

3rd Annual Books & Readers Group Show

Leah Abrahams



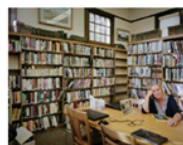
Mildred Alpern



Ellen Feldman



Susan Higgins



Charles Mintz

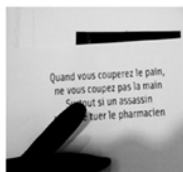
Fern Nesson

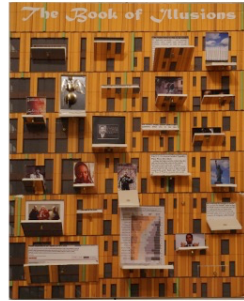
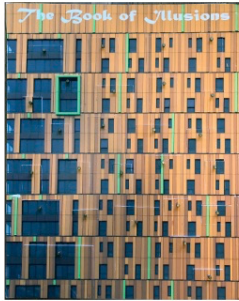
Wayne Palmer

Jaye Phillips

Lawrence Schwartzwald

Yuliia Zaluzhna





Leah Abrahams

(l to r) Book of Illusions, Closed; Book of Illusions, Open; Last Reader; Learning to Read...Sunday

Digital c-prints, 11x14", (Learning to Read is 12x14", open editions, prints: \$150

Artist Statement:

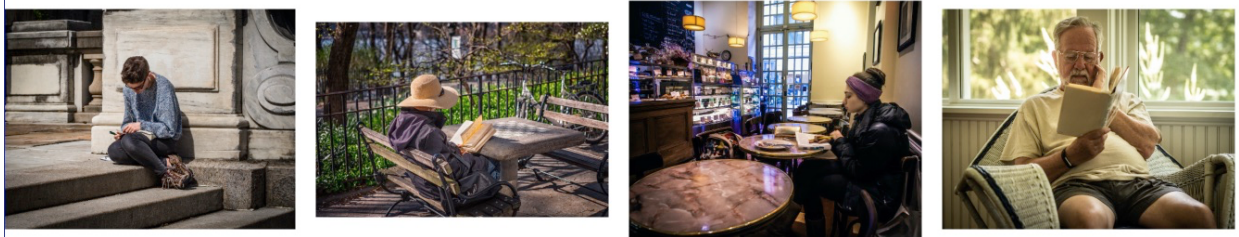
I had just finished reading Paul Auster's *Book of Illusions* and was inspired to create my own version. I wanted to examine the illusions in everyday life that serve as propaganda and explore what they mean and whether they are true. How to show it visually? The concept of an interactive Advent Calendar, with windows that open to reveal an illustration or saying, beckoned. After photographing a striking Boston building with its mixture of windows and colorful façade designs, I collected photos (mine and other sources) and quotes that relate to our illusions in our society. My message: both words and pictures can be deceiving.

What is the future of physical books? Technology and devices enable reading, but how much will the next generation forfeit if they never experience the delight of turning pages, randomly reading, holding the same book in their hands that their parent read? They'll never know.

Artist Bio:

Leah Abrahams is a Boston-based fine art photographer with a wide variety of photographic interests—from portraits to abstract to the common scenes of everyday life as well as the exotica of travel photography. Her one-woman show: "Russian Faces and Places," was exhibited in California and the Midwest; "China: From Mao to Now—1979 and 2012," a collaboration, was exhibited as 2D and in multimedia format; "Cuba on the Cusp" was included in Social Documentary's online exhibition.

Leah's work has appeared in juried shows throughout the US including: Neville Public Museum, Green Bay WI; Art League of Rhode Island; the Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins CO and Uforge Gallery, Boston MA. She has received recognition for her photography from: the Lucie, the Color Awards and Women in Photography International. Her work is in the collections of the Neville Public Museum, corporations, public institutions and private collectors.



Mildred Alpern

(l to r) Curled Up, Brimmed Hat, Pencil Assist; Concentration

Digital C Prints, open edition, Print: \$650

Artist Statement

My "Readers" photographs stem from my fascination with the reader as a solitary and silent figure who is transported into a private world through the mental process of deciphering elaborate markings on a physical surface. Readers assume varied poses in their temporary state of quietude. We cannot know the thoughts of readers engaged in their activity. Even their poses do not give them away. Nor do the varied settings in which they pursue reading. It is best neither to disturb nor startle a reader, but to respect the private bubble in which they reside. Photographing a reader tends to be circumspect, from a distance or closeup. Afterwards rich details may emerge in the scene, not noticeable at the taking.,

Artist Bio

Mildred Alpern was born and grew up in Boston, Mass, a graduate of Boston University. After graduation, she moved to New York and worked as an economic researcher and high school and college European History teacher. Upon retirement, she found a passion in photograph upon receiving a four pixel Canon Elph digital camera as a Christmas gift. Photographing Christo and Jeanne-Claude "The Gates" installation in Central Park in 2005 was her foray into the image-making world. Now armed with Olympus mirrorless cameras, and living between New York City and Copake, NY, she shoots people and city streets in the urban setting and landscapes and farm animals in the rural one. Her photos have appeared in a number of curated exhibitions, both national and international.



