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Right to Exist / Camilla Martineli

Friday, December 6 2019 - Saturday, January 25, 2020

**First Friday Opening Reception:** December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 10pm

**Open Hours:** Saturdays 1-5pm and by appointment

*A life lived between worlds, on the edge of exile, deportation and displacement.*

Gravy Studio & Gallery is proud to present ***Right to Exist***, photographs and audio by Camilla Martineli. This is the artist's first solo show both at the gallery and in Philadelphia. Martineli's large-scale portraits and interviews explore the immigrant experience in a time of increased anti-immigrant sentiment.

Martineli seeks to explore how others managed the conflicting tension of old and new cultures: "I want to create a space where other immigrants like myself can feel secure in expressing our experiences and thoughts about identity, assimilation and cultural difference. I yearn to connect with people who I can relate to on issues that I personally feel conflicted about. I want to know if others feel the same and create a sense of community and sanctuary."

"I reached out to friends who I knew were also immigrants and introduced my project. Many were skeptical but a brave few came forward wanting to participate. I used a large format 4x5 camera to photograph my subjects because the process is meticulous and forces one to slow down and pay attention to the subject, listen to and observe what they have to say. I simultaneously conducted a series of discussions about their backgrounds and thoughts. I recorded these conversations and made them available for the public to hear. These stories and photographs construct a greater understanding of what life is like from our side. A life filled with vulnerability and strength intertwined so tightly that you cannot separate the two."

Camilla Martineli is a Australian/Brazilian photographer and visual storyteller based in Philadelphia. Her work spans three continents including Asia, North and South America.

Her career started in Philadelphia where she attended Tyler School of Art. Her work focuses on issues surrounding immigration as well as indigenous and displaced communities. In 2017, she traveled to India to work on an ethnographic research project documenting a village of cattle herders in the Gujarati desert. Her book *Sat Nam* records her experience in India and covers life in the indigenous community of Jeseda, the open food markets in Dhrangadhra, cotton farmers in rural Gujarat and everyday life in the harsh climates of the Indian desert.

Camilla was the recipient of the Temple Scholarship in 2017 and the E. Rosen Scholarship in 2018. She was chosen to display her series *Right to Exist* at the Pingyao International Photography Festival in China in September of 2019.

<https://camillamartineli.format.com/>

Gravy Studio & Gallery is a collaborative photography workspace and gallery located on 2nd Street in Northern Liberties. Our goal is to serve as a multi-functional space that promotes the work of local photographers. Opening receptions are held on the First Friday of every month.