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83RD ANNUAL
SOCIETY FOR
PHOTOGRAPHIC
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE

MARCH
19 - 21
2026

COURTLAND GRAND HOTEL
ATLANTA, GA

SPENATIONAL.ORG

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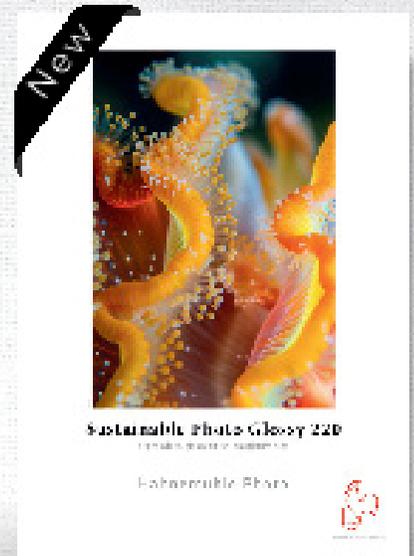
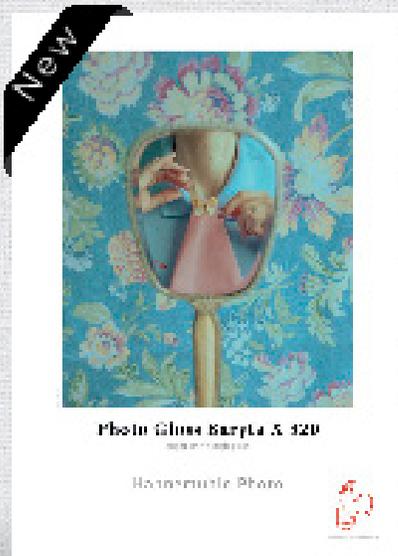


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ATLANTA 2026

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SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE
SPe cONFERence info



LETTER FROM conference chair

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the Society for Photographic Education to Atlanta, Georgia, for our 63rd Annual Conference, Catalyst for Exchange. At its core, communication is about connection—a shared space where meaningful, relevant ideas can be exchanged. As photographers, we can use images to challenge assumptions, dismantle barriers, and spark conversations that matter. Over the next three days, I ask each of you to help ensure that our time together remains productive, respectful, and safe for all participants, speakers, and members. Our goal is to foster an environment where honest dialogue can unfold—even, and especially, when conversations are difficult. Let us commit to approaching discomfort with care, engaging in dialogue that reflects our shared values, and upholding the curiosity and mutual respect that define SPE. While many of us continue to face significant personal and professional challenges, we know there is real strength in community. SPE remains a reliable source of support for photographers and educators—so please remember to lean on one another.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Conference Planning Committee—Julie Anand, Skott Chandler, Louis Chavez, Alexander Heilner, Arthur Fields, Erin Jennings, Janet Pritchard, and Jennings Sheffield—for their thoughtful work and dedication throughout this yearlong process. A special note of gratitude goes to Arthur Fields, Alexander Heilner, Janet Pritchard, and Toni Roberts. Their extraordinary leadership and commitment have been essential; we would not be here without them. Heartfelt thanks are also due to our On-site Conference Staff, Peer Reviewers, Exhibits Team, and Student Volunteers. They are crucial to the smooth operation of the conference.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to our generous sponsors. Their support is essential to sustaining SPE and making gatherings like this possible. As you spend time in the Exhibits Fair, please take a moment to thank them personally for their continued partnership. I encourage you to explore everything we have planned—consult the Program Guide, download the conference app, and reach out to us or any board member with questions. We are here to support you throughout the conference.

Welcome to Atlanta!



Brett Kallusky
2026 SPE Conference Committee Chair

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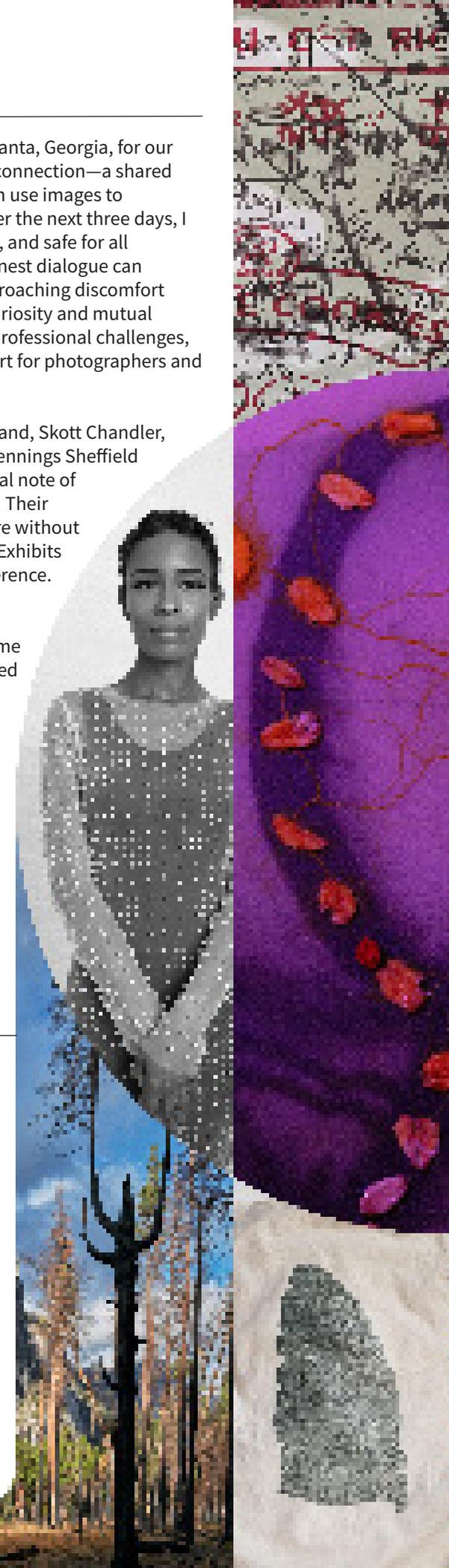


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SPECIAL THANKS

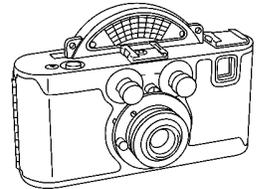
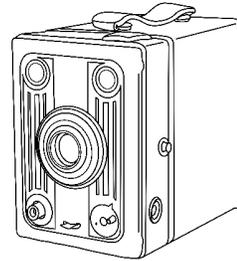
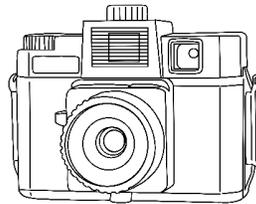


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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Catalyst for Exchange invites us to consider the power of connection, dialogue, and shared discovery within the photographic community. A catalyst sparks movement—encouraging new ideas, perspectives, and collaborations to emerge. Through the exchange of knowledge, creative practice, and lived experience, we strengthen our collective capacity to shape the future of photographic education. I am delighted to welcome you to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Society for Photographic Education's 63rd annual conference. Thank you for joining this gathering of artists, educators, students, and partners from across our vibrant community.

Our 2026 Conference Committee designed this meeting with the spirit of exchange at its core, creating opportunities for collaboration, discovery, and meaningful engagement. Throughout the conference, presentations, discussions, and exhibitions invite us to share ideas, explore new perspectives, and connect across disciplines and experiences.

Please join me in expressing sincere gratitude to our presenters for sharing their time, insight, and artistry, and to our generous Sponsors, Industry, and Education Partners whose support makes this gathering possible. I also extend heartfelt thanks to our conference staff and student volunteers whose dedication and behind-the-scenes efforts help bring this experience to life.

Thank you for being part of the SPE community.

Toni Roberts
Executive Director



THE WAREHOUSE

1649 CHATTAHOOCHEE AVE. NW

SCAD

1800 PEACHTREE ST. NW

HIGH MUSEUM

1280 PEACHTREE ST. NE

GETTING AROUND

atl

ARTS CENTER STATION

1255 W PEACHTREE ST.

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185 COURTLAND ST. NE

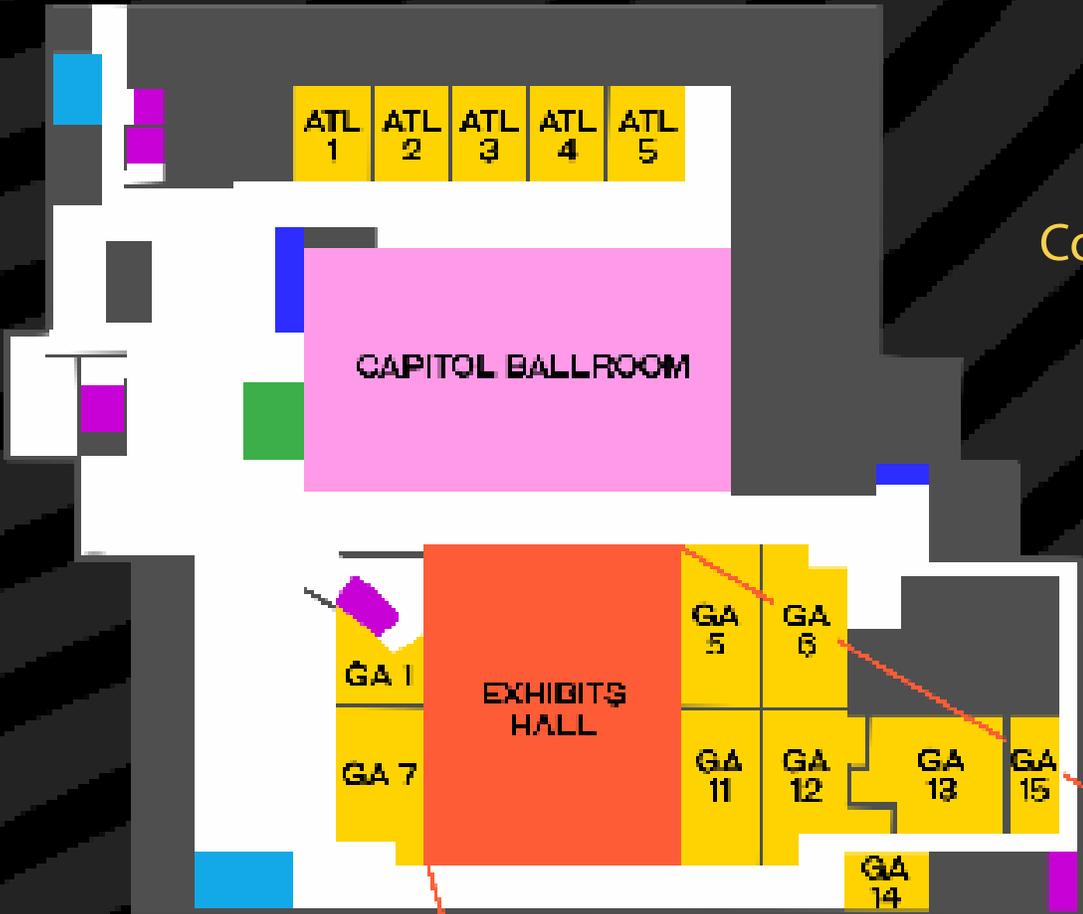
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225 - 235 PEACHTREE ST. NE

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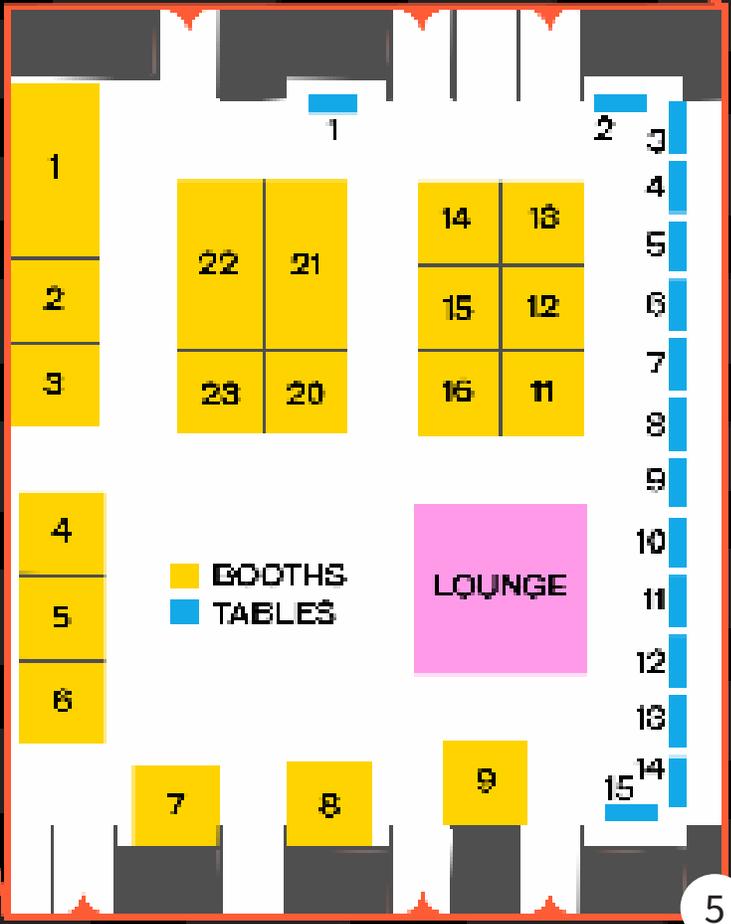
Conference map