Ellen Feldman

(l to r) Reading in Jardin de Luxembourg, Reading While Young, Reading at a Political Rally, Reading While Old

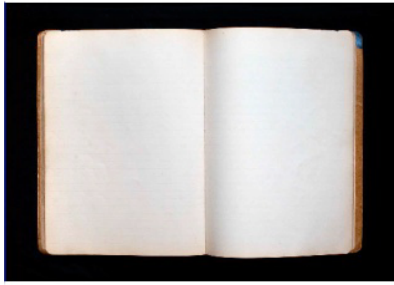
Digital c-prints, 16"x24", editions of 7, print: \$325

Artist Statement

I am a reader—mostly of novels. Or rather, I used to be, when I seemed to have all the time in the world. I'd lie in my bed, propped up on my elbow, and read for hours--as a kid, Saroyan and Spyri; as a teen, Wolfe and Salinger; as an adult I range from Brontë to Woolf and beyond (now sitting in a straight-backed chair). I read to immerse myself in the lives of others, who leap from the page directly to my heart and soul, perhaps with a pause for me to relish the wonder of the writer's art. When I see people out in the world engrossed in reading, I feel a certain kinship and a longing to be home doing the same. When I see people out in the world engrossed in reading, I can't join them but I can photograph them in the act.

Artist Bio

Ellen Feldman is a long-time street photographer, photo-artist, curator, and book maker; her work has appeared in many solo and group exhibits. Her latest book is "We Who March: Photographs and Reflections on the Women's March, January 21, 2017." Feldman is Photography Editor of Women's Review of Books and holds a Ph.D. in Cinema Studies from NYU.



Susan Higgins

(l to r) Blank Slate, Waterloo, Open Book

Archival pigment prints.

Blank Slate: 13x19" on 17x22" paper, edition of 3, 2016, \$725

Waterloo, 10x15" on 13x19" paper, edition of 7, \$525

Open Dictionary, 9x21" on 17x22" paper, edition of 7, \$625h

Artist Statement:

I am, at heart, interested in human behavior and purpose. What makes us who we are? What do we choose to surround ourselves with? How do we see the world? My images tend to reflect those things that are culturally empowered to entice us and define us. Things of our daily existence, that we can position, touch and examine; things we wonder about, remember or connect to in some way.

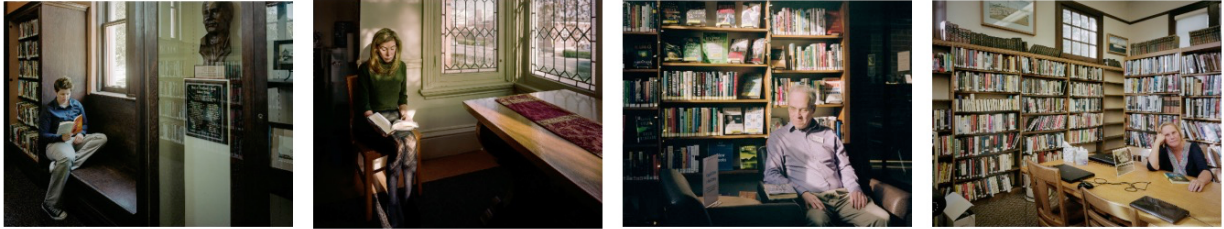
My world is one of ideas, of reflection, of art, science and humanity. I can think of few things more central to me than the book and the written word. In these photographs, I am attracted to the symmetry of a binding, the feel and smell of thin pages, the embossing of the letters, the text, itself, the used of decorative type, endpapers, and the empty page which challenges the committing hand to paper.

Artist Bio:

Susan Higgins of Hudson NY trained as an academic, researcher and thinker. She views photography as a way to frame aspects of the world for reflection over time from multiple perspectives. Drawn to its immediacy, flexibility and possibility, Higgins sees the photograph as an inherently personal exchange between the photographer and viewer.

