

EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT

THE YOUNG SERIES PHOTOGRAPHS BY AMY TOUCHETTE

PORTRAITS OF TEENAGERS IN NEW YORK CITY, O'AHU, HAWAII, AND TOKYO, JAPAN



(l to r) New York Young, No. 1, Tokyo Young, No. 1, O'ahu Young, No. 1

PURDUE UNIVERSITY-FORT WAYNE – VISUAL ARTS GALLERY
FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 22, 2019

OPENING RECEPTION WITH THE ARTIST:
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 4PM ARTIST TALK

"Teenagers are raw adults; they're exposed to adult situations, but lack the experience and wisdom that maturity brings, and adult consequences abound. I was transfixed by the extremity of that hybrid, but I also simply wanted to capture what is such a distinct and fleeting time in life—the teen years—regardless of where one lives. —Amy Touchette

Throughout her career, photographic artist **Amy Touchette** has explored connections between humanity, making photographs of people within their social groups and communities. A documentarian and a street photographer, Touchette has utilized the power of photography to create authentic portraits of those who interest her. In 2012, *The New York Times* published images from *New York Young*, Touchette's street portrait series of teenagers in New York City. The newspaper described the work as "a potent mix of street savvy and aching vulnerability ..."

New York Young inspired Touchette to make the same style of portraits of teenagers in O'ahu, Hawaii, and Tokyo, Japan, to discover what teen culture looks like in three disparate island nations. She writes: "Before travel became so ubiquitous, island populations were more sequestered ... their culture would reflect that isolation in that it felt more unified and unique than more dispersed, landlocked settings. Although the world is globalized now, significant remnants of each island culture still exist. I thought that because these three locations had strong and distinct personalities, it would create a more heightened and interesting visual experience."

A solo exhibition of Touchette's three bodies of work focusing on teens, entitled *The Young Series*, will be on view at the **Purdue University-Fort Wayne Visual Arts Gallery** from **February 18 to March 22, 2019**. The work will be displayed in different groupings to invite viewers to actively engage with the photographs, discovering differences and similarities in the postures, fashion, relationships, behaviors, and attitudes of young people from different cultures, ethnicities, and geographic parts of the world.



(l to r) *New York Young, No. 30, Tokyo Young, No. 2, O'ahu Young, No. 2*

In each setting, Touchette wandered the streets with her Rolleiflex film camera until she found teenagers she wanted to photograph. She would introduce herself and ask permission to make their portraits; if they consented, she would take two pictures. For the first frame, she would ask them to look into the lens but otherwise let them assemble naturally. In the second frame, she might give them direction; in either case, the interaction lasted only a couple of minutes. Later, after all her photographing was complete, she began drawing connections between the images by putting certain portraits next to each other and seeing what kind of story they told.



(l to r) *Tokyo Young, No. 8, Tokyo Young, No. 9, Tokyo Young, No. 10*

About the Photographer:

Trained at the International Center of Photography, Touchette began her artistic career as a writer and painter, earning a BA in Literature and Studio Art and an MA in Literature. Her first monograph, *Shoot the Arrow: A Portrait of The World Famous *BOB**, was published and funded by Un-Gyve Press (Boston, 2013). Other publications include *The New York Times*, *The New York Observer*, and *Esquire* magazine, Russia. Her photographs have exhibited nationally and internationally, including MoMA-Moscow, Leica Gallery-Warszawa, Hamburg Triennial of Photography, and in the US embassies in Vienna, Austria, and Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. She has given artist lectures at UCLA Extension, B&H Superstore, School of Visual Arts, the School of the International Center of Photography, among other institutions and offers street photography workshops at the International Center of Photography in New York City and SEEK Workshops in Oaxaca, Mexico. Touchette also works as a freelance photography writer for publications that include *PDN*, *Rangefinder*, and *Emerging Photographer*, and wrote a series about street photography for the tutorial website Envato Tuts+. She is represented by ClampArt in New York City.