

THE PICTORIAL LIST



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The color palette for this book was inspired by the New York State Flag.



THE PICTORIAL LIST

VOLUME ONE

NEW YORK



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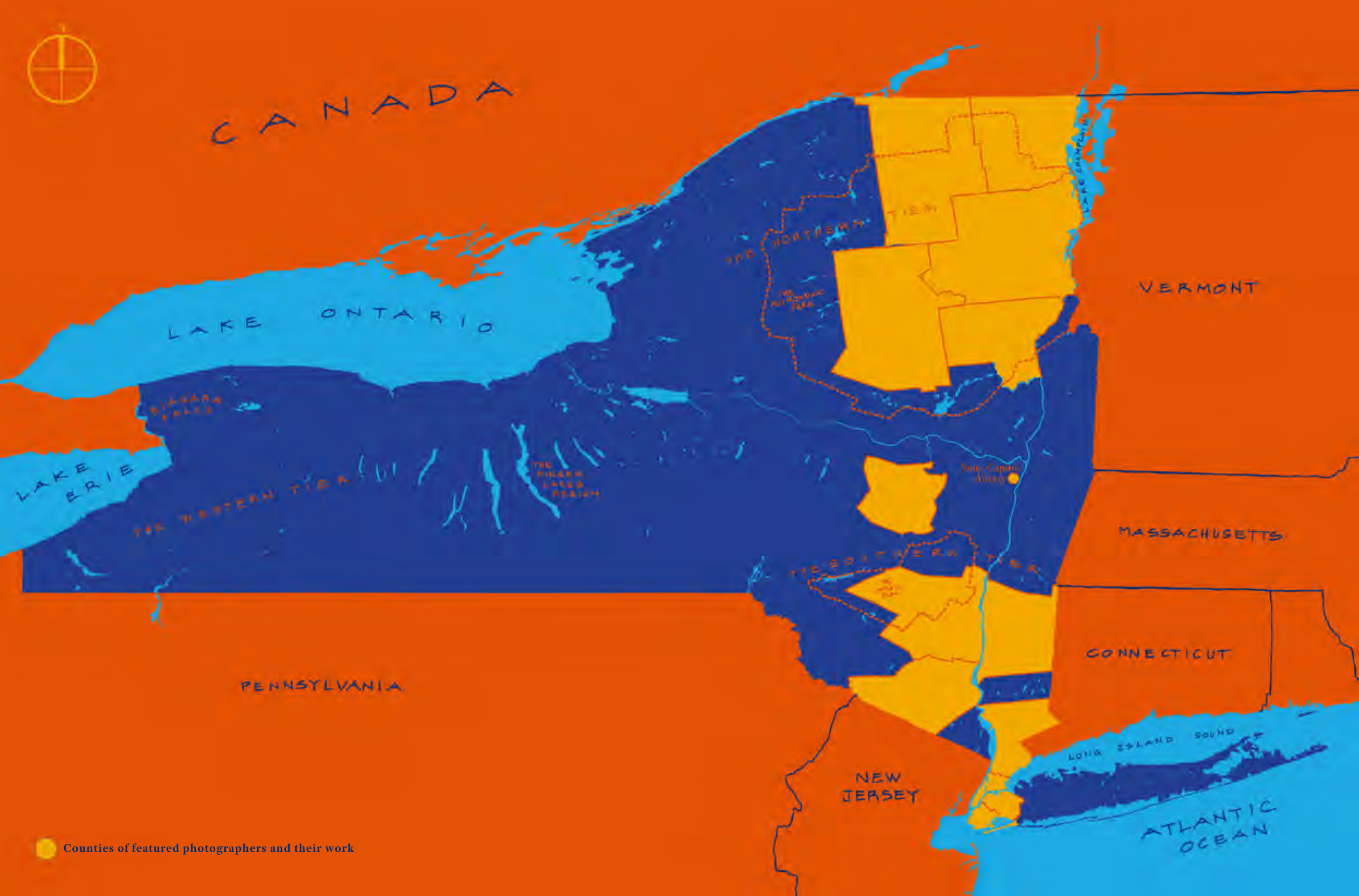
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MASSACHUSETTS