Her work has been selected for venues such as: Spencertown Academy, Spencertown NY, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox MA, ArtSpace, New Haven, Site: Brooklyn, Westport (CT) Art Center, CT Academy of Fine Art. It is represented in a number of private collections and is represented in the FlatFile at ArtSpace New Haven.

Higgins studied independently and at the Rayko Center in San Francisco with Meghan Riepenhoff and other Bay Area photographers.



Charles Mintz

(from left) *The Sun Also Rises*, St. Petersburg FL pop. 33,7113; *The Stories of Ray Bradbury*, Norwalk CT pop. 89,047; *Man Called Ove*, Goldendale WA pop. 3407, *The Secret of the Old Clock*, Avon NJ pop 1,780.

Archival inkjet prints, editions of 20, 22"x28", prints: \$350, framed in homemade (by artist) mahogany frames: \$500.

Artist Statement

Between 1883 and 1929 Andrew Carnegie funded the creation of 2500 "Carnegie Libraries", 1700 of which were in the United States. It amounted to over a billion dollars in today's funds. Carnegie was an emblem of the gilded age and a ruthless businessman. Here we are roughly a century later and the civic value of these libraries is immense. In each image, there is a librarian with a favorite book.

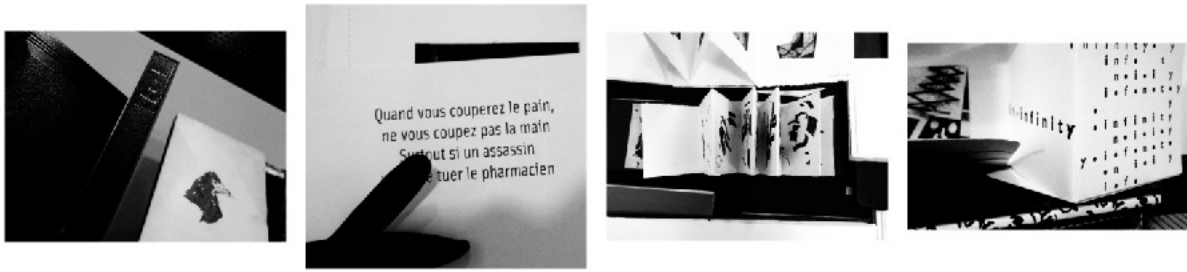
The project is not about buildings; it is about the culture of these places. It is about the people who use them and the librarians who are their guides.

Artist Bio

Chuck Mintz studied photography at Maine Photographic Workshop, Parsons School of Design, International Center for Photography, Lakeland Community College and Cuyahoga Community College. He has a BSEE from Purdue University and an MSEE from Cleveland State University.

He is the former board chair of ICA—Art Conservation in Cleveland, OH and board member of the Cleveland Museum of Art – Friends of Photography. He also serves on advisory boards at the Cleveland Print Room and the Artists Archive of the Western Reserve. Chuck is a Life Director at Jewish Family Services of Cleveland.

His work can be found in museums, including the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and private and corporate collections in North America, Europe and Asia. Mintz was awarded an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award for 2017 & 2015.



Fern Nesson

(from left) Nevermore, L'Assassin, (My Heart is an) Open Book, Infinity

Archival pigment prints, 16"x24", \$1200

Artist Statement

Artists' books are a unique gift to book lovers. Not only do they create meaning with words, they offer added engagement through design and form. An artists' book speaks to our senses and our minds. For me as a photographer, the gift is even more profound. To bring an artist's book to life in another medium without detracting from its sculptural nature is a challenge and a joy.

Artist Bio

Fern L. Nesson of Cambridge, MA is a fine art photographer whose spare photographs distill reality to its essence, highlighting its energy through placement of forms and the use of abstraction.

Fern's photographs were exhibited in solo exhibitions at Les Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles, France; the MIT Museum; The MetaLab at Harvard; Beacon Gallery in Boston; Auburn Gallery in Los Angeles and on artsy.net. Her works have been selected for juried exhibitions at galleries in Boston, New York, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Middlebury, Vt. And Rockport, ME and at the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester MA. Fern's photobook, *Signet of Eternity*, was chosen for the 10th Annual Photobooks show at the Davis-Orton Gallery and the Griffin Museum. She is also a regular contributor of historical photo essays to the LivingNewDeal.org and of cultural photo essays to BonjourParis.com and FranceToday.com.

She received her an MFA in Photography from Maine Media College (2018), a J.D. from Harvard Law School (1971), and an M.A. in American History from Brandeis University. (1987).