- GEORGIA REGISTRATION
- ELEVATORS
- STAIRS
- RESTROOMS

- 1 scad
- 2 GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
- 3 Canon USA, Inc
- 4 Ilford/Harman
- 5 Capture One
- 6 Cambo USA
- 7 Red River Paper
- 8 SPE
- 9 Hillerbrand + Magsamen
- 11 CFC&F/ K.B. Canham Cameras, Inc
- 12 Eastman Kodak company
- 13 B&H
- 14/15 Negative Supply
- 16 Shades of Paper
- 20 Aperture
- 21 Freestyle Photographic Supply
- 22 Hahnemühle
- 23 Digital Silver Imaging

- 1 Anderson Ranch
- 2 Parsons School of Design
- 3 Cranbrook academy of art
- 4 Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- 5 Legion (Moab/Canson)
- 6 Charles Beseler Co.
- 7/8 George F Thompson Publishing
- 9 Fall Line Press
- 10 Filter Photo
- 11 For the Birds Lost in Airports
- 12/13 Intellect Books
- 14 Rochester Insitute of Technology
- 15 sPECTACLE BOX



Conference Schedule

wed / March 18

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Georgia Registration Desk	Registration
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THURS / March 19

8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Georgia Registration Desk	Registration
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	The High Museum of Art	Meatyard Exhibition Tour, High Museum of Art, Gregory Harris
9:00 am - 10:00 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Student Volunteer Training 1
9:30 am - 12:30 pm	The High Museum of Art	Print Room Tour, High Museum of Art, Gregory Harris
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	The High Museum of Art	Mimi Plumb Exhibition, High Museum of Art, Gregory Harris
10:00 am - 3:00 pm	The WareHOUSE	Wieland Collection Tours (10 am & 2 pm)
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Capitol Ballroom	Student Volunteer Training 2
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Student Volunteer Seminar
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Digital Pin-Up Exhibition
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Atlanta 1	Climate Resilience in the American South
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Atlanta 4	New Paradigms in Portraiture
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Georgia 6	The Power of the Photographic Zine
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Atlanta 5	Witching Hour
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Georgia 7	Reframing the Lens: Identity, Dialogue, and Digital Pedagogy in Photography
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Georgia 12	It's All Fake! Post-Truth, Flat Earth, and the Nikon P1000
12:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Georgia State University	The Art of Wet Scanning: A Complete Film-to-Digital Workshop
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Atlanta 2	Photography Ethics in the Classroom
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Georgia 6	Residencies Demystified
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Georgia 7	Your Looking, I'm Looking
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Georgia 12	Catalysts for Community: Kapwa and the Banana Tree
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Atlanta 3	Safe Spaces, Powerful Stories: LGBTQ+ Photographic Storytelling and Alice Austen
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Georgia 12	Folded Histories - A Study of the Fortune Cookie Mythos
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Atlanta 4	Re-Remembering: Photography at the Intersection of Archive, Memory, and Identity
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Atlanta 1	Navigating the Polycrisis
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Atlanta 5	Reflecting the Times: Image-Making and Education in the Shadow of Genocide

KEY

Blue	Caucus Events	Purple	Meetings
Yellow	Discussions	Light Blue	Mentoring
Red	Exhibitions	Dark Red	Panels
Green	Exhibit Fair	Yellow	SPE Events
Orange	Featured Speaker	Pink	Registration
Dark Blue	Lectures	Dark Green	Student Presentations
Light Green	Meals	Purple	Student Volunteers
Magenta	Media Festival	Light Purple	Workshops



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THURS / March 19 cont'd

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Georgia 6	Your Administrator and You
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Georgia 12	On Becoming: Decolonizing Perspectives through Performance and Self Portraiture
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Atlanta 2	Looking Together: Aperture On Sight Curriculum
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Atlanta 3	Anthotypes: Sustainable Photographic Printmaking
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Georgia 12	Woven Wind
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Georgia 7	Love Canal; Evidence of Injury
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Welcome and Awards Ceremony
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Georgia State University	MFA Meet and Greet and Studio Tour
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	SCAD	Members Exhibition Reception
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	SCAD	Combined Caucus Exhibition Reception
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	SCAD	A Yellow Rose Project - Book Signing and Exhibition
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	SCAD	Media Festival Screening: Award Winners

Fri / March 20

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Atlanta 2	All Recovery Meeting
7:00 am - 8:00 am		Morning Run
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Georgia Registration Desk	Registration
7:00 am - 9:00 am		Breakfast
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Georgia 5, 11	Student Portfolio Reviews
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Capitol Ballroom	Women's Caucus Meeting
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Exhibits Hall	Exhibits Fair
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 3	Reframing The Frame: Classroom Innovations in Analog Photography
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 5	Materiality and Response-ability
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 2	Reframing Collegiate Photography Education: Curriculum Innovation to Attract and Retain Student Photography Programs
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 4	Cut Time: Collage and the Afterlives of Photographs
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Georgia 7	A Darktown Cakewalk
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Georgia 12	Private/Public
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Georgia 6	Performing Strength: Exchanges between Feminist Art and Bodybuilding
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Atlanta 1	The Auger and The Augment: Image Release as Transsexual Cataclysm
9:30 am - 10 am	Atlanta 1	We Wanted a Matriarchy

Conference Schedule

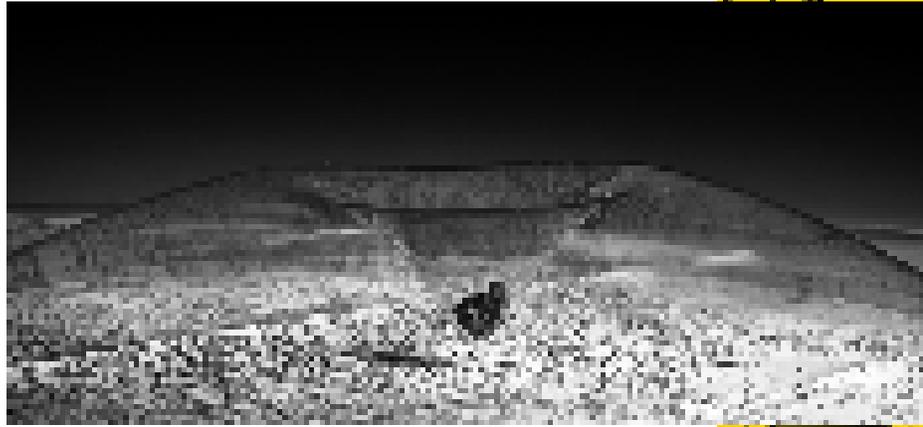
fri / March 20 cont'd

10:00 am - 11:00 am	Capitol Ballroom	Contingent Faculty Caucus Meeting
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Georgia 7	A Welcome Weight on My Body: Affect, Black Visibility and Analogue Photography
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Georgia 6	A HUMBLE EPIC: High School Students, Alec Soth, and longform photo projects
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Georgia 12	Floodplain Projects: A Collaborative Studio
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 1	A Veterans Walk Through Photographic Education with PTSD
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Wendel White
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Digital Pin-Up Exhibition
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm		Lunch Buffet
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Exhibits Hall	Industry Partner Meet and Greet
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Georgia 5	Education Fair
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Georgia 12	Freestyle - Inkjet Printing Demo, Class, and Clinic
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Capitol Ballroom	High School Educators Caucus Meeting
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Georgia 6	Community College Educators Round Table
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Atlanta 2	After the Glut - Photobook Publishing in the Age of Plenty
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Atlanta 4	Libraries as Archives: Catalysts or Cloisters for Photographic Education
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Atlanta 5	Camera-Making as Photographic Practice
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Atlanta 3	An Unfixed Pilgrimage: Vulnerability, Kinship & Healing through Collaboration
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Georgia 5, 11	Professional Portfolio Reviews
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Georgia 7	Archipelago: Mapping Identity, Memory, and Erosion Through Photography
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Atlanta 1	No Place But Here
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Atlanta 1	Across the Long Season: Image-making as Labor, Resistance and Reclamation
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Pride Caucus Meeting
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Georgia 6	Exploring Racialization of Photographs through Encounters as an Asian-American
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Georgia 6	The Sun Sets Midafternoon: Climate Grief through the Lens of Wildfire
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Atlanta 1	Soft Bodies: The Malleable Self
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Atlanta 1	water is never still: ruminations on water politics & poetics in Lebanon

KEY

█	Caucus Events	█	Meetings
█	Discussions	█	Mentoring
█	Exhibitions	█	Panels
█	Exhibit Fair	█	SPE Events
█	Featured Speaker	█	Registration
█	Lectures	█	Student Presentations
█	Meals	█	Student Volunteers
█	Media Festival	█	Workshops

VISIT THE
EDUCATION FAIR
FRI & sat
DURING LUNCH!



Fri / March 20 cont'd

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Multicultural Caucus Meeting
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Atlanta 3	Social Practice: Navigating Academia
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Atlanta 4	The Archive as a Photographic Tool
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Atlanta 5	Photography as Invocation: Mysticism, Gender, and the Act of Self-Authorization
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Atlanta 2	An Unfixed Pilgrimage: Vulnerability, Kinship & Healing through Collaboration
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Georgia 7	Wildfire Prophecies: Entering the Pyrocene Era
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Georgia 6	State of Photographic Education
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Georgia 12	Insufficient Memory to Queer American Memorials
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Atlanta 1	Designing Accessible Pinhole Camera Kits Through Campus Collaboration
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Atlanta 5	Academic Administrators Round Table
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Georgia 7	Multicultural Caucus Portfolio Share
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Georgia 6	Media Festival Screening
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Georgia 6	Media Festival Reception
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Georgia 12	Pride Caucus Portfolio Throwdown
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Atlanta 5	SPE Print Exchange
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Georgia 7	Zine Swap
8:30 pm - 11:30 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Portfolio Walkthrough

SAT / March 21

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Atlanta 2	All Recovery Meeting
7:00 am - 9:00 am		Breakfast
8:00 am - 2:00 pm	Georgia Registration Desk	Registration
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Georgia 5	Career Mentoring
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Digital Pin-Up Exhibition
9:00 am - 2:30 pm	Exhibits Hall	Exhibits Fair
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 2	Science as Art/Art as Science
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Georgia 6	Reciprocity Reframed: Co-Creating in the Light of Belonging
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 3	Place as Assemblage: Expansive Methods in Documentary Practice
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 4	Interdepartmental Collaboration in Image Making
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Georgia 7	Intentional Communities for Women
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Georgia 12	Geography of Disappearance: Documenting Migrant Deaths on the US/ Mexico Border

Conference Schedule

sat / March 21 cont'd

9:00 am - 9:30 am	Atlanta 1	Interspecies Collaboration - A Case for an Ecological Feminist Future
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Atlanta 1	The Image is Broken: A Case for Object Integration
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Georgia 7	Aesthetics of Teenage Life
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Georgia 12	A Participatory Visual Investigation into the Migrant Children in China
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Atlanta 1	Ascendance; Self-Portraiture as Ritual
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Atlanta 1	Two Centry Plants, Intertwined
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Charlotte Cotton
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm		Lunch Buffet
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Exhibits Hall	Industry Partner Meet and Greet
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Georgia 5	Education Fair
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Georgia 12	Freestyle - Inkjet Printing Demo, Class, and Clinic
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Georgia 12	South Central Chapter Meeting
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Atlanta 2	Southwest Chapter Meeting
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Georgia 6	Northwest Chapter Meeting
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Atlanta 3	Mid-Atlantic & Northeast Chapter Meeting
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Atlanta 4	Midwest Chapter Meeting
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Atlanta 1	West Chapter Meeting
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Georgia 7	Southeast Chapter Meeting
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Atlanta 4	Analog Meets Eco-Tech: Course Design for Sustainable Photography
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Atlanta 5	Against the Grain
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Georgia 7	(WHEN THE DUST SETTLES)
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Georgia 6	Vanishing From View The Forgotten Technique of Cliche-Verre in Photography
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Atlanta 1	The Blue Distance
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Atlanta 2	Extant Erosions
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Georgia 12	A Note on Learning How to Look
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Capitol Ballroom	SPE Member's Meeting and Closing
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Capitol Ballroom	Raffle
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Georgia 6	Media Festival Screening
9:00 pm - 11:55 pm	Grand Ballroom AB	Dance Party - Freestyle's 80th Birthday Bash

KEY

	Caucus Events		Meetings
	Discussions		Mentoring
	Exhibitions		Panels
	Exhibit Fair		SPE Events
	Featured Speaker		Registration
	Lectures		Student Presentations
	Meals		Student Volunteers
	Media Festival		Workshops



Matt Eich

GSU PHOTO & EXPANDED MEDIA



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Sessions, special events, & workshops

thurs / March 19

Climate Resilience in the American South

Jeremy Bolen, Beate Geissler, Allison Grant, Oliver Sann, Marni Shindelman

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm / Atlanta 1

This panel will bring together artists and researchers whose creative work seeks to investigate climate adaptation and mitigation in the American south and beyond. The region has been shaped by fossil fuel production, slavery and enduring inequities, cancer-causing industries, and natural disasters, but also grass-roots organizing, protest, community resilience, and, increasingly, shifting practices around energy production and use.