CONNECTICUT

PENNSYLVANIA

NEW JERSEY

LONG ISLAND SOUND

ATLANTIC OCEAN

State Capital Albany

Counties of featured photographers and their work



MERYL



IN THE STUDIO DARKROOM WITH

MEISLER

EXPOSED

Photography by Bill Lacey
and Karen Ghostlaw Pomarico

Words by Karen Ghostlaw Pomarico

We often wonder and ask ourselves what inspires a photographer to visualize the world around them, translating what they see as an expression of their creative and critical thinking process. We wanted to answer this question by getting a more intimate look into what ignites the passion of a New York photographer, inspiring them to create great work. We thought immediately of the huge personality that is taking New York by storm these days with her outrageously brilliant photography — one of New York's finest visual storytellers, the extraordinary and quirky Meryl Meisler.

Meryl is a native New Yorker. She was born in the Bronx, grew up in Massapequa, Long Island, and lived and worked in New York City as a freelance illustrator before transitioning to full-time employment as an educator in the NYC public schools, teaching art (photography, traditional art media, digital art) with students in grades 4-12. Meryl retired from teaching in 2010 and now resides with her wife, Patricia Jean O'Brien, and their dog, Via. They bounce between their home in Manhattan and their woodland retreat nestled in the foothills of the southern Catskill Mountains in New York State. New York is Meryl's community, her family, and her extended family of friends. The importance of family, loyalty to friends, and admiration for all the people in her community become evident the moment you step foot out of the car and into a looking glass enchanted by art. You are greeted by a gatekeeper with an iron rod sculpted body and a deep-sea diving helmet made of shiny brass and copper for the head, with welcoming hands facing up. A wonderland of whimsical plasticine self-portraits borders the gardens leading to the front door, where Meryl's wife, Patricia, graciously opens the door, welcoming us into their enchanting home.

→



'Self-Portrait, Tap Dancing with Mom, North Massapequa, NY, January 1975'
© Meryl Meisler



← *'Darkroom Angel Self-Portrait, Woodstock, NY July 2023 (cropped)*
© Meryl Meisler



'Self-Portrait, A Falling Star, North Massapequa, NY January 1975'
© Meryl Meisler





THE ETERNAL LIGHT

*Photography and words by Arlene Gottfried
Courtesy of the Gottfried Family and Dewi Lewis Publishing*

One Sunday afternoon in August an abandoned gas station on New York's Lower East Side played host to a Gospel Fest. Where cars had once come to refuel, there was now a stage. Enclosed by a cyclone fence, and covered in all sorts of rusty junk, this was a far cry from the sacred ambience of a church.

It was an afternoon filled with singing. At the end a large choir got on stage. Their sound was so grand and passionate that I was drawn nearer, unable to resist their magnetism. Afterwards, I walked over to a small group of them and asked if I could photograph the choir. It was Monique who said, "You'll have to ask him," pointing to the guy who had been directing them. The air was still full of intensity as I went over to him and said how much I had enjoyed the music "Could I photograph your choir?" I asked. He handed me their card - to this day it remains on my bulletin board - leaned forward with a large friendly smile and said, "Call me." I tried once, but other projects got in the way and I never followed it through.

→





ARLENE GOTTFRIED

THE SINGING
PHOTOGRAPHER

1950 - 2017

*Photography and words by
Karen Ghostlaw Pomarico*



Arlene Gottfried's 'Eternal Light' continues to burn bright, illuminating her contribution to photography. With the diligent efforts of family and dear friends, Arlene's work will inspire generations of photographers for years to come. Caring for such an extensive and valuable archive is a daunting task.

