

# Photography Call for Entry – *Trust the Story*

A Photographic-Based Exhibition curated by Melanie McWhorter

The Baldwin Photographic Gallery

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION – DECEMBER 9, 2019

[The Baldwin Photographic Gallery](#) at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) announces the call for a photography, lens-based works, and photo-based mixed media exhibition that opens in February 2020. The exhibition's theme is *Trust the Story* and will be curated by photographic consultant and photobook expert Melanie McWhorter. The exhibition will include invitational works and submitted works.

## **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

Guided by submissions, the exhibition's narrative will foster a dialogue among the images and create a larger story of the human experience. Small vignettes of demise, hope, action, visualization, etc. will drive a broader human experience for the present and the future. This is not a show of truth-telling, but storytelling.

Artists may interpret the theme as they decide with potential ideas relating to broad contemporary issues or themes that use photo-based arts as a tool to present a story of contemporary human experience – personal documentary, social issues, environmental destruction or renewal, metropolitan or rural blight or positive urban development, faux narratives, myth-based projects, archival or vernacular images, etc. We are complex and our experiences and philosophies are composed of dualities.

*“Human experience is a series of never-ending, overlapping stories bumping into one another in expected and unexpected ways.... Storytellers are simply curators of information who finesse the elements of a yarn into a beginning, middle and end.... But the tools they use to tell tales are evolving, becoming more modular and tailored, more participatory and more engaging than just the printed word or the moving image.” – Aleks Krotoski, “Storytelling: digital technology allows us to tell tales in innovative new ways”, *The Guardian**

Likewise, the vitality of photography comes from photographers' ability to tell stories through myths, metaphors, and visual representations. Within the decade, changes in the medium have dictated a reexamination of the art form and encourage photographers to incorporate other mediums or partner with other makers to tell the story of the human experience so that it resonates with a broader community.

The exhibition's opening will be centered around educational programming at MTSU. Selected artists will be invited to participate in the exhibition's related programming. A purchase award will be offered for select work(s) chosen by Melanie McWhorter, MTSU full time photography faculty, and The Baldwin Photographic Gallery curator, to be added to The Baldwin Photographic Collection and Archive.

## **PAYMENT**

Payment: \$30 entry fee up to 5 images or works. Payments can be made at the [MTSU Marketplace](#). Please include confirmation number with image submission(s).

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

To submit works for consideration, send the following materials to [TrusttheStory@gmail.com](mailto:TrusttheStory@gmail.com) by December 9, 2019.

- Images must be 1000 pixels on longest side and 72 dpi, saved as jpg.
- Images must be titled in this format: lastname\_firstname1.jpg, lastname\_firstname2.jpg, etc.
- Include a document which lists titles of the work relating to the image file names.
- A project statement (maximum 250 words) is suggested if this is a cohesive body of work. If you are sending individual images, you are welcome to include a statement about how the images relate to the theme.
- Please include payment confirmation number with image submission.
- Any questions about submitting work should be addressed to [Shannon Randol \(Shannon.randol@mtsu.edu\)](mailto:Shannon.Randol@mtsu.edu)

## **DEADLINE**

Deadline for submission is Monday, December 9, 2019 at 11:59pm MST. The number of selected works will depend on submissions received and how they fit into the gallery space.

## **NOTIFICATION AND TIMELINE**

- Selected artists will be notified by Monday, December 30, 2019.
- All works are to be received by Thursday, January 23, 2020. All works should be ready to hang with instructions if necessary.
- The exhibition is scheduled to open Wednesday, February 5th with related programming February 10-12, 2020. Exhibition will close on Friday, March 6th. Gallery is free and open to the public. Find gallery hours [here](#).

## **FINAL ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS** (subject to change - please inquire only after acceptance)

- Professional standards of framing are required. Any exceptions need to be discussed and may be subject to exclusion if difficult to accommodate.
- We do encourage alternative installation and are open to discussing ideas for presentation of the work(s).
- Artist bio, maximum of 200 words.

## **ABOUT THE CURATOR**

**Melanie McWhorter** has been consulting with photographers for almost two decades. After moving to New Mexico in 1997, she managed the internationally recognized photo-eye Bookstore + Project Space until 2016.

She has gained a reputation as a knowledgeable photography professional; has been interviewed about photography in numerous print and online publications including *PDN* and NPR's *The Picture Show*; has judged the prestigious photography competitions including *Fotografia: Fotofestival di Roma's Book Prize*; has reviewed portfolios at *Fotografia*, *Photolucida*, *Review Santa Fe* and *PhotoNOLA*; and taught and lectured at numerous venues including *PhotoNOLA* and University of North Texas.

Her curated exhibitions include [Feminity/Masculinity](#) Unnatural Nature of Food, [Our Nature](#), and [The Dress Show](#) on *Fraction Magazine*, The Women Photojournalists of Washington's Annual Exhibition.