

PhotoVoice: Reflections

Fall 2018

Josephine Herrick Project &
McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy
and Research's Step-Up Program





"Middle East" by Amna Khan (*above*)

"Reflection" by Gabriela Carmona (*front cover*)

Josephine Herrick Project Step-Up Community PhotoVoice Program

Fall 2018



JH Josephine Herrick PROJECT[®] | TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Through its free photography programs, the Josephine Herrick Project (JHP) works to transform the lives of individuals facing social, physical, and economic barriers in life. We partner with schools, human service agencies, health care facilities, libraries, and community organizations to deliver customized and hands-on digital photography courses taught by professional photographers.

For JHP participants, the camera is a transformative tool, helping individuals build self-confidence and visual literacy, think creatively and critically, engage actively with their communities, tell their own stories, and advocate for themselves, effecting change in their own lives and the world around them.

JHP has existed since 1941, when founder Josephine Herrick was using photography as a rehabilitative process for WWII veterans. While its audience has grown since then, the mission remains the same.





Funded by the Robin Hood Foundation and the New York City Department of Education, Step-Up is a mental wellness and positive youth development program operating within two New York City public schools in East Harlem, and the Bronx. The program provides supportive services for teens experiencing challenges living within low-resourced communities to promote academic achievement and a positive transition to adulthood. Step-Up has served 544 students over the past 9 years from 2008 to 2017. Step-Up aims to address ecological stressors that disproportionately affect Black and Latino youth and their families who are impacted by poverty and violence.

About PhotoVoice

In partnership with the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, the Josephine Herrick Project leads 3-day photo intensives for high school students in the Step-Up program. Students learn the basics of operating a digital camera and composing an image and then apply their new skills by exploring the city around them. As part of the program, PhotoVoice participants come together with students from other high schools to hone their skills, build community, expand their horizons, and share their voices and ideas through the visual language of photography. The images in this exhibition present New York City through the eyes of these young people.



In this workshop, held over a rainy Election Day and Veteran's Day in 2018, students explored the theme of *reflection*, both literally, as they examined the raindrops and puddles collecting on New York City streets, and figuratively, as they thought about their identities reflected in the images they captured.



"Raindrops" by **Cesia Arzu** (*above*)
"Everyday Life" by **Amna Khan** (*right*)





"Color of Life" by **Galay Moran** (*above and right*)





"Reflection" by **Kimberlyn Molina** (*above*)

"Birds" by **Meajay Bell** (*right*)






"Plant Shower" by **Kristen Greaves** (*above*)
"Torn" by **Kimberlyn Molina** (*right*)





"Emergency" by **Misael Arroyo** (*above*)
"Oceans" by **Laurin Pina** (*right*)



**THE OCEANS
ARE RISING
AND SO
ARE WE**



"Union Square" by Cesia Arzu

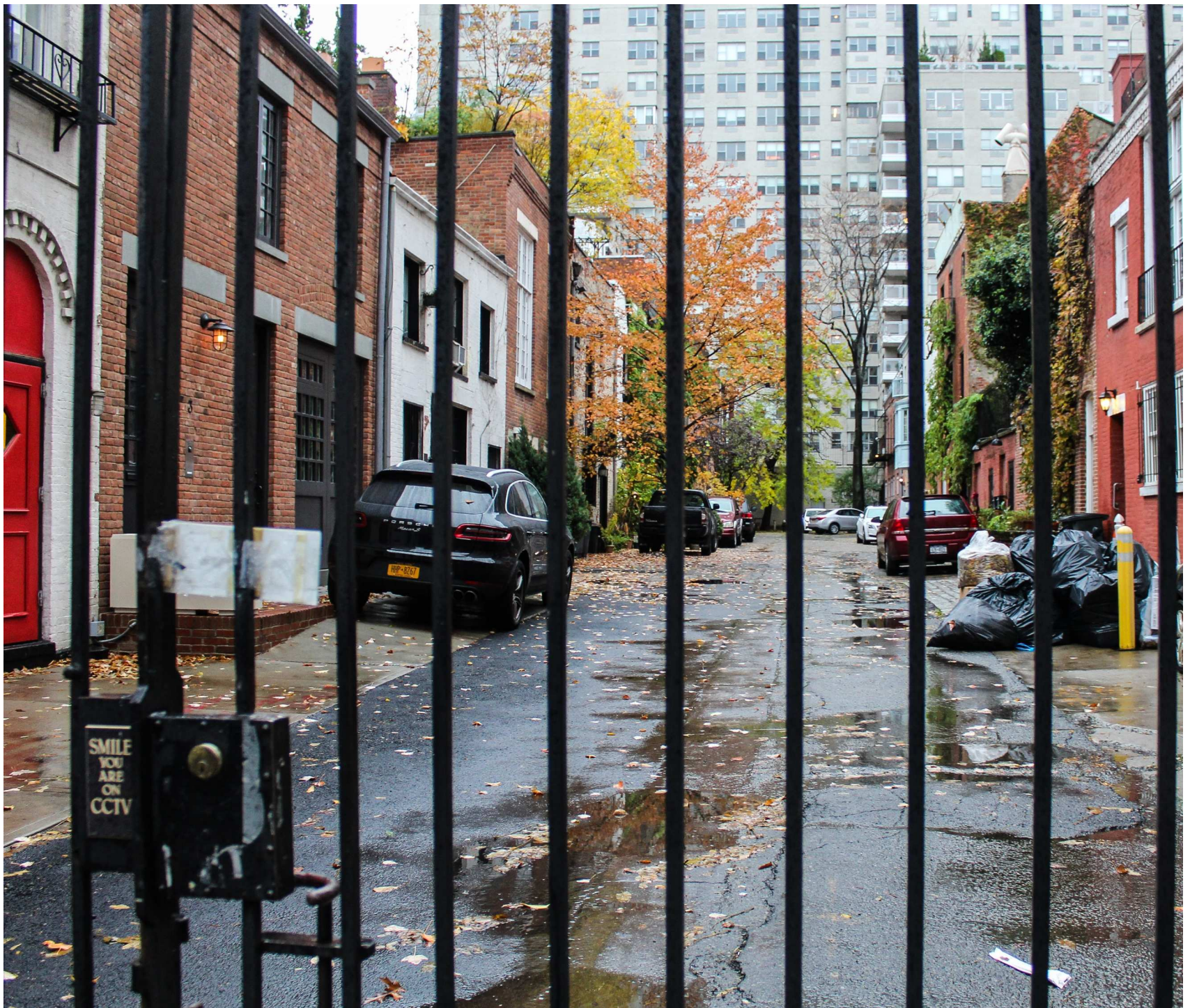


"Happy Ending" by Horace Shelton



"Selfie" by **Laurin Pina** (*above*)

"Bars" by **Gabriela Carmona** (*right*)





"Paradise" by **Damarys Peniche** (*above*)
"Flowers" by **Meajay Bell** (*right*)





"Between" by **Laura Vasquez** (*left*)
"Pride" by **Damarys Peniche** (*right*)





Untitled by Misael Arroyo (above)

"Street Happiness" by Laura Vasquez (right)





"Abstract Distraction" by **Horace Shelton**



Staff

Jessica Wanamaker
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Step-Up Staff

H. Chris Villatoro
Kassia Ringell
Zoila Del-Villar

Step-Up Participants

Misael Arroyo
Cesia Arzu
Meajay Bell
Gabriela Carmona
Kristen Greaves
Amna Khan
Laurin Pina
Kimberlyn Molina
Galay Moran
Damarys Peniche
Horace Shelton
Laura Vasquez





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Back cover image by **Kristen Greaves**