When you enter the archive, you are surrounded by Arlene. Floor-to-ceiling shelves line the walls, fully filled with negatives, Kodachrome, and Ektachrome reverse process slide films, along with hundreds of photo paper boxes filled with meticulously printed photographs. You feel Arlene's presence surrounding you, knowing each photo box was opened by her, the prints were carefully and artfully created in the darkroom with her hands, and her photographs were organized in series that often tell amazing stories. Besides the physical space needed to safely house these irreplaceable gems, there is the time-consuming process of digitally documenting and cataloging all of Arlene's work, making it accessible to a broader audience.

→







CONEY ISLAND 1980

Photography and words by Hazel Hankin

Coney Island was always part of my life as a New Yorker.

As a child growing up in Brooklyn, it was a place of wonder to me. Alluring, a little bit scary, a dazzle of exotic sights, sounds, and tastes — it was a world that seemed to exist completely outside of normal life. In my teens, I made nighttime jaunts with friends to go on rides and eat at Nathan's.

Coney Island was in decline in the late 1970s when I made it the subject of my first long-term photography project. In my mid-twenties by this time, the amusement park theatrics still drew me in. But I was also interested in using my camera to explore what was behind the carnivalesque façade. I loved Coney Island for its pluck, for its funk. I was touched by its air of faded glory, amused by its visual ironies, and heartened at the persistence of its unique brand of popular culture, carrying on stubbornly in the face of poverty and neglect. New York City was in a fiscal crisis, but hard times notwithstanding, the people still came. They rode the subway to the end of the line to scream on the Cyclone, swing in the sky on the Wonder Wheel, and wolf down Nathan's franks, fries, and clams. Summertime. Sand in their shoes.

In the 1980s, artists who were dedicated to preserving Coney Island's offbeat spirit played an important role in helping lift it out of its deepest downturn. Dick Zigun's Mermaid Parade was born in 1983 and is now the largest art parade in the country. I became part of the Coney Island Hysterical Society, a pioneering troupe of artists who created art in, for, and about Coney Island. One of their efforts was 'Spookhouse' — a transformation of a former dark ride into a ride-thru gallery in the dark.

Like New York City itself, Coney Island has multiple layers of history and character. Powerful real estate interests and the politicians who serve them have always been part of its story. It has survived the Great Depression, the Great Recession, the 1918 pandemic, and Superstorm Sandy. The amusement park was shut down for the entire 2020 season due to the Covid pandemic. But it's back again, still a happening thing, the amusement area run largely by families who have been there for generations.

Whatever the future brings for Coney Island, I hope that America's beloved, iconic amusement park will thrive with its distinctive character intact. And as long as I'm able to, I'll be going there, camera in hand.



NEW YORK BEDROOMS

Barbara Peacock opens the door to her New York Bedrooms, illuminating the intimate thoughts revealed through the bodies and souls of her subjects. The naked truth is open for interpretation and inspiration. The confidence and trust shared between the photographer and the subject are unique, allowing the photograph to exist without feeling like it has been created. Its powerful message lies in the authenticity of the moments shared between the photographer and the subjects; this is the magic that Barbara shares with us.

Photography and words by Barbara Peacock





“I never wanted to be a girl. I just wanted to be a cowboy with red lipstick. Now, far away from Texas and all the religious repression of my youth in the ‘70s, I feel powerful and free.”

Dale — Age 48
East Village, New York



“Working hard is easy for us, but winding down takes time. Electronics stay out of the bedroom so we can recharge the natural way, in each other’s arms.”

Karen & Christopher
Brooklyn, New York



A GATED COMMUNITY

Photography and words by Daniel Martinez

In the heart of the Bronx, where opportunities can be scarce, I discovered a passion that transcended the boundaries of my neighborhood.

