

**Bronx-based En Foco
Presents first Solo Museum Exhibition of Photographer Frank Gimpaya
At The Bronx Museum of the Arts**

Bronx, New York—July 11, 2016—Opening July 13, En Foco, a Bronx-based organization dedicated to supporting photographers of color and diverse cultures, will present the first solo museum exhibition of New York-based photographer Frank Gimpaya at The Bronx Museum of the Arts. Curated by Marisol Díaz, the exhibition brings together *Mask*, a complete series of 14 photographs inspired by Georges Seurat's 1882 drawing, *The Veil*.

Mask forms a study across multiple images that questions perceptions of identity while exploring the possibilities of representation within the medium of photography. As with Seurat's *The Veil*, which depicts a woman wearing a veil, Gimpaya's *Mask* comprises 14 black and white photographs of a woman wearing a mask, naturally lit against a grey seamless paper background. The images form a study of shape, light, and movement, with varied changes, both subtle and dramatic, in the composition. In studying these changes on a single figure, the series questions the notion of identity, changing personas, assumptions of beauty, the nature of creativity, the ambiguity of photography, and the emotional projection from a half-hidden face.

Frank Gimpaya has been involved with En Foco since the organization's founding in the 1970s as a steady presence and artist advocate, and currently serves on the organization's Board of Directors. He is also responsible for the original design of *Nueva Luz*, a photographic journal published by En Foco.

About Frank Gimpaya

Frank Gimpaya is a fine arts photographer based in New York City. His work has been exhibited internationally at venues across the United States, Mexico, Cuba, and Europe. Gimpaya's series, *Mask*, was exhibited at SMP Graphics (2009) and Look Art Gallery in October (2012). He was part of a group exhibition entitled, "The Rule of Law and the Right to be Human," in Athens, Greece (2014) as well as a solo exhibition at The National Arts Club in New York (2015). His photographs are in the collection of Museet For Fotokunst in Odense, Denmark; and awards have included a New York Foundation of the Arts Fellowship (2002), the Pace/Promise Awards for Contributions in Arts Education (1992), and the CAPS Award from the New York State Council on the Arts (1977).

Currently, Gimpaya teaches painting and drawing at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and photography at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City. Gimpaya holds a BFA from Hunter College (1965).

About Marisol Díaz

Marisol Díaz is a Bronx-born and raised Puerto Rican photographer and curator. Díaz was the Photo Editor/Chief Photographer for the Riverdale Press from January 2012 - December 2014; a photojournalism Adjunct Professor at City College of the City University of New York Spring 2015 to present. In October 2014 she joined Newsday as Freelance Photographer and runs her company Marisol Díaz Photography. She is the official photographer for Pregones and the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater. Her personal work has been exhibited in several galleries and alternative spaces in New York, including En Foco (2000 and 2011), George Eastman House in Rochester, NY (2008), and El Taller Boricua Gallery in NYC (2006). She was nominated by En Foco in 2008 for a commission with George Eastman Museum to document landscapes in Puerto Rico. That work was included in the museum's traveling exhibition series, shown at venues such as the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, PA (2009). She

received a Bachelor of Arts degree in photography from the City University of New York (2002), and an Associates degree in Advertising Arts from Bronx Community College (1993).

About En Foco

En Foco supports contemporary fine art and documentary photographers of color and diverse cultures, using photography as a platform to speak on behalf of issues related to cultural equity and access. En Foco provides its photographers, curators, critics, and cultural activists with a forum to advocate on behalf of an inclusive cultural policy. En Foco supports its constituent artists with direct and indirect funding opportunities, professional development services, curated exhibitions, publications and networking events with industry and cultural leaders.

About The Bronx Museum of the Arts

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is an internationally recognized cultural destination that presents innovative contemporary art exhibitions and education programs and is committed to promoting cross-cultural dialogues for diverse audiences. Since its founding in 1971, the Museum has played a vital role in the Bronx by helping to make art accessible to the entire community and connecting with local schools, artists, teens, and families through its robust public programming and education initiatives. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Museum implemented a universal free admission policy, supporting its mission to make arts experiences available to all audiences. The Museum's collection comprises over 1,000 modern and contemporary works of art in all media with a focus on works by artists of African, Asian, and Latin American ancestry, as well as artists for whom the Bronx has been critical to their development. Located on the Grand Concourse, the Museum's home is a distinctive contemporary landmark designed by the internationally recognized firm Arquitectonica.

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