Press Release
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Aftermath - Kerry Mansfield
Seeing Through: Stories about Cancer & Connection
Michael Shindler collaboration with Help Each Other Out

December 4, 2014 – January 24, 2015, Opening Reception: December 4th, 6 – 8 PM

SF Camerawork is proud to present two exhibitions addressing breast cancer and the power of photography as a tool for understanding and supporting those battling the disease.

In the award-winning series Aftermath, San Francisco-based photographer Kerry Mansfield courageously documents her two-year journey through breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and reconstructive surgery. Mansfield was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 31 and soon learned that women in their 30s are the fastest growing group of people with breast cancer in the United States. Shocked to be facing this unexpected and frightening disease, Mansfield searched for information about what her immediate future would look like and found that the photographic documentation she was looking for didn’t exist. It was this that inspired the series that would become Aftermath. Mansfield’s intention was to not only help guide herself through the harrowing journey, but to create a direct, visual record of her experience so that others could better understand what it means to battle breast cancer. The honesty and artistry of Aftermath have earned Mansfield several awards including a Lucie International Photography Award, LensCulture’s Single Image Grand Prize, and the Worldwide Photography Gala Award.

Supporting women in the fight against breast cancer is the focus of a collaborative project between photographer Michael Shindler and the social venture Help Each Other Out. Shindler, a San Francisco artist known for his work with the 19th century photographic tintype technique, has been working with Help Each Other Out to create a series of community-focused posters. Working in partnership with Bay Area Young Survivors of Breast Cancer, Shindler photographed young women with breast cancer. His portraits were then paired up with stories of small and large
community gestures that helped cancer survivors through their treatment, and made into posters for “Poster Bombing” neighborhood projects that aim at increasing awareness and empowerment. This exhibition will feature Shindler’s original tintypes, the collaborative posters, and an interactive installation titled “Share What Works” to encourage community engagement.