'A Gated Community' is more than a photo series; it's a visual journey capturing the vibrant soul of my local basketball courts. Growing up here, I realized that not everyone had access to diverse career paths. When I picked up a camera at 15 years old, it not only kept me out of trouble but also opened my friends' eyes to the world of photography.

'A Gated Community' immerses you in the heartbeat of our summers, showcasing the emotions, bonds, and unique camaraderie found on these courts. It's not just about documenting moments but providing my community with an artistic experience they wouldn't have access to otherwise.

From the project's inception in 2014 until now, the subjects in my photos have experienced the inevitable passage of time — some have passed away, others have relocated from the Bronx, and a few embraced fatherhood. Witnessing these diverse life journeys only deepened the significance of this project for me. Despite the negative perceptions associated with growing up in the Bronx, the reality is that, like any community, we are a collective of individuals striving to carve out identities and make a mark in the world.

My goal extends beyond the lens — I aim to bring the arts to my small neighborhood, unveiling the beauty that exists amid challenges. As I work towards completing 'A Gated Community', I envision an art show within the very basketball court that inspired it all. I want people to feel the authenticity and rawness captured in every photo, showcasing the true essence of the community that raised me.





WE ASKED THE PICTORIAL COMMUNITY

**WHAT DOES
NEW YORK
MEAN TO YOU?**

Alexandra Avlonitis | *United States*
Amy Horowitz | *United States*
B Jane Levine | *United States*
Ben Maciej Pawlowski | *Germany*
Brett Beaudry | *United States*
Carlos Granados | *Germany*
Carol Dronsfield | *United States*
Chanda Hall | *United States*
Colleen Cavanagh | *United States*
David Stock | *United States*
Dean Goldberg | *United States*
Erika Anna Schumacher | *Germany*
Eva Mallis | *United States*
Gino Ricardo | *The Netherlands*
Gwen Julia | *United States*
Jaejoon Ha | *South Korea*
Jean Ross | *United States*
Jeff Rothstein | *United States*
Jenny Cardoni | *United States*
Johanna Lindsay | *United States*
Lele Bissoli | *Italy*
Lori Hillsberg | *United States*
Luis Lacau | *United States*
Manuel Castaneda | *United States*
Marci Lindsay | *United States*
Marilyn Strauss | *United States*
Mark Zilberman | *United States*
Missy Brinkmeyer | *Ireland*
Monika K. Adler | *United Kingdom*
Nadine Flatt | *Sweden*
Natalia Rudychev | *United States*
Nicolette Conti | *United States*
Nuria Mendoza | *United States*
Parvathi Kumar | *United States*
Paul Kessel | *United States*
Rich Wexler | *United States*
Rita Travers | *United States*
Robert Guanci | *United States*
Robert White | *United Kingdom*
Rouven Kurz | *Germany*
Sandra Fine | *United States*
Sebastien Jean | *The Netherlands*
Sramaga | *United States*
Steve Jacobson | *United States*
Taryn Barling | *Ireland*
Tom Minty | *United States*
Tom Roman | *United States*
Tony Goldstone | *United Kingdom*
Wendy Connett | *United States*
Willie Velazquez | *United States*



Going for a ride on the NYC Subway Fashion Line.

ALEXANDRA AVLONITIS





My favorite thing about New York is the people, because I think they're misunderstood and I don't think people realize how kind New York people are - Bill Murray and me.

AMY HOROWITZ



Eclipsed by the moon in Times Square!

B JANE LEVINE





NYC: Where all great romance movies are made.

