

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

“Photography & _____” + “Hibakusha: A tribute to the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings”

Cultural Weekly · Friday, July 3rd, 2020

Catherine Edelman Gallery is excited to open its doors with two exhibitions: the first artist collaborative exhibition in its 32+ history, “**Photography & _____**,” and **Michael Koerner: “Hibakusha: A tribute to the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings.”** The shows open July 10 and run through September 4, 2020. **To avoid crowds, the opening reception will be from noon – 7:00 pm on Friday, July 10. Many artists will be in attendance throughout the day.**



Constellation, 2020 © Robert ParkeHarrison & John Galt / courtesy Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago

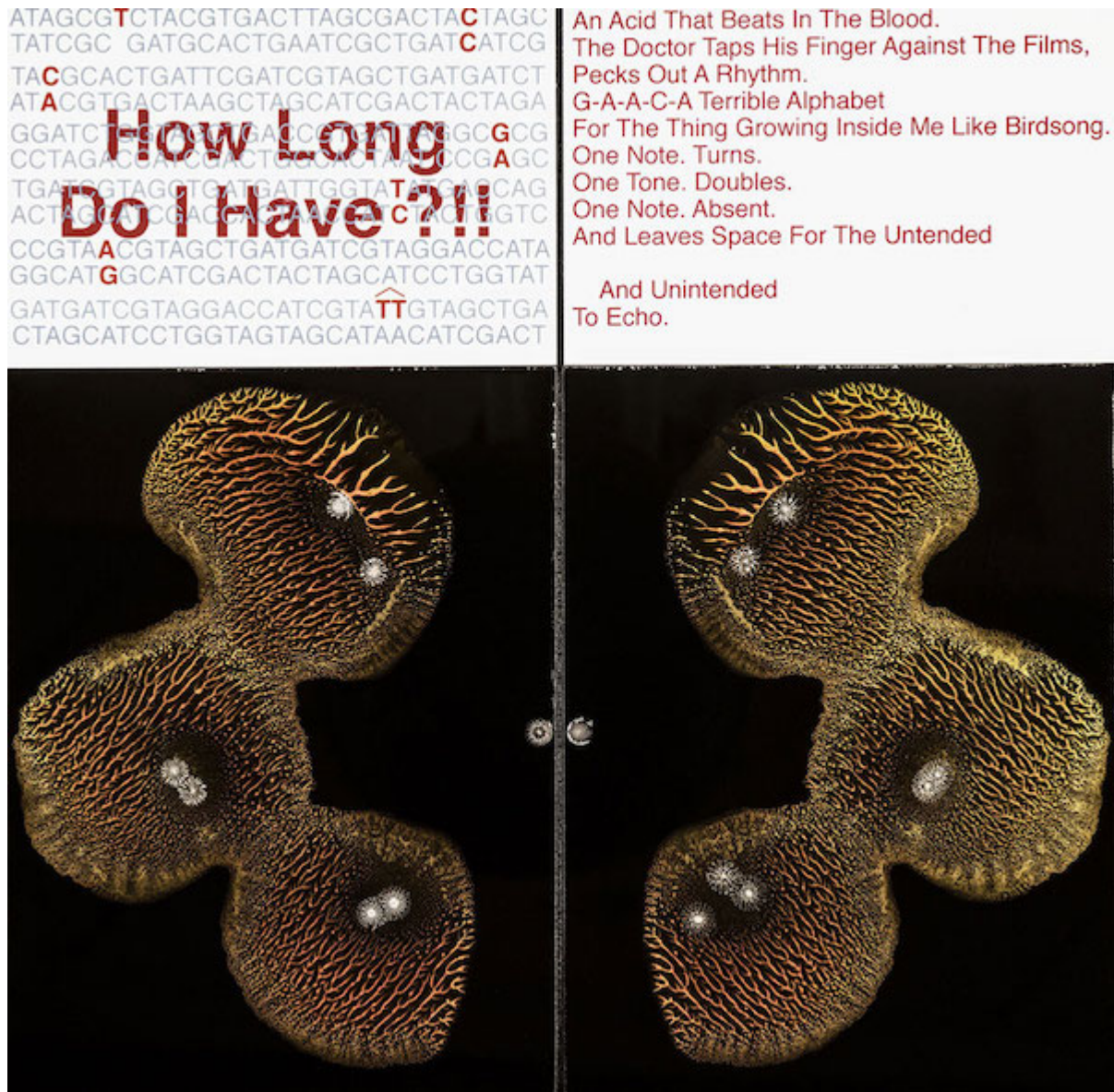


Palm Perplexity, 2020 © Clarissa Bonet & Natalie Krick / courtesy Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago



With the Bur Oak, 2020 © Terry Evans & Aimée Beaubien / courtesy Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago

Most art making is a solitary process, void of outside voices, as a blank piece of paper or canvas is transformed into a work of art. But there has always been a rich history of art collectives: a group of artists who collaborate to create work. In the spirit of these collectives, Catherine Edelman Gallery presents “Photography & _____,” an exhibition that brings together photographers and other creatives to create one-of-a-kind pieces. CEG invited artists familiar to the gallery, including painters, writers and photographers, and asked each participant to reach out to a fellow artist to create a collaborative piece. There were no limitations placed on the work, except that photography must be incorporated into each piece.



