FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SF Camerawork Presents Two Panel Discussions in Conjunction with the Exhibit FORECAST2021

Uncovering Histories, Crystallizing Memory: Photography and Place Making
Online Conversation with Katina Alexopolos, Trent Bozeman, and Jamie Robertson
Moderated by Delphine Sims
Tuesday, March 22, 2022, from 6 - 7:30 pm PDT
Program is Free. Register here.

Tearing Down Stereotypes: Christian K. Lee and Stephen Shames on Undermining Media Bias
Moderated by Dr. Travis L. Dixon
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 6 - 7:30 pm PDT
Program is Free. Register here.

(San Francisco, CA, February 16, 2022) – Join SF Camerawork in March and April for two panel conversations organized in conjunction with SF Camerawork’s ongoing online exhibition FORECAST2021 on view at https://sfcamerawork.org/forecast-2021 through May 1st.

The first panel, Uncovering Histories, Crystallizing Memory: Photography and Place Making on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, from 6 - 7:30 pm PDT, organized and presented by SF Camerawork, features three FORECAST 2021 artists whose works engage in the investigation of histories of place, Katina Alexopolus, Trent Bozeman, and Jamie Robertson, and is moderated by Delphine Sims, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, Photographs Department, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2021-2023 Wyeth Fellow, CASVA, and Ph.D. Candidate, History of Art, University of California, Berkeley.

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ABOUT THE PANELISTS:

Katina Alexopulos processes grief and contains memory, through a series of diptychs that address memory, family connections, and family history. Presented in diptych form, the images display traces of her beloved family member through objects left behind, alongside images that offer memories and moments of reconnection, and images of the town in which she raised her family. Katina Alexopulos presents a series of diptych photographs that recount a visit she made with her mother back home to Taylor, Texas shortly after her bisabuela’s passing in September 2020. Each diptych presents images that reveal traces of her grandmother’s personal belongings, moments of reconnection among family members, the town she raised her family in, and is layered with her own and family memories. Alexopulos is a film photographer based out of San Francisco, California.

Trent Bozeman presents a sensitive and thoughtful document of members of the Elaine Arkansas community, which from September 30 to October 1, 1919, was the setting for a little-known, but terrible massacre of black inhabitants by white supremacists. His lyrical black-and-white photographs show landmarks around town, and children in moments of play and reflection while showcasing the resiliency and energy of a community not too far removed from tragedy. Trent Bozeman is a lens-based artist currently based in Northwest Arkansas. Coming from a journalism background, he is interested in how history is reshaped, documented, and preserved. Bozeman uses his practice as a tool to aid in the act of remembering his past and the past of others. His current work and the work on view in the exhibition is based in the Mississippi Delta in the small town of Elaine, Arkansas. His past work explores Gullah sea islands communities, specifically Wadmalaw Island, and the memories that continue to prolong their cultural significance.

Jamie Robertson investigates place as a receptacle for memory in her project, Charting the Afriscape of Leon County, Texas, an autobiographical examination of her family history that brings together her documentary photographs sometimes with images from her family archive. Using as inspiration the Bantu-Kongo ideogram Dikenga dia Konga; a symbol and philosophy of life cycles, Robertson creates a narrative in which time and place fold and intersect. Robertson is a visual artist and educator. Her creative practice is an autobiographical examination of history and identity in the African Diaspora through the mediums of photography and video. Her work was featured in The Wheaton Biennial.

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For the second panel, *Tearing Down Stereotypes: Christian K. Lee and Stephen Shames on Undermining Media Bias* on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 6 - 7:30 pm PDT, FORECAST2021 artist Christian K. Lee and documentary photographer Stephen Shames will speak about their work in the context of the representation of African-Americans in the media, and will discuss how their practices undermine endemic stereotypes.

