Morris Museum Challenges Stereotypes of New Jersey Life through Contemporary Photography Exhibition



Dorie Dahlberg, Ruins: Cycling In The Casino. Asbury Park, New Jersey. PH21 Gallery, Budapest Hungary.

MORRISTOWN, NJ, UNITED STATES, September 10, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- In a forthcoming major exhibition project, candid photography—unscripted, unposed images taken from everyday life—by eleven contemporary artists explore the lives lived in the nation's most densely populated and ethnically diverse state. Garden State Lens (opens October 16, 2026) presents scenes of New Jerseans going about their everyday lives. We see them raise their families, earn a living, come together as a community, and enjoy the state's great outdoors. Powerful images—some printed at titanic scale, others more modestly sized—upend the typecast idea of our state through popular television shows and social media. More than 100 photographs on view instead offer nuanced and authentic glimpses of the incredible human tapestry that makes contemporary life in the state so exceptional.

"We are excited to see how today's street photographers draw on their neighborhoods and communities and create remarkable works of art," said Thomas J. Loughman, the Museum's President & CEO. "When our curator Bryant Small brought this idea forward, there was no hesitation; we knew we needed to explore this important vein of creativity. This provocative and beautiful exhibition emerges from great work happening in our State today."

From a visual chronicle of the Cowtown Rodeo to the elegance of the state's monumental industrial sites such as the IMTT Bayonne Terminal and attendees at a lively street festival in Jersey City, the photographers—each active in New Jersey today, and working in color and black and white media—ply their talent in capturing a snapshot of contemporary life in the state. Among the Museum's collections, there is an important cache of photographs and photographic equipment that will be included in the exhibition. As a powerful counterpoint to today's photography, a portfolio commissioned by the Museum in 1997 by Barbara Beirne as a photo

essay on the work of the Community Foodbank of NJ will be installed along with a selection of vintage cameras.

Participating artists include: Ben MacMaster, Christy Warren, Cynthia Egle, Dorie Dahlberg, Edward Fausty, Eric James Montgomery, Frank Hanavan, Jean Paul Picard, Joya Angola Thompson, Sean Burns, and Tolu Olasoji.

Associate Curator Bryant Small organized this exhibition for the Morris Museum.

About the Morris Museum

The Morris Museum thrives as the region's premier engine of curiosity and wonderment. Founded in 1913 and located on 8 acres in Morris Township, New Jersey, since the mid-1960s—the museum draws visitors across the region to its dynamic and acclaimed art exhibitions program and performing arts events. Its 45,000+ object collection of art and material culture from around the world joins the art of our time in displays throughout the Museum's purpose-built spaces and within the historic Twin Oaks mansion, designed by McKim, Mead & White. The Morris Museum: from everywhere, for everyone.

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