New Paradigms in Portraiture

Clara DeWeese, June T Sanders, Jenny Jacklyn-Stratton

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm / Atlanta 4

This panel will bring together artists and researchers whose creative work seeks to investigate climate adaptation and mitigation in the American sou Portraiture, and the contemporary photo series, lives inside a long history of extraction — A lineage of entering othered communities for the extractable aesthetic value they hold. The rural, the impoverished, the south, the other, are all formed in the image of the disparate — created by a lust in urban areas for an authentic, provincial image — while creatives in those communities are often disregarded and only seen as serious or aesthetically advanced once they have chosen to assimilate to the urban, the academic, or the high-brow. th and beyond. The region has been shaped by fossil fuel production, slavery and enduring inequities, cancer-causing industries, and natural disasters, but also grass-roots organizing, protest, community resilience, and, increasingly, shifting practices around energy production and use.

The Power of the Photographic Zine

Stephan Hillerbrand, Mary Magsamen, Nechemia Winston, Ashima Yadava, Veonica Mendez, Anastasia 'Stacy' Kirages

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm / Georgia 6

In a culture that now speeds through AI-generated imagery and algorithm-driven content, the photographic zine offers a tactile, intentional, and deeply human alternative. This panel explores how zines function as accessible analog platforms for storytelling, creative expression, and community engagement. Panelists will present their own work and discuss how they integrate zines into their artistic and educational practices to foster connection, amplify diverse perspectives, and create meaningful spaces for dialogue.

Witching Hour

Stephanie Dowda DeMer, Zen Cohen, Samie Correa, Elizabeth Grady

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm / Atlanta 5

The photographic lens allows humans to peer into the unseen with urgency and exactness. Imaging technologies like x-rays, astro photography, microscopic, inferred, film alchemy, and magic lanterns has been allowing us to make the metaphysical physical for nearly two hundred years. As cameraless practice takes on new meaning with virtual and AI, images are morphed again by a new unseeable impulse.

Reframing the Lens: Identity, Dialogue, and Digital Pedagogy in Photography

Lindsay Godin, Adam Long, Frank Hamrick

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm / Georgia 7

Jamie Pittinos

In the contemporary classroom, photography functions not only as a creative practice but as a catalyst for cultural and social exchange. This presentation explores how structured photographic assignments—ranging from emic and etic perspectives to generative AI experiments and alternative display methods like zines—can foster identity exploration, empathy, and meaningful conversation across difference.

It's All Fake! Post-Truth, Flat Earth, and the Nikon P1000

Stephen Crompton

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm / Georgia 12

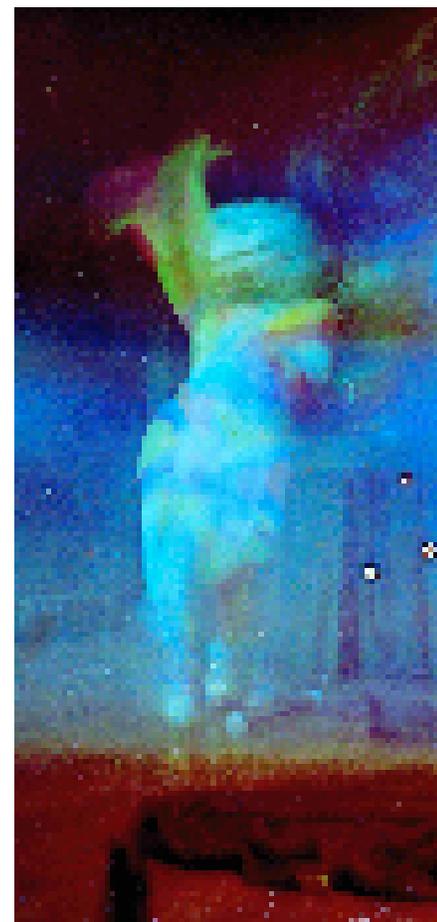
Ten years ago, the so-called “flat earth” movement started to gain renewed attention. While this belief dates back many centuries, the prevalence of social media and video-sharing websites facilitated the exchange of ideas, experiments, and supposed photographic evidence concerning “the global lie”.

Residencies Demystified

Kaitlin Santoro

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm / Atlanta 3

This presentation offers a comprehensive, step-by-step breakdown of the artist residency process, designed to support artists at any stage in their career, whether applying for the first time or seeking their next opportunity. From initial research to packing/travel, every stage of the residency journey is covered.





Jiayi Liang

thurs / March 19 CONT'D

**The Art of Wet Scanning:
A Complete Film-to-Digital
Workshop**

Vahid Valikhani

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm / Georgia State
University

This hands-on workshop offers a comprehensive introduction to wet scanning, a high-fidelity method of film digitization prized by photographers and archivists for its ability to capture the finest detail and dynamic range from negatives and slides. Participants will gain a solid foundation in film types—including 35mm, medium format (120), and large format (4x5, 8x10)—while exploring key characteristics such as grain structure, contrast, and color reproduction.

**Photography Ethics in the
Classroom**

Savannah Dodd, Tara Pixley

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm / Atlanta 2

Ethical debates can evoke strong emotions, making it difficult to facilitate constructive conversations. Unfortunately, polarisation has come to characterise a sizeable portion of photography ethics discourse - especially when it unfolds online. This polarised discourse risks having a detrimental effect on students. Anecdotally, I have been told by several lecturers that their photography students have become paralysed by a fear of getting it wrong. Rather than understanding ethics as a fluid process of growth, learning, and personal development, they see it as a binary in which one misstep can ruin their career in the industry - before it even launches.

Your Looking, I'm Looking

Kylee Isom

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm / Georgia 7

You're Looking, I'm Looking is a culminating pulse of the past and present-day function of looking. Within the index of the image, the gaze has a stronghold in historical and contemporary notions of power, representation, and gender stereotype. This presentation will dissect the changing-face of the contemporary gaze and the various ways in which historical image-making has informed the lens by which images are viewed, still today.

Catalysts for Community: Kapwa and the Banana Tree

Mariah Moneda

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm / Georgia 12

The Filipino worldview is a culture of deep interconnection and shared identity, a philosophy of being that has roots in the indigeneity of the Philippines, pre-colonization, and explores the interconnected nature of humans and the land we occupy, often seen through ethics of care. Kapwa has no direct translation to English according to Virgilio Enriquez, the pioneer of Filipino Psychology, due to the foundation of the Filipino language having no denotation of "other". Despite this translation barrier, Mariah Moneda's research stems from her interest in the way Kapwa manifests itself without words, particularly through the food we consume and how we come by it.



**Safe Spaces, Powerful Stories: LGBTQ+ Photographic
Storytelling and Alice Austen**

Zoe Tirado

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm / Atlanta 3

The Alice Austen House partners with local schools to explore the pioneering work and radical life of 19th-century photographer Alice Austen, who defied the conventions of her time by challenging traditional gender roles and capturing intimate moments of same-sex companionship through her lens. Taking place over three 6-week sessions with GSA clubs, the program provides students with a unique opportunity to examine how photography can be both a historical record and a form of personal and political expression.

Folded Histories - A Study of the Fortune Cookie Mythos

Ruiqi XU

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm / Georgia 12

My project uses fortune cookies to explore cultural tension between authenticity and fiction. I researched historical documents and created a fictional newspaper, highlighting the absurdity of the fortune cookie's invented origins and its actual existence. Through staged photographs and self-portraits, I transformed fortune cookie messages into visual symbols, expressing my personal feelings of isolation and cultural fragmentation. These contradictions reflect the emotional reality I continuously face as an immigrant living in America.



**Re-Remembering: Photography at the Intersection of
Archive, Memory, and Identity**

Ashley Kaushinger, Savannah Dodd, Jean Shon, Falizat Soukhakian

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm / Atlanta 4

Photography has long occupied a powerful position between documentation and creation, particularly in its relationship to archives, memory, and identity formation. This session explores how photographic practices can actively shape historical narratives rather than merely recording them. Moving beyond photography's documentary function, the session examines how artists and researchers use photography as a critical tool to interrogate archival materials, disrupt linear historical narratives, and recover suppressed stories, particularly those of women and marginalized groups.

Sessions, special events, & workshops

thurs / March 19

Navigating the Polycrisis

DM Witman, Amanda Breitbach, Lily Brooks, Vasudev Vashisht

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm / Atlanta 1

This panel seeks to untangle the issues which contribute to the polycrisis and how we as individuals and communities can create opportunities to engage through empathy, resilience, building partnerships, and making meaningful actions, no matter the size. All relevant projects or undertakings will be considered, however those which are environment-focused or enviro-social focused will be provided preference.

Reflecting the Times: Image-Making and Education in the Shadow of Genocide

Christophe Katrib, Shreepad Joglekar, Harrison Moenich, Stephanie Brown, Jason Arel-Klein

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm / Atlanta 5

Together, we'll explore how photography, film, and pedagogy can reflect the truth of our times, resist erasure, and cultivate spaces of empathy, accountability, and solidarity. Drawing on artistic and educational philosophies grounded in authenticity and care, this panel will interrogate the role of the image and of the teacher in an age of mediated violence and institutional silence. As Nina Simone once said, "An artist's duty, as far as I'm concerned, is to reflect the times." This session honors that duty—and calls others to do the same.

Your Administrator and You

Libby Rowe, Ruth Adams, Michael Borowski, Chris Dant, Easton Selby

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm / Georgia 6

This panel brings together administrators from various institutions who have experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly in terms of guiding their faculty and staff through the discussions and decisions that need to be made to keep the academic wheels turning. Join us for a conversation on what administrators can and cannot do, should and should not be expected to do, will and will not agree to do, and gain insights on how you can become a well oiled cog that initiates and implements change in your department or school. I promise we won't just complain.

On Becoming: Decolonizing Perspectives through Performance and Self Portraiture

Juliana Rico

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm / Georgia 12

Identity, representation, and belonging are themes that are at the core of Juliana Rico's art practice. Raised without authentic reflections of her intersecting identities, Rico grew up navigating the world as "the other" — an introverted, queer, full-bodied woman of color and a third-generation Mexican-American, shaped by a family history of assimilation and survival. Taught to blend in, embrace, and aspire towards Eurocentric ideals to succeed, she was left feeling like an outsider and imposter in most spaces.

Looking Together: Aperture On Sight Curriculum

Alice Proujansky, Alexandra Pacheco-Garcia

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm / Atlanta 2

Participants will use the newly updated Aperture On Sight, a twenty-lesson curriculum using photography to teach visual literacy. Educators will decode and encode images, learning how to interpret photographs using flexible, engaging inquiry techniques that make material accessible to students of all levels. This in-person activation will feature an exploration of ways to use Aperture publications in the classroom, and hands-on engagement with educational materials.

