

TO: Editors, Feature Writers and Event Listings  
SUBJECT: Art Related Special Events  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Exhibit Title: The Quiet World of Aging**

Exhibit runs: October 1 to Nov 2, 2019  
Artist Reception: Oct 5, from 2 to 4 PM

## **Lowell Exhibit Features Portraits Taken in the Final Life Phase**

Lowell, MA – “The Quiet World of Aging” by Melinda Reyes is a collection of observations and moments portraying the many faces of aging -- the beauty, sorrow, joy, despair, and most importantly the dignity with which these individuals carry out their last days. It takes viewers into direct contact with diversity of emotions within the aging process. A celebration of their history made evident in the details and richness of their eyes, hands, posture, and lines on their skin. It seeks to make what is hidden, seen, and to make those who feel invisible, visible. By photographing at a close distance, the series offers a penetrating window into the complexities of this final life phase.

Melinda Reyes is a photographer based in Massachusetts who sees herself as a “visual storyteller”. Trained at Rochester Institute of Technology where she earned a B.F.A. in Photography, Melinda spent her 20’s traveling the U.S. and Europe and worked in studios, labs, and galleries across the country. In 1987-88 she attended the year-long Photography Residency program at Salzburg College in Austria. She became invested in social issues and advocacy and in 1997 began a Master’s degree in Social Work at Simmons College and began turning to photo documentaries in an effort to initiate awareness and change in vulnerable populations like children, homeless, and the elderly.

Her project “The Quiet World of Aging” began in 2018 and since its inception has been featured in many capacities. Her photographs have exhibited nationally, including a group exhibition “Being Human” at The PhotoPlace Gallery in Middlebury VT and “Instagramland 2019” at The

Perfect Exposure Gallery in Alhambra CA. Melinda has recently been included as a Finalist in Photolucinda's 2019 Critical Mass which is a large scale competition which promotes the best emerging and mid-career artists working today. Her work has been featured twice as an Editor's Pick within the Competition Gallery of Lens Culture's Portrait Awards and Emerging Talent. She was also a featured photographer by @Getty Reportage. "The Quiet World of Aging" can be seen as a live exhibition via SDN @ [www.SocialDocumentary.Net](http://www.SocialDocumentary.Net). Melinda is currently the administrator of @Top\_Repost\_Portrait Site which is a dynamic, world- wide forum for excellence in Portrait Photography. It is part of the @Top\_Repost\_Magazine family.

Her other documentaries include:

"Children of the Projects" – Boston Mass. 1997-99

"Nuns of a Different Order" – Boston Mass. 2000-2002

When not shooting documentary's she turns her camera toward capturing the beauty and essence of flowers in creating close-up Fine Art B & W and Color Photographs. She also works part time as a freelance photographer specializing in Portraiture.

**Image: "Cornelia" black and white phot by Melinda Reyes**

The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is located in the Lowell National Historical Park across the courtyard from the Visitor Center. This dynamic and captivating place was originally founded by the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Brush presents museum quality exhibitions, educational programs, and has collaborated with many other nonprofit groups. Artists occupy studio spaces to interact with and educate the public on a weekly basis. Studio artists produce paintings, illustration, photography, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, quilts, and handwoven items. Associate artists display work in the common area. The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. **The Brush is supported by the Lowell National Historical Park and Eastern National.**