses the lack of structure in the Occupy movement and how this created a circus-like atmosphere.

**Vanessa Marsh** is an artist based out of Oakland, California. Her series *Everywhere All at Once* applies the circus theme to sky landscapes, utilizing a familiar component of the circus narrative in an innovative way.

**Kari Orvik** is a San Francisco based photographer. Her series *Exercises for Moving In Between* records the artist in a series of tightrope exercises seen as a distilled physical-performative practice, and includes work made in Norway and at the Headlands Center for the Arts.

**Wiesje Peels**, based out of Breda, Netherlands, uses her father's personal experience in the circus as a jumping off point for her own work. Peels captures the "in between world" in which the circus performers are no longer on stage but still inhabit their characters and costumes.

**Anna Rotty** is a San Francisco-based photographer whose artworks in the Circus exhibition focus on the tension between resistance and acceptance of change. Analyzing this dichotomy through the lens of the recent Trump election, her photos use chemical processes to examine the ways in which the current presidency will change over time.



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**Norma Quintana** is a Northern Californian photographer who uses analog black and white photography to capture the almost extinct travelling circus world, specifically highlighting the back of the house component of the circus lifestyle.

**Jay Turner Frey Seawell** is a photographer based out of Washington, DC. The three photographs featured in the Circus exhibition come from his first photobook, *National Trust*, which examines the ways in which manufacturing of appearance relates to power, politics, and media in the US.

**Jean Sousa** is a Chicago based artist whose film *The Circus* reconstructs a surreal experience through technical manipulation. She transforms the way the circus is defined and discussed, focusing on the interplay between the movement of the body and color.

**Paul Turounet** is a photographer based out of California. His work *King of the Compacts* follows “Charlie ‘Too Tall’ West”, a rodeo clown performer who embodies what it means to be a part of the American West.

**Sarah Windels** is a California-based artist who followed the political circus surrounding the election of Donald Trump, searching the landscape for visuals of the American Dream unraveling itself.

**Vanessa Woods** is Bay Area photographer whose work *Somewhere Between Here and There* pays homage to her deceased mentor, pulling inspiration from his collage work and applying it to her artistic investigation into seductive illusionism.

#### **ABOUT SF CAMERAWORK**

Founded in 1974, SF Camerawork’s mission is to encourage and support emerging artists to explore new directions and ideas in the photographic arts. Through exhibitions, publications, and educational programs, SF Camerawork strives to create an engaging platform for artistic exploration as well as community involvement and inquiry.