Angela Casagrande

Anthotypes: Sustainable Photographic Printmaking

Kristen Bartley

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm / Atlanta 3

In the proposed workshop, participants will learn how to create emulsions utilizing the light sensitive properties of plants from which to coat paper for photographic printmaking. We will cover the process of creating emulsions, how to prep and coat paper for prints, and discuss how different plant properties affect exposure and print longevity. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on how incorporating plants and organic matter into the creative process can strengthen our relationship to the natural world.

Woven Wind

Kristen Bartley

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm / Georgia 12

My presentation will focus on the Woven Wind project, and the series of photographs printed using the experimental map-based ink. Woven Wind is a multi-layered artistic endeavor grounded in critical research on the Lovell-Quitman archive, located at the University of the South, Sewanee. Extensive plantation records, photographs, and objects document the lives of the officer William Storrow Lovell and wife Antonia, whose father was John A. Quitman (1799-1858), a large slaveowner and former governor of Mississippi. The wealth of these objects is in stark contrast to the records of the enslaved, whom we encounter through inventories. Scrutinizing these inventories, I worked with a genealogist to locate a family of descendants.





Kylee Isom

thurs / March 19 CONT'D

Love Canal; Evidence of Injury

Shana Merola

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm / Georgia 7

Nestled just outside of Niagara Falls the predominantly working-class community of this sleepy town became headline news when leaking dioxin containers were discovered just beneath the asphalt. Decades earlier a chemical company used this land to cheaply dispose of hazardous waste. By the late 1970's the mothers of Love Canal were reporting extremely high rates of birth defects, miscarriages, and childhood leukemia. Today, wildlife like milkweed and mullein thrive despite elevated toxicity levels that remain ever-present within the landscape.

fri / March 20

Reframing The Frame: Classroom Innovations in Analog Photography

Lindsay Godin, Adam Log, Frank Hamrick

9:00 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 2

As photographic practice becomes increasingly shaped by the immediacy and convenience of digital technologies, analog darkroom photography offers students a meaningful counterbalance: cultivating slowness, critical engagement, and a deeper understanding of experimentation and problem-solving through hands-on, process-oriented learning that resists instant feedback. This session invites educators to share innovative analog assignments, student projects, and classroom practices that integrate traditional and alternative photographic processes into contemporary pedagogy.

Materiality and Response-ability

Mona Bozorgi, Jamie Ho, Justin A. Carney,
Lauren Cesiro

9:00 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 5

Our response to a photograph is not merely visual; it's an experience of connection to the image, to other beings, and the material substances with which it is entangled. Photographs are also not passive objects; they convey meaning beyond mere representation and are affected by their encounters with material and beholder. This session explores photography as a medium that facilitates a continuous exchange between image, substance, and bodies, asking questions such as: What do photographs do? How do they act upon us? How do we act upon them? How might we understand the photograph not only as image, but as a vibrant matter entangled in sensory, spatial, and discursive elements?

Reframing Collegiate Photography Education: Curriculum Innovation to Attract and Retain Student Photography Programs

Robert Dickes, Melissa Nunez, Nick Shepard, Curt Steckel

9:00 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 2

In the face of declining enrollment across arts-based disciplines, photography programs must evolve to remain relevant, inclusive, and future-facing. This panel discussion brings together educators and industry professionals to explore actionable strategies for reshaping photography curricula to attract a broader, more diverse student body. Panelists will share insights on integrating interdisciplinary approaches, emerging technologies, and socially engaged practices to reflect the realities of contemporary image-making and career pathways.

Cut Time: Collage and the Afterlives of Photographs

Jason Reblando, Deobrah Orloff, Janna Ireland, Vanessa Woods

9:00 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 4

Originally used by Dada artists such as Hannah Höch and Man Ray as a tool for social and political critique of the atrocities of the First World War, photcollages and photomontages create new relationships, juxtapositions, and narratives by deconstructing and reconstructing photographic source material. What happens when we revisit images and feel compelled to challenge, displace, or expand upon what has been represented in personal or institutional photographs fixed in time?

A Darktown Cakewalk

Montenez Lowery

9:00 am - 10:00 am / Georgia 7

A Darktown Cakewalk is a pinhole camera project that takes its name from a minstrel show. The history and performance of the show were rooted in both mockery and resistance, a cycle of appropriation that remains central to my project. A Darktown Cakewalk critiques the history of the photographic medium as a tool used to reshape, erase, and exclude, and asks what it means to hold space for Black identity on our own terms.

Private/Public

Andrew Lyman

9:00 am - 10:00 am / Georgia 12

Private/Public is a panel discussion between contemporary lens-based artists and educators of diverse identities that use photography to document intimacy in their personal life. The panel will address the ways that consent, trust, identity, performance, truth, context, and audiences (real and imagined) impact the decisions made in their practice of making work considering a public eye. Panelists will share the nuances of their experiences facing ethical gray areas and unprecedented situations where their decisions have lasting social impact on themselves, their subjects, their communities, and the public discourse.

Sessions, special events, & workshops

fri / March 20 cont'd

Performing Strength: Exchanges between Feminist Art and Bodybuilding

Rebecca Drolen

9:00 am - 10:00 am / Georgia 6

In this presentation, I will share my ongoing research and work exploring the intersections of feminist art, performance, and women's bodybuilding. My studio practice is preoccupied with the concept of what it means to be a "strong woman." I have spent three years documenting women bodybuilders and am currently preparing for a bodybuilding competition myself. This embodied approach includes training, photographing, and performing the discipline of bodybuilding as both a personal inquiry and an artistic strategy.

The Auger and The Augment: Image Release as Transsexual Cataclysm

Jamie Pittinos

9:00 am - 9:30 am / Atlanta 1

The Auger is portrayed through Polaroids injected with Testosterone and Estrogen. The Augment consists of scanned chemigram portraits, which are printed onto printer paper, riddled with intentional perforations, and stapled to a wall.



We Wanted a Matriarchy

Keely Morgan

9:30 am - 10:00 am / Atlanta 1

We Wanted a Matriarchy explores themes of intimacy, age, and home through the photographic investigation of the maternal relationships between my grandmother, mother, and myself. The images I create are amalgamations of personal narrative, site history, and model cooperation - engaging photography as a performative medium capable of restaging memory.



A Welcome Weight on My Body: Affect, Black Visuality and Analogue Photography

Michele Pearson Clarke

10:00 am - 11:00 am / Georgia 7

Considering photography's problematic historical relationship with issues of race and representation, the contemporary Black artist is always already facing the paradox of how to create photographic representations using a tool long complicit in our oppression. Emerging as an analogue technology in the early 19th century, photography did not so much record the reality of Blackness, but rather signified and constructed ways of seeing it as deviant and other. Any possibilities of where and how Blackness might be seen were further constricted by the technological biases long inherent in film chemistry and processing procedures.

A HUMBLE EPIC: High School Students, Alec Soth, and longform photo projects

Jacob Cecil

10:00 am - 11:00 am / Georgia 6

Inspired by the long form wandering narrative projects of Alec Soth, High School students are guided in crafting their own yearlong photo projects. Since 2013 the 12th grade Photo 3 students at River Hill High School in Clarksville, Maryland have spent their senior year exploring a single narrative project - their Humble Epic. The final product that presents their epic ideas in a humble way is in a collaborative book form.

Marni Shindelman

Floodplain Projects: A Collaborative Studio

Eliza Gregory

10:00 am - 11:00 am / Georgia 12

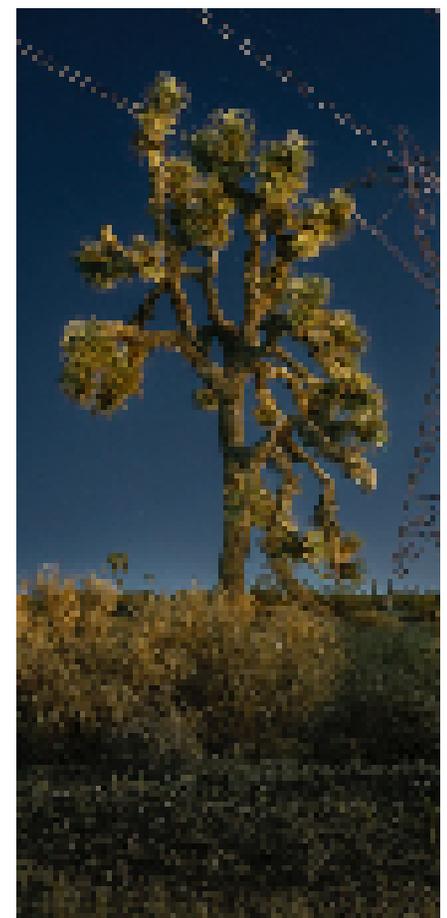
Floodplain Projects is a collaborative studio. We produce visual art, publications, exhibitions, podcasts and events. We bring together emerging artists, students and professional artists for projects in the Central Valley of California.

A Veterans walk through photographic education with PTSD

Richard Austin

10:30 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 1

For the past six years, I have used photography as a therapeutic tool to navigate and process the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This practice has compelled me to reflect deeply, challenge conventional perceptions of beauty, and gradually reconnect with my senses—many of which had been suppressed as a survival mechanism during military service. Following the advice of a neurologist to engage the right hemisphere of the brain to counterbalance the hyperactivity of the left, I undertook an intensive, self-directed photographic journey.





Shanna Merola

Fri / March 20 CONT'D

Wendel White

11:00 am - 12:00 pm / Capitol Ballroom

Freestyle Inkjet Printing Demo, Class, Clinic

Eric Joseph

Eric Joseph will perform a 1.5 hour digital printing workshop using a Canon Pro-2600 24 inch Large Format Printer on fine art inkjet papers from Canson-Infinity & Hahnemühle Digital Fine Art.

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm / Georgia 12



Community College Educators Roundtable

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Georgia 6

Are you a community college educator? SPE Invites you to participate in a friendly discussion, networking, focused on the topics that are most important to you.

After the Glut - Photobook Publishing in the Age of Plenty

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Atlanta 2

J. Carrier, Nelson Chan, Matt Eich, Harrison Miller, Mary Virginia Swanson

A quarter century later the question is whether this landscape has changed again. Has the golden age of the photobook passed? Do today's photobook artists and publishers face a significant set of hurdles in bringing projects to audiences? If so, what does the next quarter century of photobook publishing look like? Are there new technologies or publishing models that can allow artists to continue their rewarding engagement with

Libraries as Archives: Catalysts or Cloisters for Photographic Education

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Atlanta 4

Deborah Hollis, Shannon Benine, Zulay Chang, Andrew Hershberger, Julie Libersat

Are libraries and archives catalysts for exchange of visual narratives or obstacles in preserving photographs and photo-based artistic works? Historically, libraries and archives are seen as a public good, making knowledge available in myriad formats to all. However, these institutions are time capsules of social and political biases across historical periods. What can image makers and researchers learn from understanding collecting and access guidelines? How do photography archives in academic libraries and/or research centers operate? How does library and archive culture spark or suppress creativity for an image maker, or limit what is

Camera-Making as Photographic Practice

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Atlanta 5

Chris Fraser, Madison Emond, Rebecca Cummins

Now two centuries into the photographic project, the fabric of the medium is fraying. Indexical mark-making through light, once the lone standard for all things photographic, now describes only a narrow and uncommon range of analog practices. This photographic uncertainty has inspired a range of makers and thinkers to reexamine tools and processes once overdetermined by an industry that has since turned its attention to digital capture and machine intelligence. This panel gathers independent makers of cameras to explore how photography's primary apparatus might be reconsidered and redeployed. Each foregrounds the camera as an ideological instrument that affects how we relate to our bodies, our communities, and our environments. As William Blake once noted, "As the eye, such the object." Through the modified camera, these makers inhabit, and share, new ways of seeing and being.

Archipelago: Mapping Identity, Memory, and Erosion Through Photography

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Georgia 7

Ricardo Rodriguez

Through Archipiélago, Ricardo Rodríguez uses photography to explore the complexities of identity, memory, and place. Rooted in his upbringing in Puerto Rico, Rodríguez's work reflects on the paradoxes of island existence—at once isolated and interconnected—and how these conditions shape diasporic experience. His images, layered with topographical and environmental references, suggest both the fragmentation and erosion of cultural identity over time.

The Blue Distance

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Atlanta 3

Jordan Putt, Kelli Connell

The Blue of Distance is a conversation between artists Kelli Connell and Jordan Putt. In a discussion and presentation of their work, they will unpack how the act of wandering shapes their photographic practices. For Connell and Putt, getting lost is not a mistake, but a voluntary surrendering of control, and welcoming of distractions. Their work emerges through slow, intuitive movement across the geography and building relationships, using the unknown as both material and process.

