

**IT IS A MIRACLE THAT WE ARE STANDING HERE OPENS MARCH 21
AS A PART OF THE FOR FREEDOMS ICP MUSEUM RESIDENCY**

**To Celebrate the Launch of Their Digital Platform, For Freedoms Exhibits Emerging
Artists Depicting Freedom From Fear**



Left: Terrance Purdy Jr., *Untitled*, 2019. **Right:** Jorly Flores, *No se olviden de nosotros*, 2018

(NEW YORK, NY – MARCH 11, 2019) – [For Freedoms](#) – a national collective of artists, institutions, organizations, and people across the country who are experimenting with new and innovative pathways to civic participation – is pleased to present a salon-style, DIY-exhibition as a new component of their ongoing exhibition at the International Center of Photography Museum, [FOR FREEDOMS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?](#)

In the aftermath of their fall 2018 *50 State Initiative* campaign—noted by *Time* as the largest creative collaboration in our nation’s history—For Freedoms has taken up residency at the ICP Museum to activate the museum with an exhibition of the collective’s work in 2018, as well as with a series of in-gallery programs and a residency of their NY-based team. Opening March 21, the collective has curated a DIY-exhibition centered around the Freedom from Fear in honor of the beta launch of its new digital platform. Curated from over 100 submissions received in under two weeks through [an online open call](#), *IT IS A MIRACLE THAT WE ARE STANDING HERE* is a visionary compilation of work by emerging artists who celebrate the resilience of their communities, subvert and complicate narrow notions of contemporary identity, and investigate the altered narratives and power systems that pervade their lives.

Both a celebration and an elegy, the show title—inspired by the series from selected artist John William Murphy—alludes to the forces of empowerment, love, and disenfranchisement that have brought us to where we are today. “At the moment, our national story seems particularly complicated,” says Pola Dobrzynski, one of the six curators from the For Freedoms team. “Since 2016, our collective set out to see what that story looks like in the hands of artists, moving creative

and urgent voices from the margin to the center. With *IT IS A MIRACLE...*, we're looking to these artists to understand what we have inherited from our past, to grapple with the fear that pervades the present, and ultimately, to illuminate the path to a better future for us all."

On view from March 21 to April 28, 2019, the list of exhibited artists includes **José A. Alvarado Jr., Emile Askey, Nilargha Chatterjee, Jorly Flores, Jazmine Dior Johnson, Amanda D. King x Shooting Without Bullets, John William Murphy, Terrance Purdy Jr., Buku Sarkar, and Guanyu Xu.** In conjunction, For Freedoms is partnering with *Lenscratch's* new column *DEVELOPER* for an online exhibition of 20 artists, adding Ally Caple, Ariana Falzarano, Gordon Feng, Elisa Grisales, Ashley Kauschinger, Mary Tooley Parker, Daniel Ramos, Angelo Ries, and Jerrod White.



From Left to Right: Amanda D. King, *WHAT'S NEXT*, 2018; Nilargha Chatterjee, *[[TITLE]]*, 2018; José A. Alvarado Jr., *Ponce, Puerto Rico, July 2018*, 2018; Emile Askey, *Jhinajah sitting on the steps, Morrow, Georgia*, 2016

While on view, the show will have five different curation cycles, the first week a selection of all the artists, and then the subsequent four weeks will have more extensive bodies of work from smaller pairings within the larger group, giving museum guests a new framework each week to ruminate on Freedom from Fear.

ABOUT FOR FREEDOMS

For Freedoms is a national collective for creative citizenship founded by artists Eric Gottesman and Hank Willis Thomas. It is a collaboration between artists, institutions, organizations, and people across the nation who experiment with new and creative pathways to participation. It believes in—and advocates for—creativity as a civic right, participation as a civic duty, and deeper discourse as a catalyst of civic change. And it welcomes all.

For Freedoms started in 2016 as a platform for civic engagement, discourse, and direct action for artists in the United States. Inspired by Norman Rockwell's 1943 paintings of the four universal freedoms articulated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1941—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear—For Freedoms seeks to use art to deepen public discussions of civic issues and core values, and to clarify that citizenship in American society is deepened by participation, not by ideology. For Freedoms is part of a rich history of artists employing means of mass communication to provoke political discourse. For Freedoms believes art and artists play an important role in galvanizing our society towards a more representative and transparent government.

ABOUT THE FOR FREEDOMS x ICP RESIDENCY

ICP's exhibition FOR FREEDOMS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE explores the role of art and visual representation in American civic life through the work of the For Freedoms collective, from its visionary billboard campaign with over 150 artists, to their over 80 reimaginations of Norman Rockwell's *Four Freedoms*, and the collective's wide-sweeping network of over 250 partner organizations. With the For Freedoms team members as artists-in-residence, the exhibition also serves as an active space in which members of For Freedoms, nonprofits, and the public are invited to discuss the importance of civic engagement and develop educational programming based on the project, as well as to participate in a series of in-gallery programs lead by the For Freedoms team.

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. Cornell Capa founded ICP in 1974 to preserve the legacy of "concerned photography"—the creation of socially and politically-minded images that have the potential to educate and change the world—and the center's mission endures today, even as the photographic medium and imagemaking practices have evolved. Through its exhibitions, school, public programs, and community outreach, ICP offers an open forum for dialogue about the role that photographs, videos, and new media play in our society. To date, it has presented more than 700 exhibitions and offered thousands of classes at every level. ICP brings together photographers, artists, students, and scholars to create and interpret the realm of the image. Here, members of this unique community are encouraged to explore photography and visual culture as mediums of empowerment and as catalysts for wide-reaching social change. Visit icp.org to learn more.

The institution is slated to reunite its Museum and School at Essex Crossing on New York's Lower East Side in fall 2019.

ABOUT THE FOR FREEDOMS DIGITAL PLATFORM

The For Freedoms digital platform invites artists, art administrators, civic and cultural organizations, universities, institutions, and everyday people to create For Freedoms profiles. Under the guiding principles that citizenship is defined by participation, not ideology—and embracing the organization's philosophy of being visionary, not reactionary—the site invites its users to list and promote events, upload galleries of their artwork, and showcase documentation from their For Freedoms activations. To inaugurate the platform, For Freedoms solicited emerging artists [to upload their work centered around freedom from fear](#), receiving over 100 submissions in less than two weeks.

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