Wayne Palmer

A Good Book

Archival inkjet print, 12"x9" image on 14"x11" paper. Print: \$300

Artist Statement

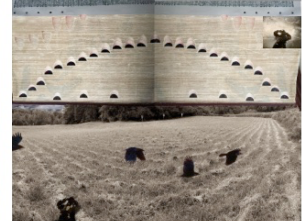
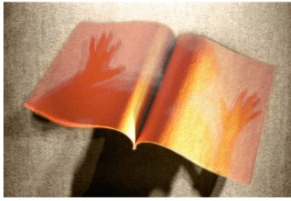
My work explores the intersection between the urban environment and the human experience. I am intrigued by found objects in natural light and am drawn to people in their unguarded moments on the street.

I'm sensitive to scenes of casual poetry when, for an instant, the image offers resonance greater than the sum of its parts. The resonate experience is deeply satisfying and is the core reason why I continue to take my cameras out onto the New York streets every day.,

Artist Bio

For Wayne Palmer street photography and television news have been parallel paths of life in New York. At WNET (PBS) Wayne directed national news and public affairs programs such as The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, Bill Moyers' Journal and countless others. At the same time he photographed the streets and people of New York with black and white film and digital color, which he continues today.

Wayne's photographs have been exhibited and honored around the world, including Miami Street Photography Festival/Art Basel, Davis Orton Gallery, The Center For Fine Art Photography, PH21 Gallery Budapest Hungary, Los Angeles Center of Photography, Fine Art Photography Awards London, International Color Awards, Black and White Spider Awards, published in Places Journal and Neutral Density Magazine and acquired by the Museum of the City of New York. Most recently Wayne was accepted into the 2020 Photo Review International Competition.



Jaye Phillips

(from left) *Book Verse*, *Hibiscus Verse*, *crow Verse*, *Solstice Verse*

Archival pigment prints, 11"x14", open editions, \$400

Artist Statement

I have been photographing books for many years, they hold and tell stories. Books inspire and breathe. And I sense a moving exchange of boundaries between artist and reader. The "Book and Reader" theme for me has been very personal. When the Covid-19 virus spread and we went into lockdown, I wore facemasks and practiced social distance. Unintentionally, my photography work became way more colorful. Daily I watered and photographed my deck hibiscus plants and delighted in their passages of shedding, spiraling and surprising.

Artist Bio

Jaye Phillips is fine art and performance photographer living in Arlington, MA.

Her photographs are included in the Polaroid International Collection and the Harvard Theatre Arts Collection. They have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions including at Harvard University, Addison Gallery of American Art, and the DeCordova Art Museum. Her most recent group show was in Half the Sky at LuXun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang, China. Jaye's images have appeared in the New York Times Book Review, Art Forum and Time is not Even, Space is not Empty published by the Walker Art Center, and Zapotec Weavers of Teotitlan published by the Museum of New Mexico Press.

She has photographed professionally for dance companies including Boston Ballet, Streb/SLAM, Eiko and Koma, and the Institute of Contemporary Art/Art and Dance series. Jaye studied photography with Minor White at MIT and studio art at the Museum of Fine Arts School /Boston.



Lawrence Schwartzwald

The Tattooed Woman with Book Bag, SoHo, 2015

Silver gelatin print, image size 19.5"x12.5" on 23.5"x16.5" paper. #3 of 25 +1AP
Print: \$2400, Framed: \$2600 (wood frame, Plexiglas, with mat: 23.5"x16.5")

Artist Statement

The Tattooed woman with Book Bag in Soho, July 2015, is part of my *The Art of Reading*, hardcover, collection, published by Steidl in 2018. It is a collection of candid images of readers of books (and newspapers) in public, mostly in New York, but in other countries and cities also. A candid image of Amy Winehouse from 2007 in the now closed Cafe Florent is on the cover. The series is partly inspired by Andre Kertesz's *ON READING*, published in 1971.,

Artist Bio

Born in New York in 1953, Lawrence Schwartzwald studied literature at New York University. He worked as a freelance photographer for The New York Post for nearly two decades and in 1997, New York Magazine dubbed him the Post's "king of the streets." Books and literature have shaped several of his photo series. *The Art of Reading*, hardcover, was published by Steidl in 2018.



Yuliia Zaluzhna

(l to r) Reading Table, Perfect Choice

Archival pigment prints, 11x14", open editions, \$125

Artist Statement

In modern world technology replacing actual books. Less and less people buy printed book and even sadder less people actually read books for pleasure and entertainment.

Artist Bio

Yuliia Zaluzhna is a photographer who uses the photographic medium to describe and show what words cannot.