

Formerly Was

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Liminal Space

January 14 - February 27, 2021

E. Brady Robinson

Elena Volkova

Jill Fannon

Melvin Nesbitt Jr.

Rodney Choice

Washington, DC - Formerly Was is pleased to present *Liminal Space*, an art exhibition featuring photographic installations by E. Brady Robinson, Elena Volkova, Jill Fannon, and Rodney Choice and collage work by Melvin Nesbitt Jr. The five artists mark,

record, and process a very “unfamiliar” year (2020) with pictures.

About the Work

“2020” is a photographic installation by **E. Brady Robinson** that incorporates intimate moments and personal observations of the social landscape and the natural world. Robinson employs her camera as a diary, using the snapshot aesthetic of small format cameras in her signature style. During pandemic Baltimore, she shares glimpses of her personal life combined with scenes of the public spaces and empty streets. Photographic prints are grouped with intention creating a visual narrative via sequence and juxtaposition.

Meanwhile is a photographic series by **Elena Volkova** that explores the concept of becoming. The images are observations of moments in constant flux, which poetically document what it means to live through the time of the pandemic and to be compelled to get to know one’s place in a deep introspective way. Through the lens of subjectivity, the artist offers glimpses of domestic environments juxtaposed with natural forms, inviting an escapist journey amidst the chaos.

Jill Fannon's *Care in the Garden* is an ongoing photo series of individual accounts and stories of health care workers and those who facilitate care through portraiture, written words, and conversation. The project began during mandated stay-at-home orders in Maryland in early March of 2020, and has relied heavily on distance portraiture and screen-based interactions. The series catalogues those in close physical proximity to others during a time of profound distance. The face of Maria, a nurse in Baltimore, MD, one of the 8 images in the series, is presented “life-size”, allowing the viewer an opportunity for momentary togetherness.

The year 2020 reminded **Rodney Choice** of what initially drew him to photography while growing up in New York City: making pictures of persons in urban environments. The work entitled *DC Streets* is a small representation of his observations of people, protests, and politics during the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. His pictures are dynamic. The content is spontaneous and the artist is present for it.

Poverty and food insecurity weighed heavily on **Melvin Nesbitt Jr.'s** mind as the impacts of the pandemic left many parents without jobs. *Holding Up the Line*, one of the two collage pieces presented by the artist for this show, depicts a boy's sudden awareness of the shame associated with being poor as all eyes watch his mother dig through her purse for just enough change to pay for a single bag of groceries. Continuing with his signature style, Nesbitt centers children in his visual narratives of the latest happenings in American life.

Liminal Space is on view at Formerly Was from January 14 - February 27, 2021. Information on the opening reception coming soon!

Formerly Was - once WAS gallery - is now located in Tenleytown, Washington, DC.

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday

11am - 6pm and by appointment

For more information contact:

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The gallery is a walking distance from either the Tenleytown or Friendship Heights Metro Stations in Washington, DC (5-7 mins walk)

Image: E. Brady Robinson, Rainbow Over Fells, 2020, archival pigment print, 20 x 16 inches on 24 x 18 inch paper, framed