WILLIE VELAZQUEZ



THE PICTORIAL TEAM



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& AUTHOR

Newcastle, Australia



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EDITOR

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EDITORIAL DIRECTOR & AUTHOR

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IBI GOWON
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London, United Kingdom



KARIN SVADLENAK GOMEZ
EDITOR

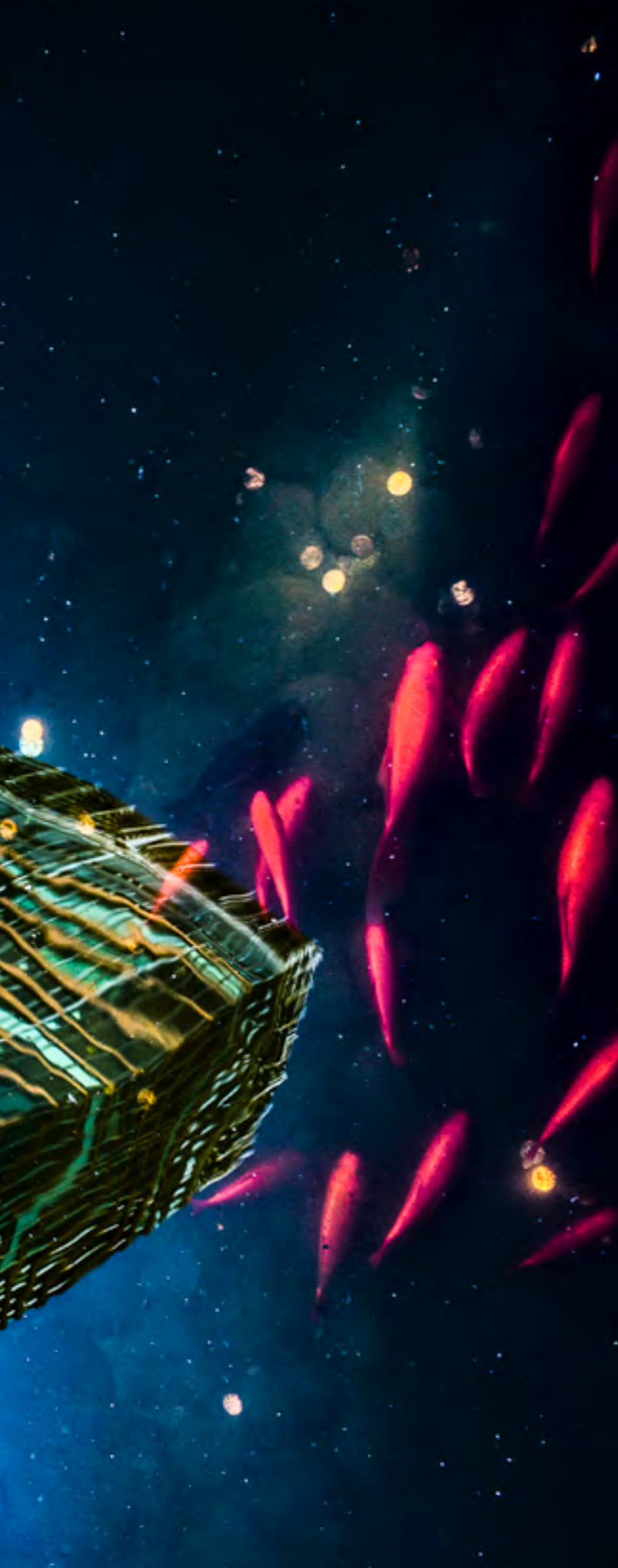
Vienna, Austria



JOHN ST.
COMMUNITY MANAGER

Adelaide, Australia





THE PICTORIAL LIST was born with a mission close to its heart: to nurture and celebrate the global community of photographers and visual storytellers. Inspired by the Pictorialist movement, we set out to support photographers worldwide, providing them with a creative platform to share their unique photographic expressions.

Our inaugural book is a love letter from our vibrant photography community in the state of New York. From the quiet corners of small towns to the bustling streets of the city, from iconic landmarks to breathtaking landscapes, we celebrate 76 photographers exploring the nuances of New York, capturing the essence of what drives the Pictorialists of today. Let their unique visual storytelling inspire you to rediscover the beautiful diversity of New York in new ways through the lens.

*MELANIE MEGGS &
KAREN GHOSTLAW POMARICO*



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