No Place But Here

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm / Atlanta 1

Dillon Bryant

No place but here is an ongoing body of work that uses collage and other constructed photographs to play with and against familial and broader narratives of power, connection, and whiteness associated within the American West. Underpinned and intersected by interior questions revolving around ambiguity, artifice, illusion, legibility, and queerness, I focus my inquiry on sites now known as the Colorado Desert in California, and the Black Hills that span South Dakota and Wyoming.



Sessions, special events, & workshops

fri / March 20 cont'd

Across the Long Season: Image-making as Labor, Resistance and Reclamation

Jiayi Liang

The Long Season is a lens-based project that explores the landscape as both a physical terrain and a constructed ideological space, particularly through the lens of East Asian female identity. Blending photography with sculptural paper cutouts, I use my own body—fragmented and faceless—as a recurring motif to examine how patriarchal systems have historically objectified, erased, and silenced Asian women. Drawing from both Western landscapes and intimate, constructed dioramas, this work reflects on the ongoing impact of colonial narratives, cultural stereotypes, and generational trauma.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm / Atlanta 1



Exploring Racialization of Photographs through Encounters as an Asian-American

Paolo Morales

My artistic practice is grounded in analog and alternative photographic processes. I utilize the aesthetics of documentary photography while offering an alternate narrative. My hybrid process of optical enlargements from black and white negatives and contact prints from digital negatives acknowledges the history of photographic medium while also pushing it forward, all from the positionality of an Asian-American male.

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Georgia 7

The Sun Sets Midafternoon: Climate Grief through the Lens of Wildfire

Jessica Hays

Integrating photographs, video, and text, The Sun Sets Midafternoon examines the immediate aftermath of megafires on surrounding communities, interweaving narratives of ecological devastation, collective trauma, and climate grief. Begun after experiencing the devastation of a wildfire in my hometown, this work explores solastalgia, which describes emotional and existential distress caused by negative environmental change. Climate change poses the greatest public health threat of our century. In addition to the immediately measurable health related impacts of climate change—lowered air quality, clean water shortages, heat illnesses, and so on—much of this can be attributed to the ways in which we will lose a sense of security, a place that feel like home, and the psychological impacts of this increased instability.

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Georgia 7

Soft Bodies: The Malleable Self

Katheryne Flake

In my interdisciplinary practice, I use photography, collage, and quilting to create soft sculptures that explore themes of queerness and the body. As a gender-nonconforming person, I experience a tension between my external appearance and my internal sense of self. To alleviate this tension and gain a measure of control, I photograph myself, focusing on details such as skin, pores, and body hair. I capture moments of contact, such as fingers pressing into flesh, and then expose these images onto malleable materials, like fabric, which can change shape without losing their integrity. Finally, I cut the exposed photographs into pieces and reassemble them into quilts or collages.

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm / Atlanta 1



Daniel Hojnacki

Water is Never Still: Ruminations on water politics & poetics in Lebanon

Herather M. O'Brien-Takahashi

An 'opia' is a condition of sight, or the ambiguous intensity of looking someone in the eye, which can feel simultaneously invasive and vulnerable—pupils glittering, opaque and endless. Opia builds photographic installations that consider the Lacanian difference between the 'gaze' and the 'look'. This presentation also draws from Laura Mulvey's concept of male gaze in visual culture, from the patriarchal militaristic fetish to re-framing voyeurism of the female body.

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm / Atlanta 1

Academic Administrators Round Table

Are you an Academic Administrator? SPE invites you to participate in a friendly discussion, networking, focused on the topics that are most important to you.

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Georgia 6

An Unfixed Pilgrimage: Vulnerability, Kinship & Healing through Collaboration

Sarah Winston, Jared Ragland, Rachel Boillot, Allison Grant, J Carrier

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Atlanta 2





Dillon Bryant

FRI / March 20 CONT'D

Social Practice: Navigating Academia

Ken Marchionno, Kim Abeles, Jenny Jacklin-Stratton, Richard Shelton, John Freyer

Social Practice in an academic setting gets students out into the community. Student preparedness and awareness are essential to its success. This is true within and out of an institutional setting where meetings, readings, and interaction with community representatives contextualize the experience and integrate into the program.

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Atlanta 3

The Archive as a Photographic Tool

Kayla Holdgreve, Evan Hume, Mahsa Ataran, Toni Pepe, Janna Ireland

The Archive as a Photographic Tool is a conversation with image makers who incorporate an archive within their practice; either as a physical material, a foundation for research, or both. For the purpose of this discussion, an archive is defined as a collection of photographs that can span decades, that the image maker themselves did not create (i.e. a photographer's own portfolio archive). This general definition will be broken down into 3 specific categories: the familial archive, the general archive, and the institutional archive.

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Atlanta 4

Photography as Invocation: Mysticism, Gender, and the Act of Self-Authorization

Nika McKagen, Nadia Sablin, Olivia Johnston, Lily Lagrange, Kelsey Sucena

This session will explore the current resurgence of mysticism in photography, specifically focusing on women and gender non-conforming people using photography in their practice as an act of divination and invocation. This allows photographers to craft self-authorizing narratives in opposition to dominant systems of knowledge and visibility.

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Atlanta 5

Wildfire Prophecies: Entering the Pyrocene Era

Margaret Stratton

Margaret Stratton's project, Wildfire Prophecies was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2024. The title, WildFire Prophecies, is inspired by that foreboding sense that we now may be witnessing the ancient prophecy that in the final apocalypse, the world will be destroyed by fire. Wildfire Prophecies are studies of fire scars, illustrations of recovery over time, and documents meant to illustrate the sublime tragedy of wildfires to the American public.

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm / Georgia 7

Insufficient Memory to Queer American Memorials

Sean Fader

For Insufficient Memory, I drove 25,000 miles to 38 states to research and photograph locations where 50 queer lives were lost in violent hate crimes in the United States from 1999-2000. At the same time, the Sony Digital Mavica Camera's release brought forth a new era in digital image making. This groundbreaking technology captures images at 1/3MP. Using the antiquated Mavica, I captured images characterized by a deliberate lack of resolution and digital clarity, contrasting sharply with today's digital photographic capabilities. The resulting Google Earth interactive tour (insufficientmemory.org) allows anyone online to access all of my images and research.

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm / Georgia 12

Designing Accesible Pinhole Camera Kits Through Campus Collaboration

Gwendolyn Davies

In response to the lack of affordable pinhole camera kits on the market, I partnered with our on-campus Fab Lab to create an accessible, low-cost kit. Originally developed to support my historical photographic processes course, the kit enables students to explore the fundamentals of pinhole photography while gaining hands-on insight into the basic components and mechanics of a camera.

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm / Atlanta 1

State of Photographic Education

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm / Atlanta 5

Sessions, special events, & workshops

SAT / March 21

Science as Art/Art as Science

Areca Roe, Eric Zeigler, Jay Gould, Lisa Robinson, Chuck Hemard, Alan Wilson, aaron Ellison

9:00 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 2

This session explores the transformative potential of collaborations between artists and scientists, positing that such partnerships are not only mutually enriching but essential for addressing complex contemporary issues in novel ways. This kind of collaboration can take many forms; artists using scientific methods in their research and processes, artists looking to scientists for input and inspiration, or artists and scientists directly collaborating on an artwork or project. We hope to present a panel of artists discussing their work and experiences in this realm.

Place as assemblage: expansive methods in documentary practice

Leslie Grant, Briar Pine, Tia-Siimone Gardner, Shannon Benine, Jaysen Hohlen

9:00 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 3

What are the possibilities for an expanded documentary practice that focuses on place? This session highlights photo-based projects that investigate place through collaboration, the construction of images, the use of multimedia (archival materials, video, sculptural elements, installation), and the incorporation of the maker's relationship to the site. These expansive ways of working help to complicate rather than clarify, explore the overlap, and embrace fluidity in order to re-signify our understanding of place. Hopefully, telling the story of a place can become telling the many stories that interweave, contradict, remain unfinished, and reveal the personal - creating a relatable sense of place connected to lived experience.

Interdepartmental Collaboration in Image Making

Noah Thompson, John Freyer

9:00 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 4

Arts administrators: studio technicians, librarians, museum staff, etc. provide in-class and behind the scenes support that is integral to arts education. But what about our responsibilities outside of the classroom? From arts centers to museums, community colleges to R1 institutions, educators can often feel overwhelmed and siloed, working with what is in reach in order to give their students an impactful learning experience. Furthermore, how can staff and faculty work together to achieve more efficient workflows for academic projects and find creative solutions to institutional issues such as a lack of space and resources?

Intentional Communities for Women

Gina Dabrowski

9:00 am - 10:00 am / Georgia 7

In my new project, I turn my lens on Intentional Communities, land trusts that have been developed by and for women exclusively, and focus on loving interaction and shared goals of community, safety, ecological awareness, and sustainability. Using a medium format film camera and strobe lights, I document the ways women reflect their individuality in the homes they build and create community with their chosen families in this relatively unknown corner of feminist culture.

Rebecca Drolen

Geography of Disappearance: Documenting Migrant Deaths on the US/Mexico Border

Marcus DeSieno

9:00 am - 10:00 am / Georgia 12

Geography of Disappearance is an ongoing project documenting the humanitarian crisis unfolding at the US/Mexico border, which the United Nations has declared to be the deadliest land crossing in the world. Using data collected from autopsy reports, law enforcement, and humanitarian organizations, I photograph the exact sites where migrants have died - deliberate outcomes of U.S. policies.

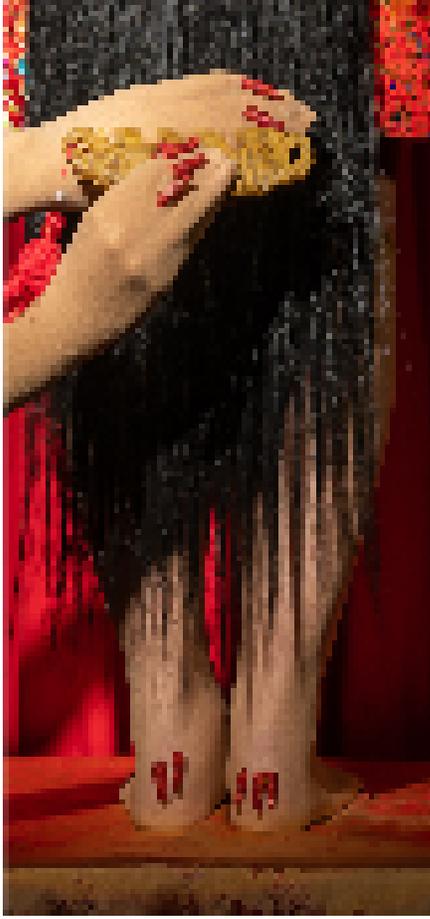
Interspecies Collaboration - A case for an ecological feminist future

Kanishka Puri

9:00 am - 9:30 am / Atlanta 1

The internal impetus to mutate my personal archive led me to imagine a world that is yet to be. Here, all of us, the slime mold, the algae, the fungus that infiltrated our environment, my mother, her mother, and I, are as unruly as we can be.





Jamie Ho

SAT / March 21 CONT'D

The Image is Broken: A Case for Object Integration

Delaney Hoffman

In "The Image is Broken", I will present two bodies of work that further examine why and how I embarked on a mission to make my images invincible by integrating photography and craft through the incorporation of wood, epoxy, acrylic, and other materials. The first of these, "Common Knowledge" (2022-2024), explores the tenuous divide between our analog and digital lives and probes at the way that this blurred line abstracts our perceptions of blue-collar labor. The second, "Bootleg Prophit" (current project) picks at myriad mystic traditions, pulling influence from prophetic books of the Old Testament, various New Age appropriations from the 1970s-1980s, and anabaptist craft traditions as a means of exploring the efficacy of enchantment and the discipline of belief. As this project is in progress, its questions are open-ended: What does it mean to allow ourselves to "fall prey" to a prophetic personality? What does it mean to choose to believe, to prove that we believe?

9:30 am - 10:00 am / Atlanta 1



Aesthetics of Teenage Life

Jill Frank

This body of work examines youth culture as both spectacle and symptom—an entry point into broader questions of power, identity, and representation in contemporary America. I document social rituals such as dances, games, classes, and other places in which performances of identity are legible. What what often appears as simple fun or social conquest can offer insight into the forces that are shaping American politics today.