Christian K. Lee, whose work is featured in the FORECAST2021 exhibit, presents formal, large-format camera portraits of black gun owners who legally own guns for sport, hobby, and protection with dignity and sensitivity as a counter-argument to negative media stereotypes. Stephen Shames’s late 1960s-early 70s in-depth document of the Black Panther Party by someone with unprecedented access is an intimate look at members of this revolutionary political group who sought racial equity through protest and by offering valuable social programs to their community. The program is moderated by Dr. Travis L. Dixon, Director of Graduate Study and Professor in the Department of Communication, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**ABOUT THE PANELISTS:**

**Dr. Travis L. Dixon** is a media effects scholar who specializes in investigating the prevalence of stereotypes in the mass media and the impact of stereotypical imagery on audience members. He has been honored as a faculty fellow with UIUC's Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society and he was the 2013 Visiting Philanthropy Faculty Scholar at the Clinton School of Public Service. Dr. Dixon has received 7 top paper awards from the National Communication Association and the International Communication Association.

He has also received a top article award from the National Communication Association. Dr. Dixon serves on the editorial boards of *Communication Research, Howard Journal of Communications, Media Psychology, and the Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*. Much of Dr. Dixon's work has been...
focused on racial stereotyping in television news. His more recent investigations examine the content and effects of stereotypes and counter-stereotypes in major news events, online news, and musical contexts.

Christian K. Lee is a documentary photographer born in Chicago, Illinois. He has a B.S. in Journalism from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and his work has been published in *Rolling Stone, The Washington Post, The Guardian,* and the *National Geographic,* among others. An award-winning photographer, his work has been honored by the Sony World Photography Awards, Critical Mass Top 50, Arnold Newman Prize, Royal Photographic Society, and Head On Photo Festival. Lee’s goal is to create Art with the purpose of reflecting the world in which he currently lives. He is currently based in Austin, Texas.

Stephen Shames uses his photography to raise awareness of social issues, with a particular focus on child poverty, solutions to child poverty, and race. He is the author of 14 monographs including *Power to the People: The World of the Black Panthers* (Abrams); *Bronx Boys* (University of Texas); *Outside the Dream, Pursuing the Dream, The Black Panthers* (Aperture); *Stephen Shames: Une Retrospective* (Maison de la Photographie Robert Doisneau de Gentilly); *Free Angela, We Are America, I Like You Too, Some People* (Quiddity); *Facing Race* (Moravian College). Shames’s photographs have been included in exhibitions worldwide, among them *Flower of the Word* (group), Kunsthalle Wien Austria (2021); *Hey! What’s Going On*- Black Panther 10-Point Portfolio with Bobby Seale, Fondation Manuel Rivera-Ortiz, Arles, France (2019); *Power to the People,* Kyotographie International Photo Festival, Kyoto, Japan (2018); *Stephen Shames: A Retrospective,* La Chambre, Strasbourg, France (2018); Musée Nicéphore-Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône, France (2017), and Le Centre Culturel Valéry-Larbaud, Vichy, France (2017). Shames’s works are in the permanent collections of 32 major museums, including the Museum of Modern Art; Metropolitan Museum; National Portrait Gallery; Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture; Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

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He has received numerous awards including the Kodak Crystal Eagle Award for Impact in Photojournalism, and PBS named Shames, Lewis Hine, and Marion Post-Wolcott as photographers whose work promotes social change. Shames is represented by Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris and Steve Kasher Gallery, New York; and as a photojournalist by Polaris Images.

Image Credits: Page 1: Jamie Robertson, Big Mama’s House in Egypt Community, Centerville, TX, 2018; Page 2: Trent Bozeman, Waiting for an Echo, 2020; Page 3: Stephen Shames, Panthers on Parade, July 28, 1968; Page 4: Christian K. Lee, Aaron Banks Jr and Sr, Cedar Park, TX, from the series Armed Doesn’t Mean Dangerous, 2021

ABOUT SF CAMERAWORK:
Founded in 1974, SF Camerawork’s mission is to encourage and support emerging artists to explore new directions and ideas in the photographic arts. Through exhibitions, publications, and educational programs, SF Camerawork strives to create an engaging platform for artistic exploration as well as community involvement and inquiry.