The concept for “Photography & _____” started late last year, before anyone had heard of Covid-19. It now seems prophetic that after being closed for ten weeks, our first exhibition post stay-at-home is about collaboration. With everyone isolated at home, most of the participating artists relied on Zoom, Skype, and phone calls to create works of art. We are thrilled with the results, and thank the 30+ artists who are part of the exhibition, including:

Alanna Airitam, photographer / Wayne Martin Belger, photographer
 Susan Aurinko, photographer / Misha Goro, painter, printmaker
 Tami Bahat, photographer / Malka Nedivi, mixed media artist
 Clarissa Bonet, photographer / Natalie Krick, artist

Kate Breakey, photographer / Stacey Forbes, poet
 Keith Carter, photographer / Cathy Spence, photographer
 Matt Eich, photographer / Doug Van Gundy, poet
 Stephen Eichhorn, multidisciplinary artist / Elaine C. Miller, multidisciplinary artist
 Dan Estabrook, photographer / Nathan Carter, sculptor, artist
 Terry Evans, photographer / Aimée Beaubien, installation artist
 Jed Fielding, photographer / Elizabeth McGowan, artist
 Doug Fogelson, photographer / Monika Müller, artist
 Michael Kenna, photographer / Maki Ishiwata, washi fiber artist
 Michael Kenna, photographer / Ellen O'Connell, photographer
 Michael Koerner, photographer / [Jae Green](#), poet and performer
 Laurie Lambrecht, artist / Brad Temkin, photographer
 Jin Lee, photographer / Melissa Oresky, painter
 Jin Lee, photographer / Calvin Forbes, writer
 Ysabel LeMay, photographer / Barbara FG, photographer
 Sandro Miller, photographer / Patricia Smith, poet
 Arno Rafael Minkinen, photographer / Chehalis Deane Hegner, multidisciplinary artist
 Andrea Modica, photographer / Alice Lichtenstein, writer
 Carlos Javier Ortiz, photographer / Michael Genovese, visual artist
 Shana ParkeHarrison, photographer / Carl Landa, composer/musician
 Robert ParkeHarrison, photographer / John Galt, sculptor
 Colleen Plumb, photographer, installation artist / Katherine Kassouf Cummings, writer
 David Schalliol, photographer / Amanda Williams, photographer
 Fred Stonehouse, painter / Anonymous, photographer
 Sonja Thomsen, artist / Linda Connor, photographer
 Sonja Thomsen, artist / Thom Bridge, artist
 Ron van Dongen, photographer / Douglas Wurster, carpenter and landscape architect
 Alex Webb, photographer / Rebecca Norris Webb, photographer
 Jeffrey Wolin, photographer / Jennifer Greenburg, photographer



Hibakusha Families #0448, 2020



Hibakusha #0428, 2020



Hibakusha Families #0452, 2020

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and another one three days later on Nagasaki, killing tens of thousands instantly, and more than 200,000 people in total. Michael Koerner was born in Okinawa, Japan in 1963, the son of a Japanese mother and American military father. For the past few years, Koerner has been making one-of-a-kind tintypes about his family and the effects of gamma radiation that has taken the lives of all members of his immediate family. In honor of the anniversary of the bombing, Koerner created Hibakusha, a photographic series that pays respect to those that passed away and those that survived. Hibakusha is a Japanese word that refers to people affected by the nuclear bombings. As Koerner states:

“I wanted to bring attention to those that survived the blast, including my mother, who

unfortunately later succumbed to the effects of radiation released on the Japanese people. I decided to make large tintypes that look like families, or people. All the plates are purposely void of color, except silver, which is intrinsic to the tintype process. By eliminating the blue and green hues that are prominent in my recent work, the images take on a haunting glow, reminiscent of the light that appeared in the skies over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I hope viewers will look at these images and reflect on what happened so many years ago and honor those that survived and perished from this nuclear disaster.”

Michael Koerner’s exhibition will be in our lower level video room, creating an intimate environment for the viewer. Only one person at a time will be allowed in the room, due to physical distancing standards.

Artists’ Statement

Jae Green, a poet and adult survivor of cancer, and Michael Koerner, an alternative/historic process photographer and activist against nuclear proliferation, have combined their talents to produce a collaborative, multimedia installation entitled, “Echo Genetic.” Green incorporated her childhood sensorial experiences with moments of Socratic thought and adult survivorship into Koerner’s experimental photographic chemigram work. Their collaboration resulted in a combination of poetry and photochemistry (chemigram over Japanese sumi inkblot *décalquer*) on tintype plates displayed on a vintage, medical X-ray visualizer.

On our collaborative efforts, Jae writes, *“Over the weeks of collaboration, we discovered increasingly more about each other. There were many moments of matching, repeating, it was like two kids bouncing a rubber ball between them. Yeah, you too? Yup, me too. Our piece took shape under questions and disclosures. We listened; there was an echo. Mothers and fathers and the things that grow in secret. Allyship with one’s own stubborn, willful body. Light, both literal and figurative. Cognition and the sometimes terribleness of realizing how very dark it was in our lack of understanding. The infantilizing process of learning. And finally, simply, that you can’t escape your history, anymore than you can escape your own blood. Like opening a schoolbook—there’s a view of what’s wrong with you, lit up in the doctor’s office, so you can get a real good look at it. Listen, another echo.”*

Digital files from “Photography & _____” and Michael Koerner: “Hibakusha: A tribute to the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings” are available upon request.

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