10:00 am - 11:00 am / Georgia 7

A Participatory Visual Investigation into the Migrant Children in China

Tianqiutao Chen

My presentation will focus on my project "Seen/Unseen: The Migrant Children", which centers on observing migrant workers and their children in Beijing - a highly underrepresented community from less developed areas around China that temporarily migrates to urban centers in search of better employment and educational opportunities. Over the last 30 years, migrant workers have been the engine of China's spectacular economic growth and have enjoyed some benefits of urban life. However, they remain marginalized and face institutionalized discrimination. Their children have limited access to education, healthcare, and social welfare.

10:00 am - 11:00 am / Georgia 12

Two Centry Plants, Intertwined

Alexis Hagestad

This presentation explores the audiovisual work "Pest Control: 1300 Pixels," which examines the intricate relationship between humans and non-human species, particularly bats. The video features 1,300 digital pixels that utilize bat echolocation as a form of multispecies collaboration, where bat sounds manipulate photographic elements of the image. Bats perceive their surroundings through echolocation, gathering extensive data while capturing only fragments of reality.

10:30 am - 11:00 am / Atlanta 1



Charlotte Cotton

11:00 am - 12:00 pm / Capitol Ballroom



Freestyle Inkjet Printing Demo, Class, Clinic

Eric Joseph

Eric Joseph will perform a 1.5 hour digital printing workshop using a Canon Pro-2600 24 inch Large Format Printer on fine art inkjet papers from Canson-Infinity & Hahnemühle Digital Fine Art.

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm / Georgia 12



Analog Meets Eco-Tech: Course Design for Sustainable Photography

Jennifer Wilkosz

This presentation proposes an interdisciplinary, environmentally conscious college-level course: Introduction to Digital and Analog Methods in Eco-Friendly Photography. Designed for students who have completed a foundational course in film or digital photography, this curriculum bridges historical analog techniques with contemporary digital workflows, prioritizing ecological responsibility and artistic exploration.

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm / Georgia 12

Sessions, special events, & workshops

SAT / March 21 cont'd

(WHEN THE DUST SETTLES)

Dominique Ellis

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Georgia 7

I use photography to explore absence, where sediment in melting ice helps create a visual record of the ice's existence. I begin by harvesting ice from nearby Antelope Creek, transporting it to the studio, and placing it on photo-sensitive paper or film. The natural traces of dust frozen in the water remain visible on the surfaces after the ice melts. Ice thus becomes an entropic medium to index, translate, and record what is left behind when the ice melts, water evaporates, and floods subside in the midst of drought conditions.

Against the Grain

Mark Maio, Anthony Bannon, William Boling

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Atlanta 5

This conversation between photographer Mark Maio, arts writer and curator Anthony Bannon, and publisher William Boling of Fall Line Press will explore the forthcoming photobook *Against the Grain*, which documents the grain scoopers of Buffalo, New York. The discussion will center on Maio's long-term photographic engagement with the men who worked in and around Buffalo's historic grain elevators—a vanishing labor force tied to the city's industrial past. Through striking black-and-white portraits and images of monumental architecture, Maio captures both the physical demands and cultural significance of this nearly forgotten occupation.

Extant erosions

Emma Ressel

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Atlanta 2

I use photography to explore absence, where sediment in melting ice helps create a visual record of the ice's existence. I begin by harvesting ice from nearby Antelope Creek, transporting it to the studio, and placing it on photo-sensitive paper or film. The natural traces of dust frozen in the water remain visible on the surfaces after the ice melts. Ice thus becomes an entropic medium to index, translate, and record what is left behind when the ice melts, water evaporates, and floods subside in the midst of drought conditions.

A note on learning how to look

Lu Gao

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Georgia 12

As digital culture accelerates and daily life becomes increasingly fragmented, our capacity for sustained attention is eroding. This presentation explores how photography, when approached as a meditative and embodied practice, can counteract visual overstimulation and reclaim presence in a distracted world. Through a series of walking-based projects and sculptural photo experiments, I propose a mode of image-making rooted not in consumption, but in contemplation.

Melissa Nunez

SPE is grateful to



Hahnemühle

for supportIng our
2026 SPE
Student Portfolio Reviews!

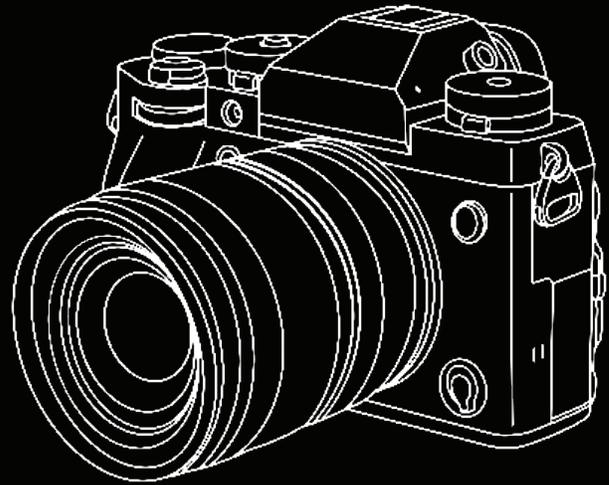


2027 Conference call for submissions

The Society for Photographic Education
2027 National Conference

March 11 - 14, 2027
Minneapolis, MN

Community IN CONTRAST



*"When despair prevails, we cannot create life-sustaining communities of resistance."
-Bell Hooks, Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope*

For over six decades, The Society for Photographic Education has provided a network of support for photographers, artists, educators, students, curators, critics, and historians. Not only are we practitioners and scholars, members of SPE have illustrated that we are a resilient and steadfast community that will weather adversity with strength and grace.

In a sustained climate of social, political, environmental, and technological uncertainty, The Society for Photographic Education's 2027 National Conference supports a Community in Contrast to contemporary conditions of power. We foster a community that highlights diverse perspectives, recognizes our lived experience, and resists efficacy-driven models of education and art practice. As scholars, critical thinkers, image-makers, and viewers, we examine contemporary perspectives on community, addressing questions of belonging, solidarity, equity, and agency.

SPE invites our current and prospective members to submit proposals for SPE's National Conference: Community in Contrast, taking place March 11-14th in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We are seeking visual presentations, workshops, panels, and other forms of inquiry that explore our communities, both chosen and inherent, and how the diversity of our educational spaces can deepen scholarly research and active learning. SPE will issue a two-part call for the 2027 National Conference. There will be a Call for Session Topics/Session Chairs, as well as presentations (Individual, Student, Workshops), from March 30 to April 30, 2026, followed by a second Call for Session Panel Participants from June 15 to July 31, 2026.

Community in Contrast is specifically interested in presentations and explorations in various formats, addressing but not limited to any of the following subcategories:

Art Administration
Art Education
Art History
Collaboration and Building
Community Engagement
Change in the Classroom
Commercial Photography

Curatorial Studies
Documentary Photography
Experimental Practices
Editorial Photography
Identity and Representation Photographic Art
Photographic Scholarship
Place-based Investigations

Scientific Photography
Shaping the Future
Social Justice & Advocacy
Studio Art

Business meetings

fri / March 20

Women's Caucus Meeting	_____	9:00 am - 10:00 am / Capitol Ballroom
Contingent Faculty Caucus Meeting	_____	10:00 am - 11:00 am / Capitol Ballroom
High School Educators Caucus Meeting	_____	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Capitol Ballroom
Pride Caucus Meeting	_____	3:30 pm - 4:30 pm / Capitol Ballroom
Multicultural Caucus Meeting	_____	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm / Capitol Ballroom

SAT / March 21

South Central Chapter Meeting	_____	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Georgia 12
Southwest Chapter Meeting	_____	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Atlanta 2
Northwest Chapter Meeting	_____	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Georgia 6
Mid-Atlantic & Northeast Chapter Meeting	_____	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Atlanta 3
Midwest Chapter Meeting	_____	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Atlanta 4
West Chapter Meeting	_____	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Atlanta 1
Southeast Chapter Meeting	_____	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm / Georgia 7



Shannon Benine

awards



honored Educator Award
Christina Z. Anderson



IMAGEMAKER Award
Rebecca Drolen



hIGH SCHOOL EDUCATOR Award
Jacob Cecil



SILVER GELATIN Award
Sant Khalsa



FOCUS FORWARD Award
Diana Noh



MONOCHROME Award
Priya Kambli



Student Award
Jiayi Lang



Student Award
Diana Sosnowska



Student Award
Marcus Chormicle



Student Award
Shannon Smith



Student Award
Beihua Guo



Student Award
Madison Emond

mEDIA FESTIVAL

thurs / March 19

Media Festival Opening and Winners Screenings 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Savannah College of Art and Design

fri / March 20

Screenings 5:30 – 9:30 pm

Courtland Grand Hotel

sat / March 21

Screenings 6:00 – 9:30 pm

Courtland Grand Hotel

festival director

Amanda Le Kline

Jurors

Janis Be
Lynn Estomin
Fatemeh Fani
Amanda Kline
Nika McKagen
Cynthia Miller

Maedeh Ojaghloo
Kaitlyn Smith
Krista Leigh Steinke
Riel Sturchio
Leni Wiegand

thurs / March 19

narmook

best women's film

Directed by Ghazal Zoghiniya | Distribution: ghazalzoghiniya@gmail.com | 2025 | 19:38 min.

Malalai is a teenage girl from the Baloch community in Iran. Due to a traditional cultural practice, she has been wearing boys' clothing for years. Now that she has reached puberty, she must return to the world of girls, but she is experiencing an identity crisis.

6:45 pm / SCAD

nabi

BEST MULTI-CULTURAL FILM

Directed by Hamed Golshahi | Distribution: hamedgolshahi.art@gmail.com | 2024 | 20:00 min.

Nabi is an Afghan migrant worker in Iran who is fired as a janitor after 25 years of working in a tower. He must fulfill his 25-year-old duties for the last day and leave like a man who never existed.

7:05 pm / SCAD

Butterfly Kiss

BEST pride FILM

Directed by Zohar Dvir | Distribution: distribution@fabianfred.com | 2024 | 10:00 min.

Carol panics and argues with her girlfriend Ray after an unexpected proposal. The situation gets worse when she wakes up in an apocalyptic reality and terribly discovers that Ray has transformed into a butterfly. Ray's transformation, the invasion of the outside world into their home, and the growing tension between the two threaten their relationship.

7:25 pm / SCAD

Dosta Dosta

BEST documentary FILM

Directed by Julia Novacek | Distribution: info@julianovacek.com | 2025 | 30:00 min.

Dosta Dosta shows the courage of three generations of women in the Balkans who claim public space with their bodies, refusing to remain subordinate to the patriarchal system. They step out to mourn, perform and protest. The film follows mourning women, political activists from Women in Black and dancers in Serbia and Montenegro, uniting their stories.

7:35 pm / SCAD

thurs / March 19 cont'd

rose 8:05 pm / SCAD
BEST NARRATIVE FILM

Directed by Amirhossein Hashtroudi | Distribution: artvision.distribution@gmail.com | 2025 | 18:03 min.
The film is a humanistic tale set in the snowy mountains, where poverty and harsh cold prevail. A man and his pregnant wife, who work with a group of porters to make a living, face an unexpected crisis on their journey. Meanwhile, at a border post, a young guard is caught between obeying his commander and following the call of his conscience.

HOLY HEAVÊNESS 8:23 pm / SCAD
BEST ANIMATED FILM

Directed by Farnoosh Abedi, Negah Khezre Fardyardad, Mohammad Ghaffari | Distribution: farnoosh.abedi@yahoo.com | 2025 | 10:00 min.
The unbearable lightness of the death of loved ones... There are wounds in life that eat away at you like leprosy...The weight of the death of loved ones sometimes becomes so overwhelming that to get rid of this weight another birth is inevitable.

Magic Johnson 8:33 pm / SCAD
BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM

Directed by Enrico J. Green | Distribution: enrico.j.green@icloud.com | 2025 | 5:00 min.
A former military prison guard reflects on his life, one last time.

Paper Flowers 8:38 pm / SCAD
BEST SHORT-SHORT FILM

Directed by Carlo De Togni | Distribution: info@mondonovo.ai | 2025 | 2:16 min.
Yokohama, 1866. A Japanese origami artisan is hired to pose as a samurai for Western photographer Felice Beato's colonial portraits. As he's transformed into an exotic subject, a silent moment of recognition between photographer and subject disrupts the established order. A meditation on colonial photography and the quiet preservation of selfhood.

