



## FOCUS 2018 FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

### JUROR'S STATEMENT

"Among the hundreds of entries submitted to FOCUS 2018, twenty-one photographers stood out for their clarity of vision, innovation, and engagement with photographic history. This selection includes examples of both digital and analogue techniques, pointing to the "anything goes" spirit of our current moment in which lens-based images are created from a wide variety of strategies. The presence of photograms, cyanotypes, and Polaroid film demonstrates how contemporary photographers often use analogue methods to make relevant images in our largely digital world.

The pool of submissions features many remarkable projects. Certain portraitists captured unposed moments in intimate domestic settings, while others explored specific neighborhoods and places where they documented individuals in their local public spaces or professional environments. Other photographers bring a cinematic sensibility to their interior scenes and architectural subjects, which often serve as proxies for psychological and emotional explorations and an avenue for social critique. Landscape photographs detailing the depth and breadth of America are laced with environmental concern and the aura of a bygone era. A selection of complex still-life photographs engages with the historical roots of the genre as well as reveals conceptual strategies that nudge viewers to create narratives and form personal interpretations of the objects on display.

Whether photographing people, places, or things, the artists highlighted in this exhibition adeptly bring our world into focus. " *-Kelly Sidley, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Photography, Museum of Modern Art*