

**2018 Larry Sultan Photography Award Goes to  
Belgian Photographer Bieke Depoorter**



Bieke Depoorter, from the series *I am about to call it a day*, 2010-14

**San Francisco, CA — September 17, 2018** — In a collaborative partnership with four major Bay Area arts organizations, Belgian photographer Bieke Depoorter has been selected to receive the prestigious 2018 Larry Sultan Photography Award. The award, granted through a partnership of California College of the Arts, Headlands Center for the Arts, Pier 24 Photography, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, consists of a \$10,000 cash award and an artist residency at Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, CA. As the 2018 awardee, Depoorter will engage with the Bay Area photography community by working with students at the California College of the Arts this fall and giving a free, public lecture on November 8, 2018.

**Larry Sultan Photography Award Lecture: Bieke Depoorter**

Thursday, November 8, 7PM | Free and open to the public  
California College of the Arts, Timken Lecture Hall, San Francisco

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Photographer Bieke Depoorter (b. 1986, Belgium) travels the world to find her subjects, creating extraordinarily intimate photographs that straddle portraiture, documentary, and fiction. The relationships she creates with those she photographs are the key to her work. As Depoorter describes it, "The relationships I establish with my subjects are the foundation of my artistic practice.... The resulting stories are always partially mine, partially theirs."

In her early work, Depoorter traveled to far-flung locales in Russia, Egypt, and the United States, befriending locals to photograph. She asked her subjects if she could spend the night in their homes, building rapport and trust that eventually allowed her to capture the mundane, routine, ordinary moments of their lives. Depoorter's first such project, *Ou Menya*, documented her encounters in the homes of locals in Russia. She completed a similar, long-term project in the United States titled *I am about to call it a day*.

In *As It May Be*, a project photographed in Egypt beginning just after the revolution in 2011, she tried to find trust in a time of turmoil and suspicion, in an environment where private life is often shielded. With this project, she also started to question her use of the photographic medium. Conscious of her status as an outsider, she returned to Egypt in 2017 with the first draft of the book, inviting others to write comments directly on the photographs. Contrasting views on country, religion, society, and photography arise among people who would otherwise never engage in a dialogue with one another. In *Sete#15* (2015) and the short film *Dvalemodus* (2017), she began to conceive of her subjects as actors, projecting her own fictional narratives onto her subjects' factual environments, thereby blurring the line between her world and theirs. In her most recent projects, such as the ongoing project *Agata* (2017), Depoorter works even more collaboratively with her subjects.

Depoorter has published four books, and her work has been shown in the United States and Europe, including Photomuseum The Hague, The Netherlands and an upcoming exhibition at FOMU Antwerp, Belgium. She joined the Magnum agency as a nominee in 2012 and a full member in 2016. She is the recipient of the Magnum Expression award and the Prix levallois, among other accolades. Depoorter lives and works in Ghent, Belgium.

## **ABOUT THE LARRY SULTAN PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD**

The Larry Sultan Photography Award was established in 2016 by Pier 24 Photography in partnership with California College of the Arts, Headlands Center for the Arts, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern art. The Award honors the unique vision of American photographer Larry Sultan and his unparalleled impact as an artist, educator, and community member by recognizing one exceptional photographer each year. The Awardee will be in residence at Headlands Center for the Arts alongside a multidisciplinary cohort of Artists in Residence, receive a \$10,000 cash award, and engage meaningfully in the Bay Area photography

community. The Award's has previously been presented to Marco Breuer (2016) and Awoiska Van der Molen (2017).

This Award represents an expansion of the Larry Sultan Visiting Artist Program, which brings a group of six international photographers, writers, and curators to San Francisco each year to offer free public lectures and work directly with students at the California College of the Arts. Both the Award and Visiting Artist Program are made possible through the generous support of Robert Mailer Anderson & Nicola Miner, the Black Dog Private Foundation, Randi & Bob Fisher, Jamie Lunder, Nion McEvoy, Pier 24 Photography, and Jane & Larry Reed.

### **ABOUT LARRY SULTAN**

Raised in the San Fernando Valley, Sultan (1946–2009) moved to Northern California in the early 1970s, but continued to draw inspiration from the architecture, atmosphere and attitude of the Southern California of his youth. A lifelong educator, Sultan taught photography at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) for 10 years (1978–88) and the California College of the Arts (CCA) for 20 years (1989–2009), where he served as a Distinguished Professor of Photography. His work has been exhibited and published widely and is included in the collection of the Tate Modern, the Stedelijk Museum, Fotomuseum Winterthur, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Solomon Guggenheim Museum and SFMOMA, where he was also recognized with the Bay Area Treasure Award in 2005. Sultan passed away in 2009 at the age of 63. From 2014 to 2017, a retrospective of his work—Larry Sultan: Here and Home—traveled to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Milwaukee Art Museum, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

### **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**



### **ABOUT CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**

Founded in 1907, California College of the Arts educates students to shape culture and society through the practice and critical study of art, architecture, design, and writing. Benefitting from its San Francisco Bay Area location, the college prepares students for lifelong creative work by cultivating innovation, community engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

## **ABOUT HEADLANDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

Founded in 1982, Headlands Center for the Arts operates a multidisciplinary, international art center best known for its dynamic public programs and highly lauded artist residency. Located in the coastal wilderness of the Marin Headlands, within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area 15 minutes outside of San Francisco, Headlands' historic nine-building campus is dedicated to process-driven exploration and risk-taking contemporary art in all disciplines. Its year-round programs provide visual artists, performers, musicians, and writers with opportunities for research, professional development, and peer-to-peer exchange at critical times in their careers. In addition, Headlands presents public programs including artist talks, exhibitions, community dinners, performances, and Open Houses, all toward the goal of facilitating meaningful interaction between artists and the public. More at [www.headlands.org](http://www.headlands.org).

## **ABOUT PIER 24 PHOTOGRAPHY**

Located on San Francisco's Embarcadero, Pier 24 Photography provides a quiet, contemplative environment for viewing photographic works. Pier 24 Photography houses the permanent collection of the Pilara Foundation, which is dedicated to collecting, preserving and exhibiting photography. We seek to engage the community through exhibitions, publications, and public programs, and we welcome members of the public, academic institutions, and museum groups for self-guided tours that last up to two hours. Pier 24 Photography is free and open to the public Monday through Friday by appointment.

## **ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is dedicated to making the art for our time a vital and meaningful part of public life. For that reason the museum assembles unparalleled collections, creates exhilarating exhibitions, and develops engaging public programs. In all of these endeavors, SFMOMA is guided by an enduring commitment to fostering creativity and embracing new ways of seeing the world.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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