“Can we be as brave?” photo exhibit explores identity, self-love and intersectionality—opens May 9

Curated by Lisa Leone, YoungArts Vice President of Artistic Programs and Acclaimed Director and Photographer

WHAT: With “Can we be as brave?” the National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) presents the organization’s second annual alumni exhibition dedicated solely to photography. Featuring the works of 13 YoungArts alumni in Cinematic Arts, Photography and Visual Arts, the show is curated by acclaimed director, photographer and YoungArts Vice President of Artistic Programs Lisa Leone.

“I was attracted to the intimate raw emotion of these photographs, whether they are of a person, a community or environment, they still carry a strong personal connection,” says Leone. “My hope is to invite the viewer to take their own journey within themselves. These photographers took risks in looking at themselves, their families and their communities. They are looking at the past to move into the future. Can we be as brave?”

The works in the exhibition bravely investigate a variety of topics that are connected through multifaceted conversations about family, home and community. The artists examine cultural and historical contexts, self-love, intimacy and humanity, spirituality, and physical and psychological boundaries, and explore personal ideologies and intricacies of representation while championing the idea of multiple stories in lieu of singular viewpoints.

WHO:  
- James Balo (2018 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)  
- Eli Dreyfuss (2016 YoungArts Winner in Photography)  
- Kali Duffy (2017 YoungArts Winner in Photography)  
- Glenn Espinosa (2016 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts)  
- Angela Francis (2014 YoungArts Winner in Photography & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)  
- Nathan Ginter (2018 YoungArts Winner in Cinematic Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)  
- Bria Hamlett (2017 YoungArts Winner in Photography)  
- Haley Hasen (2015 YoungArts Winner in Photography)  
- Alex Mediate (2016 YoungArts Winner in Photography)  
- Sarah Miller (2013 YoungArts Winner in Photography)  
- Derrick Ostolaza (2017 YoungArts Winner in Cinematic Arts)  
- Danny Rosenberg (2011 YoungArts Winner in Cinematic Arts)  
- Liza Wimbish (2018 YoungArts Winner in Photography)

WHEN & WHERE:  
- Opening Reception Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.  
  YoungArts Gallery  
  2100 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL, 33137  
  Complimentary light bites and refreshments provided.  
  Complimentary photo booth activation on-site.  
  The exhibition will remain on view through September 13, 2019
ADMISSION: Free and open to the public with RSVP.

MORE INFO: http://www.youngarts.org/exhibitions

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ABOUT LISA LEONE
Bronx-born Lisa Leone began her career as a photographer shooting musicians Moby, Lauryn Hill and Maxwell, as well as personalities like Debi Mazar and Spike Lee. She worked for British Vogue and VIBE, where she was a contributing photographer and columnist. She has also shot music videos for artists TLC, D’Angelo and The Brand New Heavies. While working on Stanley Kubrick’s last film "Eyes Wide Shut," Kubrick quickly became her mentor.

She continued her cinematography with work on independent films and shows for directors, including Nancy Savoca’s “Dirt” (Showtime); Michael Kang’s “The Motel” (Sundance), Reno’s “Rebel Without a Pause” (Havana Film Festival, Florence Film Festival) and “Citizen Reno” (Bravo). “Exactly” was Leone’s debut film as writer, director and cinematographer. Her work has been shown in exhibitions at HVW8 Art + Design Gallery in Los Angeles; the Galleria Patricia Armocida, Milan; The Andenken Gallery, Amsterdam; Dubai Design District; Leica Gallery; and Gallery 212 in New York City. Her photographs can also be seen in the 2018 released book, “Contact High: A Visual History of Hip-Hop,” which will be view at the Annenberg Space for Photography in April 2019. Lisa serves as vice president of artistic programs for the National YoungArts Foundation.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION
The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, performances, and partnerships with some of the nation’s leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

YoungArts’ signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15–18 or in grades 10–12 from across the United States. Selected through a blind adjudication process, YoungArts winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to $10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Frank Gehry, Wynton Marsalis, José Parlá, Jeanine Tesori, Mickalene Thomas and Salman Rushdie—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation’s leading cultural institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York) and New World Center (Miami). Additionally, YoungArts winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence.

YoungArts winners become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leading professionals in their fields include actresses Viola Davis, Anna Gunn, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Raúl Esparza, Billy Porter, Andrew Rannells and Tony Yazbeck; recording artists Josh Groban, Judith Hill and Chris Young; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton, Jennifer Koh and Elizabeth Roe; choreographers Camille A. Brown and Desmond Richardson; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; New York Times bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winners Doug Blush and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.
To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click here.

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