Erasure 8:40 pm / SCAD
BEST SPE MEMBER FILM

Directed by Fatemeh Fani | Distribution: fani.fatemeh1992@gmail.com | 2025 | 3:41 min.
Erasure is a haunting and intimate portrayal of one Iranian woman's journey from silent obedience to unflinching defiance, told through the lens of her earliest memory: the moment a black cloth was pulled over her head at the age of six.

fri / March 20

a film called black: King's Speech 5:30 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Cam Be | Distribution: info@afilmcalledblack.com | 2024 | 19:20 min.
An evolving film, each screening presents different elements to an ongoing conversation. Blackness. 'King's Speech' is a short film that resides within the entirety of 'a film called black.' 'King's Speech' centers around the conversation of Blackness - What is Blackness? Who gets to define it? Additionally asking Black fathers what it means to be a king? It tells a parallel story of Chicago artist Cam Be & Neak's creation of the song and visual story of 'King's Speech.'

An Excess Baggage 5:50 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Myriam Garcia Marienstras | Distribution: raphael@pianosanofilms.fr | 2024 | 16:00 min.
Sophie hides her unhappiness in the close relationship she has with her daughter Lila. When Lila goes away on holiday, Sophie's reality collapses and her anxieties are reawakened. She tries to escape her loneliness by any means necessary.

Butterfly Kiss 6:06 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Myriam Garcia Marienstras | Distribution: raphael@pianosanofilms.fr | 2024 | 16:00 min.
Directed by Zohar Dvir | Distribution: distribution@fabianfred.com | 2024 | 10:00 min.
Carol panics and argues with her girlfriend Ray after an unexpected proposal. The situation gets worse when she wakes up in an apocalyptic reality and is horrified to discover that Ray has transformed into a butterfly. Ray's transformation, the invasion of the outside world into their home, and the growing tension between the two threaten their relationship.

C'est Celestial 6:16 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Artemis Evlogimenou | Distribution: evlogimenou.arte@gmail.com | 2014 | 5:10 min.
The sequences of various soft porn movies from 35mm film reels were re-edited in a 16mm Steinbeck editing machine, then digitally captured and re-appropriated to suit a different scenario - one woman's bittersweet memories. The aim of the short was to create emotions absent in this genre of films.

mEDIA FESTIVAL

fri / March 20 cont'd

Collection Title: Turtle

6:21 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Ehsan Majouni | Distribution: artvision.distribution@gmail.com | 2025 | 12:30 min.

A woman is determined to bring her beloved back to life, a man who vanished into the waters in search of a place to call his own. She feels compelled to recall things that have long been dead, hoping her loved one might revive. She believes he will be washed ashore someday, back to her by the tides - a sudden return, as if by magic.

Death Closes the Eyes

6:34 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Afshin Soufian | Distribution: soufian.afshin@gmail.com | 2025 | 15:00 min.

Maryam, a 55-year-old painter, is forced to leave Iran after the harsh crackdown on the Woman, Life, Freedom movement. Years later, she returns to her childhood home and faces memories of her younger self and those difficult days. As past and present collide, Maryam feels the pain of that time once again. This film is dedicated to Maryam Salimian, who took her own life after being banned from leaving Iran during the Woman, Life, Freedom movement.

Dobrina

6:49 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Hannes Rall | Distribution: mail@hannesrall.com | 2025 | 5:00 min.

Lotte Reiniger meets Sergio Leone in this animated short, where desire burns as bright as the desert sun. A brand-new animated short that premiered in June 2025, successfully touring the festival circuit now.

Don't Cry For Me All You Drag Queens

6:54 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Kristal Sotomayor | Distribution: film@sotomayorproductions.com | 2024 | 9:00 min.

Don't Cry For Me All You Drag Queens pays homage to the legendary Mother Cavallucci by weaving together the present and past to provide a striking portrait of belonging and memory.

Dosta Dosta

7:03 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Julia Novacek | Distribution: info@julianovacek.com | 2025 | 30:00 min.

Dosta Dosta shows the courage of three generations of women in the Balkans who claim public space with their bodies, refusing to remain subordinate to the patriarchal system. They step out to mourn, perform and protest. The film follows mourning women, political activists from Women in Black and dancers in Serbia and Montenegro, uniting their stories.

Erasure

7:33 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Fatemeh Fani | Distribution: fani.fatemeh1992@gmail.com | 2025 | 3:41 min.

Erasure is a haunting and intimate portrayal of one Iranian woman's journey from silent obedience to unflinching defiance, told through the lens of her earliest memory: the moment a black cloth was pulled over her head at the age of six.

Feedback

7:37 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Hüseyin Mert Erverdi | Distribution: mert.erverdi@gmail.com | 2025 | 4:00 min.

Feedback is an audiovisual work shaped by recursive image processing and layered sound, a study of feedback as a generative system where signals fold back into themselves and produce emergent form. Emerging from streams of abstraction, each frame folds into itself to generate striations, distortions, and drifting textures, evoking a sense of continuous movement and transformation.

Fish Dance

7:41 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Narges Elahi | Distribution: artvision.distribution@gmail.com | 2024 | 15:58 min.

This film is narrated by a female painter who lives with her dead fetus in a remote house and tries to overcome this loss...!

HOLY HEAVĒNESS

7:57 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Farnoosh Abedi, Negah Khezre Fardyardad, Mohammad Ghaffari | Distribution: farnoosh.abedi@yahoo.com | 2025 | 10:00 min.

The unbearable lightness of the death of loved ones... There are wounds in life that eat away at you like leprosy... The weight of the death of loved ones sometimes becomes so overwhelming that to get rid of this weight another birth is inevitable.

Magic Johnson

8:07 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Enrico J. Green | Distribution: enrico.j.green@icloud.com | 2025 | 5:00 min.

A former military prison guard reflects on his life, one last time.

Malverde

8:12 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Claudia Gordillo | Distribution: claudia.gordilloa@gmail.com | 2025 | 17:03 min.

Malverde narrates the rhythms of a land planted with sugarcane. An imposed plant that has recoded native nature and the ways in which human and non-human bodies move to survive. The story takes place in southern Valle del Cauca and northern Cauca, Colombia, and delves in a kind of journey and evocation, in what this extractivist landscape has become today.

fri / March 20 cont'd

Monument

8:30 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Ehsan Majouni | Distribution: artvision.distribution@gmail.com | 2025 | 12:30 min.

A woman is determined to bring her beloved back to life, a man who vanished into the waters in search of a place to call his own. She feels compelled to recall things that have long been dead, hoping her loved one might revive. She believes he will be washed ashore someday, back to her by the tides - a sudden return, as if by magic.

Moving Spirits: Encountering the Ancestors

8:47 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Jennifer M. Mizenko, Rhondalyn Peairs | Distribution: thedancelady@gmail.com | 2025 | 33:10 min.

Moving Spirits: Encountering the Ancestors is a 33-minute documentary that blends site-specific performance with personal testimony to uncover the untold stories of the enslaved at Rowan Oak, the historic home in Oxford, Mississippi. The film weaves together archival records, interviews with historians and descendants, and the performances of local dancers who channel the spirits of enslaved.

Mr. Meftah

9:20 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Soheil Darvishparvar | Distribution: artvision.distribution@gmail.com | 2024 | 11:13 min.

Mr. Meftah, a man who makes a living from his ceremonial role in cutting red ribbons, unexpectedly falls in love with a company secretary, an encounter that subtly changes the course of his life.

SAT / March 21

Nabi

6:00 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Hamed Golshahi | Distribution: hamedgolshahi.art@gmail.com | 2024 | 20:00 min.

Nabi is an Afghan migrant worker in Iran who is fired as a janitor after 25 years of working in a tower. He must fulfill his 25-year-old duties for the last day and leave like a man who never existed.

NARMOOK

6:20 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Ghazal Zoghiniya | Distribution: ghazalzoghiniya@gmail.com | 2025 | 19:38 min.

Malalai is a teenage girl from the Baloch community in Iran. Due to a traditional cultural practice, she has been wearing boys' clothing for years. Now that she has reached puberty, she must return to the world of girls, but she is experiencing an identity crisis.

No Faster Than We Are

6:40 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Mark Schoon | Distribution: maschoon@yahoo.com | 2025 | 6:28 min.

No Faster Than We Are, set in a modern metropolis, is a video that explores the relativity of time on the human condition throughout daily life. It reflects on how we move through space and how that corresponds or diverges with or from our inner perception of time.

Paper Flowers

6:47 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Carlo De Togni | Distribution: info@mondonovo.ai | 2025 | 2:16 min.

Yokohama, 1866. A Japanese origami artisan is hired to pose as a samurai for Western photographer Felice Beato's colonial portraits. As he's transformed into an exotic subject, a silent moment of recognition between photographer and subject disrupts the established order. A meditation on colonial photography and the quiet preservation of selfhood.

Portrait

6:49 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Farzam Tabibi | Distribution: artvision.distribution@gmail.com | 2025 | 15:38 min.

In a photography studio, a woman and a photographer struggle to capture an innocent portrait of the woman. As tension rises between them, new photographs reveal ambiguous truths about the woman, blurring the line between reality and perception.

Prayer of the Sea

7:05 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Martin Gerigk | Distribution: magerigk@gmail.com | 2025 | 6:30 min.

A composer recounts a dream from his youth that inspired the slow movement of his first string quartet, Prayer of the Sea. The dream, depicting a peaceful dissolution into the sea and wind, symbolized his future death. Decades later, rediscovering a drawing from the quartet's premiere - perfectly capturing the dream's essence - revived its emotions. Now older, he reflects on the dream's message: a serene acceptance of life's inevitable end.

Rain

7:12 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Vasilios Papaioannu | Distribution: vasiliospapaioannu@gmail.com | 2024 | 6:01 min.

Rain, as circular shapes of memory imprinted on the fast-paced celluloid or as liquid moving sculptures of the present in digital form, documents a verbal interaction between two people.

REST

7:18 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Ryotaro Miyajima | Distribution: miyajimaryotaro@gmail.com | 2025 | 5:04 min.

When immersed in the contours swelling and waning in the forest of needles, the mundane world drifts away, and we only live to breathe.

mEDIA FESTIVAL

sat / March 21 cont'd

Rose

7:23 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Amirhossein Hashtroodi | Distribution: artvision.distribution@gmail.com | 2025 | 18:03 min.

The film is a humanistic tale set in the snowy mountains, where poverty and harsh cold prevail. A man and his pregnant wife, who work with a group of porters to make a living, face an unexpected crisis on their journey. Meanwhile, at a border post, a young guard is caught between obeying his commander and following the call of his conscience.

Scattered Sea

7:41 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Lia Sáile | Distribution: hello@liasaille.com | 2025 | 13:37 min.

Scattered Sea follows 17 performers spanning two generations from the MENA/Maghreb region and Europe as they trace gestures of relation across borders—within a world fractured by historical trauma, displacement, and the longing for belonging. Through a poetic language of Magical Realism, performance, and documentary, the film constructs speculative spaces for decolonial reflection and future-oriented imaginaries.

Shucking Tradition

7:55 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by David Helfer Wells | Distribution: david@davidhwells.com | 2024 | 18:22 min.

Follow a cohort of forward-thinking, hard-working New England women who bring new energy and different perspectives to oyster farming, an industry layered with history. While balancing challenging work-life dynamics, they avoid drawing attention to their gender, subtly upending ingrained stereotypes, proving themselves in this tradition-bound maritime profession.

Still Silent

8:13 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Monteith Paul McCollum | Distribution: mccollum@binghamton.edu | 2025 | 5:00 min.

Frost on the windshield fades to night along a New York highway. In the back of a Rambler, apple trees lean, imagination cracks at the seams. Two lives: one chasing the road, one quietly whispering, pulled by the strange gravity of elsewhere.

The Phoenix

8:18 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Eli Anderson | Distribution: eanderson86@wisc.edu | 2025 | 8:47 min.

The Phoenix is an experimental short film that explores rebirth through trauma and grief. As the protagonist buries symbolic objects from their past in a time capsule, each one marks a step through pain, memory, and renewal. It reflects the painful yet beautiful process of becoming someone new. In the end, they emerge transformed from the ashes of their former self.

Three Long Minutes

8:27 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Gretchen Busl | Distribution: gbusl@twu.edu | 2024 | 3:47 min.

Three Long Minutes draws from the Prelinger home movie archive to explore how light shapes memory. Juxtaposing rare eclipse imagery with everyday domestic fragments, the film emphasizes analog film's material presence and reflects on the fleeting, fragile ways recollection defines and distorts experience.

Tie Your Hair

8:31 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Yarden Pelach and Ron Kohen | Distribution: asaf@costanza-films.com | 2025 | 25:00 min.

Tamar, a woman traumatized by childhood abuse, clings to her past wounds. In her thirties, she hopes to reveal her terrible secret to her parents for solace.

Trifles

8:41 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Sheida Makaremi | Distribution: artvision.distribution@gmail.com | 2025 | 9:46 min.

A seven-year-old girl visits an old, beautiful house with her father. It is a house filled with valuables, long abandoned after its owner's death. Everything seems normal until the girl suddenly disappears.

Wind's Heritage

9:06 pm / Courtland Grand Hotel

Directed by Nasim Soheili | Distribution: soheili.nasim10@gmail.com | 2024 | 29:40 min.

Mohammad Wali Gandami is the last miller who knows the techniques of building and repairing of traditional Iranian windmills. At the age of 68, he is still responsible for the maintenance of windmills in the city of Nashtifan.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a pink sleeveless dress, is captured in a dynamic pose against a teal background. She is holding long, flowing pink fabric that cascades and swirls around her, creating a sense of movement and elegance. The fabric's texture is highlighted by the lighting, showing soft folds and highlights.

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speakers

Stephan Hillerbrand + Mary Magsamen, Nechama Winston, Ashima Yadava, Veronica Melendez, Stacy Kirages

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Georgia 6
The Power of the Photographic Zine

Alexis Hagestad

Sat / March 21 - 10:30 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 1
Two Centry Plants, Intertwined

Alice Proujansky

Thurs / March 19 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm, Atlanta 2
Looking Together: Aperture On Sight Curriculum

Andrew Lyman

Fri / March 20 - 9:00 am - 10:00 am, Georgia 12
Private/Public

Angela Casagrande

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, Georgia 7
Reframing the Lens: Identity, Dialogue, and Digital Pedagogy in Photography

Areca Roe, Eric Zeigler, Jay Gould, Lisa M. Robinson, Chuck Hemard, Alan Wilson, Aaron Ellison

Thurs / March 19 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 2
Science as Art/Art as Science

Ashley Kaushinger, Savannah Dodd, Jean Shon, Fazilat Soukhakian

Thurs / March 19 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Atlanta 4
Re-Remembering: Photography at the Intersection of Archive, Memory, and Identity

Evan Hume



Bran Ataei Ardestani

Sat / March 21 - 10:00 am - 10:30 am, Atlanta 1
Ascendance; self-portraiture as ritual

Charlotte Cotton

Sat / March 21 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Capitol Ballroom

Chris Fraser, Madison Emond, Rebecca Cummins

Fri / March 20 - 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Atlanta 5
Camera-Making as Photographic Practice

Christophe Katrib, Shreepad

Joglekar, Harrison Moenich, Stephanie Brown, Jason Arel-Klein
Thurs / March 19 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Atlanta 5
Reflecting the Times: Image-Making and Education in the Shadow of Genocide

Deborah Hollis, Shannon Benine, Zulay Chang, Andrew E. Hershberger, Julie Libersat

Fri / March 20 - 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Atlanta 4
Libraries as Archives: Catalysts or Cloisters for Photographic Education

Delaney Hoffman

Sat / March 21 - 9:30 am - 10:00 am, Atlanta 1
The Image is Broken: A Case for Object Integration

Dillon Bryant

Fri / March 20 - 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm, Atlanta 1
No Place But Here

DM Witman, Amanda Breitbach, Lily Brooks, Vasudev Vashisht

Thurs / March 19 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Atlanta 1
Navigating the Polycrisis

Dominique Ellis

Sat / March 21 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Georgia 7
(WHEN THE DUST SETTLES)

Eliza Gregory

Fri / March 20 - 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Georgia 12
Floodplain Projects: A Collaborative Studio

Emma Ressel

Sat / March 21 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Atlanta 2
Extant Erosions

Eric Joseph

Fri / March 20 - 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, Georgia 12
Sat / March 21 - 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, Georgia 12
Freestyle - Inkjet Printing Demo, Class, and Clinic

Erin Jennings

Fri / March 20 - 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, Georgia 6
State of Photographic Education

Gina Dabrowski

Sat / March 21 - 9:00 am - 10:00 am, Georgia 7
Intentional Communities for Women

Gwendolyn Davies

Fri / March 20 - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Atlanta 1
Designing Accesible Pinhole Camera Kits Through Campus
Collaboration

Heather M. O'Brien-Takahashi

Fri / March 20 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Atlanta 1
water is never still: ruminations on water politics & poetics
in Lebanon

**J. Carrier & Nelson Chan, Matt
Eich, Harrison Miller, Mary Virginia
Swanson**

Fri / March 20 - 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Atlanta 2
After the Glut - Photobook Publishing in the Age of Plenty

Jamie Pittinos

Fri / March 20 - 9:00 am - 9:30 am, Atlanta 1
The Auger and The Augment: Image Release as Transsexual
Cataclysm

**Jason Reblando, Deborah Orloff,
Janna Ireland, Vanessa Woods**

Fri / March 20 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 4
Cut Time: Collage and the Afterlives of Photographs

Jennifer Wilcosz

Fri / March 20 - 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm, Georgia 12
Analog Meets Eco-Tech: Course Design for Sustainable
Photography

Jennings Sheffield, Eric Kunsman

Thurs / March 19 - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, Capitol Ballroom
Student Volunteer Seminar

**Jeremy Bolen, Allison Grant,
Beate Geissler, Oliver Sann, Marni
Shindleman**

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Atlanta 1
Climate Resilience in the American South

Jessica Hays

Fri / March 20 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Georgia 7
The Sun Sets Midafternoon: Climate Grief through the Lens
of Wildfire

**Jessica Labatte, Teresa Emmett,
Elena Volkova, Rachel Boillot**

Sat / March 21 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Georgia 6
Reciprocity Reframed: Co-Creating in the Light of Belonging

Jiayi Liang

Fri / March 20 - 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm, Atlanta 1
Across the Long Season: Image-making as Labor, Resistance
and Reclamation

Jill Frank

Sat / March 21 - 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Georgia 7
Aesthetics of Teenage Life

Jordan Putt, Kelli Connell

Fri / March 20 - 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Atlanta 3
The Blue Distance

Juliana Rico

Thurs / March 19 - 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Georgia 12
On Becoming: Decolonizing Perspectives through
Performance and Self Portraiture

Kaitlin Santoro

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, Atlanta 3
Residencies Demystified

Kanishka Puri

Sat / March 21 - 9:00 am - 9:30 am, Atlanta 1
Interspecies Collaboration - A case for an ecological feminist
future

Katheryne Flake

Fri / March 20 - 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm, Atlanta 1
Soft Bodies: The Malleable Self

**Kayla Holdgreve, Evan Hume, Mahsa
Ataran, Toni Pepe, Janna Ireland**

Fri / March 20 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Atlanta 4
The Archive as a Photographic Tool

Keely Morgan

Fri / March 20 - 9:30 am - 10:00 am, Atlanta 1
We Wanted a Matriarchy

**Ken Marchionno, Kim Abeles, Jenny
Jacklin-Stratton, Richard Shelton,
John Freyer**

Fri / March 20 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Atlanta 3
Social Practice: Navigating Academia

Kristen Bartley

Thurs / March 19 - 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm, Atlanta 3
Anthotypes: Sustainable Photographic Printmaking

Kylee Isom

Thurs / March 19 - 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Georgia 7
You're Looking, I'm Looking

**Leslie Grant & Briar Pine, Tia-Simone
Gardner, Shannon Benine, Jayson
Hohlen**

Sat / March 21 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 3
Place as assemblage: expansive methods in documentary
practice

**Libby Rowe, Ruth Adams, Michael
Borowski, Chris Dant, Easton Selby**

Thurs / March 19 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Georgia 6
Your Administrator and You

**Lindsay Godin, Adam Long, Frank
Hamrick**

Fri / March 20 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 3
Reframing The Frame: Classroom Innovations in Analog
Photography

Lu Gao

Sat / March 21 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Georgia 12
A note on learning how to look

Marcus DeSieno

Sat / March 21 - 9:00 am - 10:00 am, Georgia 12
Geography of Disappearance: Documenting Migrant Deaths
on the US/Mexico Border

speakers

Margaret Stratton

Fri / March 20 - 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, Georgia 7
WildFire Prophecies: Entering the Pyrocene Era

Mariah Moneda

Thurs / March 19 - 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm, Georgia 12
Catalysts for Community: Kapwa and the Banana Tree

Mark Maio, Anthony bannon, William Boling

Sat / March 21 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Atlanta 5
Against the Grain

Michele Pearson Clarke

Fri / March 20 - 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Georgia 7
A Welcome Weight on My Body: Affect, Black Visuality and Analogue Photography

Mona Bozorgi, Jamie Ho, Justin A. Carney, Lauren Cesiro

Fri / March 20 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 5
Materiality and Response-ability

Montenez Lowery

Fri / March 20 - 9:00 am - 10:00 am, Georgia 7
A Darktown Cakewalk

Nika McKagen, Nadia Sablin, Olivia Johnston, Lily Lagrange, Kelsey Sucena

Fri / March 20 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Atlanta 5
Photography as Invocation: Mysticism, Gender, and the Act of Self-Authorization

Noah Thompson, John Freyer

Sat / March 21 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 4
The Power of the Photographic Zine

Paolo Morales

Fri / March 20 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Georgia 6
Exploring Racialization of Photographs through Encounters as an Asian-American

Rebecca Drolen

Fri / March 20 - 9:00 am - 10:00 am, Georgia 6
Performing Strength: Exchanges between Feminist Art and Bodybuilding

Ricardo Rodriguez Rey

Fri / March 20 - 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Georgia 7
Archipiélago: Mapping Identity, Memory, and Erosion Through Photography

Richard Austin

Fri / March 20 - 10:30 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 1
A Veterans walk through photographic education with PTSD

Robert Dickes, Melissa Nunez, Nick Shepard, Curt Steckel

Fri / March 20 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Atlanta 2
The Power of the Photographic Zine

Ruiqi Xu

Thurs / March 19 - 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm, Georgia 12
Folded Histories - A Study of the Fortune Cookie Mythos

Sara Winston & Jared Ragland, Rachel Boillot, Allison Grant, J Carrier

Fri / March 20 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Atlanta 2
An Unfixed Pilgrimage: Vulnerability, Kinship & Healing through Collaboration

Savannah Dodd, Tara Pixley

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, Atlanta 2
Photography Ethics in the Classroom

Scott Hinton

Fri / March 20 - 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Georgia 6
A HUMBLE EPIC: High School Students, Alec Soth, and longform photo projects

Sean Fader

Fri / March 20 - 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Georgia 12
Insufficient Memory to Queer American Memorials

Shana Merola

Thurs / March 19 - 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Georgia 7
Love Canal; Evidence of Injury

Stephanie Dowda DeMer, Zen Cohen, Sammie Correa, Elizabeth McGrady

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Atlanta 5
Witching Hour

Stephen Crompton

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, Georgia 12
It's All Fake! Post-Truth, Flat Earth, and the Nikon P1000

Tianqiutao Chen

Sat / March 21 - 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Georgia 12
A Participatory Visual Investigation into the Migrant Children in China

june T. Sanders, Clara DeWeese, Jenny Jacklyn-Stratton

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Atlanta 4
New Paradigms in Portraiture

Vahid Valikhani

Thurs / March 19 - 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Georgia State University
The Art of Wet Scanning: A Complete Film-to-Digital Workshop

Vesna Pavlovic

Thurs / March 19 - 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Georgia 12
Woven Wind

Wendel White

Fri / March 20 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Capitol Ballroom

Zoe Tirado

Thurs / March 19 - 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, Atlanta 3
Safe Spaces, Powerful Stories: LGBTQ+ Photographic Storytelling and Alice Austen

Stephanie Dowda DeMer



Justin Carney



Ruiqi Xu



Mona Bozorgi



Shreepad Joglekar



NOTES

Thank You for 80 Years!

Freestyle Photographic Supplies began in 1946 as Freestyle Sales Company, founded by Sam Fatman and Irving Resch in New York City. The original business focused on selling surplus military film left over after World War II, taking advantage of government surplus auctions and veteran preferences in bidding.

As we celebrate our 80th Anniversary this year we **THANK YOU** for not just our history, but also for your continuous support of film, darkroom processes, educational resources, and a vibrant photographic community!



The best chapters are still being written.

